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Proposed programme budget for 2021

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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* Second reissue for technical reasons (19 June 2020).

** [A/75/50](#).

*** 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

Asia and the Pacific has reason to look to the future with optimism. A strong work ethic, a talent for entrepreneurship, technological flair and the drive for innovation have made our region the engine of global economic growth. Home to over 60 per cent of the world's population and 60 per cent of its young people, the future is being shaped by the people in Asia and the Pacific. All this underscores the potential and the importance of the region for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

However, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has created a new set of uncertainties for the region's aspiration to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The pandemic threatens to widen inequalities and worsen the vulnerability of millions of people. The escalating outbreak has stalled productive activities, with spillovers into connectivity, trade, tourism and financial links. This will significantly affect the achievement of the Goals in the Asia-Pacific region in the coming years.

Against that background the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is even more committed to accelerating action for the achievement of the Goals and to maximizing the region's contribution to global sustainable development.

ESCAP has been actively participating in Secretariat discussions on a system-wide response to COVID-19. In addition, to ensure the relevance of its work, ESCAP has published a multidisciplinary analysis on the impact of and policy responses to COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific. Bolstering investment in social protection, scaling up financial and monetary policies for small and medium-sized enterprises, facilitating connectivity and trade and strengthening climate action are some of the key elements of this policy response at the regional and subregional levels. I have also begun the process of reviewing our programmed deliverables in that regard.

Going forward, ESCAP will use the time leading up to 2021 to devise innovative approaches to mitigating the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and working collectively within the United Nations system to support member States in implementing people-centric policies so as to ensure better recovery and sustainably achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda. I am optimistic.

Importantly, ESCAP will focus its efforts on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, not only to support them against the multitude of short-term shocks, but also to help them to stay the course for medium-term achievements, such as graduation from least developed country status. The Commission will harness collaboration opportunities with middle-income and emerging countries and play its role in ensuring multisectoral partnership, in particular, by developing a regional response for supporting countries in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The success of the programme will depend on its leveraging strong and effective regional and subregional cooperation frameworks. ESCAP aims to harness the initiatives of businesses to build more inclusive societies and economies, work with academia and think tanks to deliver cutting-edge research and analysis and partner with its member States to conclude ambitious intergovernmental agreements. Supporting integrated solutions to the region's new and emerging challenges will be the Commission's unique contribution to a decade of action for sustainable development 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 2021 and programme performance for 2019

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. Its 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.
- 19.2 The work carried out by ESCAP is geared towards leveraging regional cooperation to accelerate action to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in the following four nexus areas: (a) population dynamics, poverty and inequality; (b) sustainable economy and financing for development, including trade and investment; (c) sustainable connectivity, including transport, energy and information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and trade facilitation; and (d) the environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction. In view of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which has adversely affected many ESCAP member States, the secretariat will reflect an analysis of the socioeconomic impacts and responses on all areas of its work.
- 19.3 Data and statistics and science, technology and innovation remain key means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda in the region. Strengthening engagement with subregional organizations and development partners is a critical strategic approach for ESCAP in implementing its programme. ESCAP support is aimed at developing the capacity of Governments to formulate and implement policies for sustainable development. 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 2021

- 19.4 More than half of the members and associate members of ESCAP are categorized as least developed, landlocked or small island developing States. ESCAP has been providing focused support to those countries in implementing their respective programmes of action, in particular through its subprogramme 1 and subprogramme 8. For example, in its *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2019: Structural Transformation and Its Role in Reducing Poverty*, ESCAP examined the impact of structural transformation on poverty reduction. In a separate report, it examined the linkage between structural transformation, poverty reduction and financing for development in landlocked developing countries. Those knowledge products were used in policy dialogues and capacity-building activities in preparation for graduation from least developed country status. ESCAP has been collaborating with United Nations entities at the regional and global levels, including as a member of the inter-agency task force on graduation and smooth transition for least developed countries.
- 19.5 To support accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals by least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in a more concerted and coordinated manner, ESCAP is elevating the coordination of this work under the Office of the Executive Secretary. Having the work on least developed countries, landlocked

developing countries and small island developing States directly overseen by the Executive Secretary will allow for more focused, coordinated and visible planning and reporting of this important work of the programme, especially with regard to tackling the added burden brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The new section on countries in special situations will continue to deliver on existing mandates and to strengthen coordination across the subprogrammes, in particular with the subregional offices. This change is expected to result in strengthened support in mitigating the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, to countries that need it most, to ensure that the region makes progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

- 19.6 In 2021, ESCAP will 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 called for a decade of action and delivery of sustainable development. At the regional level, the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, endorsed by the Commission in its resolution 73/9, is the reference framework. In line with its mandates and the guidance from member States, ESCAP will make further efforts in leveraging its sectoral expertise to contribute to the four nexus areas mentioned in paragraph 19.2 above and mainstream data and statistics and science, technology and innovation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- 19.7 ESCAP will orient its policy-focused research to inform decisions across the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, the economic, social and environmental spheres. To enhance its research, analysis and knowledge development, especially on emerging issues, ESCAP will build on the examples of long-standing expert networks, such as the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade and the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development. ESCAP research products will inform intergovernmental deliberations and capacity development initiatives. To strengthen and enrich its research and analysis, ESCAP will continue to work closely with think tanks in the region.
- 19.8 As the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in Asia and the Pacific, 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. The Commission's intergovernmental frameworks are based on research and analysis on emerging and critical issues conducted by its secretariat. Those intergovernmental frameworks, initiatives and agreements, whether generated by global processes, as in the case of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, or at the regional level, such as the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind, act as enablers for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by member States. For example, in 2021, the programme will work towards developing a modality for strengthening regional cooperation on social protection, in collaboration with other United Nations entities.
- 19.9 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 in such areas as macroeconomic policy and financing for development, sustainable infrastructure connectivity and trade facilitation, technology, the management of natural resources, sustainable urban development, disaster risk reduction and resilience, social development, statistics and energy. 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 guided by regionally agreed priorities. 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.
- 19.10 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 and review of the 2030 Agenda. In this context, the development of a larger

interface continues to be under way with the private corporate sector, building on the experience of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network. ESCAP has also institutionalized a coordinating network of major groups to support its work on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. Support provided by ESCAP to its member States in the follow-up 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 2019 to the high-level political forum on sustainable development. In 2021, ESCAP and its partners will continue:

- (a) To convene the annual Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, as the premier multi-stakeholder platform for follow-up and review in the region, to discuss regional priorities and needs for achieving sustainable development;
 - (b) To prepare annual progress reports on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and develop policy recommendations to accelerate progress in the region;
 - (c) To 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.
- 19.11 With regard to the external factors, the overall plan for 2021 is based on the following planning assumptions:
- (a) National Governments maintain and strengthen their commitment to the Commission, as the principal platform in Asia and the Pacific for leveraging regional cooperation to meet transboundary and common challenges;
 - (b) National Governments continue to provide development data and other relevant information for the implementation of existing global and regional frameworks;
 - (c) Restrictions in the movement of people, goods and services due to the COVID-19 pandemic are sufficiently alleviated;
 - (d) Extrabudgetary funding for technical cooperation continues to be available.
- 19.12 ESCAP incorporates a gender perspective into its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate. For example, gender is a thematic area for subprogrammes 6 and 7. In the 2021 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 respective frameworks. The delivery of results on gender-related Sustainable Development Goals and the mainstreaming of gender in programmatic work will be guided by the ESCAP gender equality policy and an implementation plan (2019–2023). Similar initiatives are in progress for disability inclusion.
- 19.13 With regard to cooperation with other entities, ESCAP will partner with and support subregional organizations, processes and platforms in the delivery of its work, including the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. ESCAP will also strengthen its traditional role in promoting and facilitating South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and regional partnerships.
- 19.14 With regard to inter-agency coordination and liaison, ESCAP will continue to play a leading role in coordinating regional United Nations development system entities, in particular as the co-convenor of the mandated regional coordination platform and associated working groups, in collaboration with the Development Coordination Office. Together with the other regional commissions, ESCAP will promote interregional cooperation for inclusive, resilient and sustainable development and ensure that regional perspectives effectively influence global policy processes and that global policies are effectively translated into regional processes.

- 19.15 ESCAP will continue to organize outreach activities upon demand for the general public, including for academic organizations, on its work and on the work of the United Nations at large, in line with its communication and outreach strategy.

Legislative mandates

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

General Assembly resolutions

61/16	Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council	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
65/280	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020		
66/288	The future we want	73/133	Graduation of countries from the least developed country category
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community	73/135	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
68/1	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council	73/163	Human rights and extreme poverty
69/15	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	73/254	Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners
69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	73/259	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations	73/330	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	73/332	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum
69/288	Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States	73/334	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)	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
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development		
70/192	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development	74/4	Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly
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	74/9	The situation in Afghanistan
70/299	Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level	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
71/243	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	74/19	Oceans and the law of the sea
71/312	Our ocean, our future: call for action	74/120	Promoting social integration through social inclusion
71/321	Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them	74/152	The right to development
		74/215	Agricultural technology for sustainable development

Part V Regional cooperation for development

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	74/233	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
74/217	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	74/234	Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)
74/228	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence	74/235	Women in development
74/232	Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	74/238	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
		74/239	South-South cooperation
		74/242	Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
		74/253	Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities to conferences and meetings of the United Nations system

Economic and Social Council resolutions

37 (IV)	Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East		an intergovernmental organization outside the United Nations system
1895 (LVII)	Change of name of the “Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East” to “Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific”	2019/2	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields	2019/3	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020
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
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	2019/8	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-first session
2016/11	Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	2019/15	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
2018/5	Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all	2019/27	Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations
2018/25	Transition of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture to		

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

66/1	Incheon Declaration	68/9	Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
66/9	Full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its regional and global outcomes in the Asia-Pacific region		
66/15	Strengthening of the evaluation function of the secretariat of the Commission	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
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		
68/8	Enhancing coordination within the United Nations system and cooperation with regional organizations for promoting regional development	70/1	Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific

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70/10	Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific region on the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015	73/9	Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
71/1	Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda	74/1	Regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 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	74/10	Supporting the smooth transition of the least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific towards a sustainable graduation
71/3	Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024		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
71/4	Implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	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
72/6	Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific		
72/8	Fostering regional cooperation and partnerships to respond to the climate change challenge in the Asia-Pacific region	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
73/1	A conference structure of the Commission aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	75/3	Advancing partnerships within and across regions for the sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific
73/2	Strengthening the regional mechanism for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked		

Deliverables

19.17 Table 19.1 lists all cross-cutting deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021.

Table 19.1

Cross-cutting deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	2	3	2	2
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	1	1	1
2. Reports for the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	1	2	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	29	29	23	34
3. Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	6	6	6	6
4. Meetings of the Commission	10	10	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	4	4	–	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

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
10. Meeting of the Committee for Programme and Coordination	1	1	1	1
11. Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	1	1	1	1
12. Meeting of the Fifth Committee	1	1	1	1
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	1	–	1
13. 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)	1.5	6	3	7
14. Subregional workshops on priorities of the programmes of action for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	1	5	2	4
15. Policy dialogues based on the <i>Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report</i>	0.5	1	1	3
Publications (number of publications)	3	3	4	3
16. ESCAP theme study	1	1	1	1
17. <i>Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report</i>	1	1	1	1
18. Publications on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	1	1	2	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	3	5	3	4
19. Documents on issues relevant to Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	3	5	3	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.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: observance of United Nations international days, including United Nations Day; press interviews for major publications and events; and outreach activities upon demand for the general public, including for academic organizations.				
External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of the framework.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: Sustainable Development Goals help desk; 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

- 19.18 The following self-evaluations completed in 2019 have guided the programme plan for 2021:
- (a) Self-evaluation of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;
 - (b) Self-evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.
- 19.19 The findings of the self-evaluations referenced in paragraph 19.18 have been taken into account for the programme plan for 2021. For example, it was recommended that the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization ensure that relevant targets under Sustainable Development Goals 2, 12, 13, 15 and 17 be taken into account in planning and designing deliverables, including an e-learning platform. Relevant targets under those Goals have been included in the new five-year development strategy of the Centre for the period 2020–2024, which was endorsed by the Centre’s Governing Council at its fifteenth session. Under subprogramme 4 of the programme plan for 2021, those targets

will be addressed through technical cooperation projects (deliverable 13), workshops (deliverables 16, 17 and 19) and technical materials (deliverables 27 and 28). The Centre will also utilize the ESCAP e-learning platform to support training on sustainable agricultural mechanization, which will assist member States in making progress towards achieving the relevant Sustainable Development Goal targets. In the case of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, the self-evaluation led to the recommendation that ESCAP further develop the approach to e-learning, making e-courses more attractive to users and providing enhanced opportunities for interaction across participants and sharing of information. That recommendation was addressed in the strategic plan of the Institute for the period 2020–2024, which was endorsed by the Institute's Governing Council at its fifteenth session. The plan contains the following proposed actions, which will be incorporated into the implementation of the work of subprogramme 7:

- (a) Develop a range of e-learning modalities (blended learning, flipped classroom, mobile learning, microlearning) geared towards different ways of learning, including moderated and non-moderated forms of learning, making use of a diverse set of ways to transfer information;
- (b) Expand e-learning beyond technical statistical topics to include issues pertaining to the governance and management of national statistical offices, as well as to provide the communication, coordination and negotiation skills needed for statisticians to work with other parts of Government and with non-governmental stakeholders in data gathering, dissemination and use;
- (c) Further develop blended courses to ensure that trainees have similar starting level of knowledge for face-to-face courses;
- (d) Increase the use of online forums for both trainees and alumni to interact, share experiences and learning and become part of an online community of statistics practitioners;
- (e) Make support available through online communication, e-mail or other means and provide opportunities for peer support;
- (f) Adopt and continuously update a modern learning management system and related infrastructure for e-learning;
- (g) Review and further develop the current distance learning content, together, where feasible, with partners that have relevant expertise;
- (h) Introduce a system for conducting webinars during the course of delivery of an e-learning programme.

19.20 The following self-evaluations are planned for 2021:

- (a) Self-evaluation of subprogramme 3, on transport, with a focus on the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity;
- (b) Self-evaluation of subprogramme 4, on environment and development.

Programme of work

Subprogramme 1

Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

Objective

19.21 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

- 19.22 To contribute to the strengthened capacity of member States to achieve stable, inclusive and sustainable economic development in Asia and the Pacific, the subprogramme will continue to promote 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. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which may significantly reverse development gains achieved to date in the region.
- 19.23 Such a transition requires holistic policy considerations and coordinated policy actions on three fronts: (a) economic stability, namely, strong and steady macroeconomic performance; (b) inclusiveness, namely, a more equal sharing of the benefits of economic development; and (c) sustainability, namely, the achievement of balance between the environment and economic expansion, so that the livelihood and development opportunities of future generations are not adversely affected.
- 19.24 The subprogramme will therefore endeavour to advance the policies and potential pathways for the transition towards stable, inclusive and sustainable economic development. This aim will be pursued through three main channels: research and knowledge products; capacity-building; 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* book series, policy papers and other research products, which shows that an almost exclusive focus on economic growth does not fully address a myriad of sustainable development challenges, such as the persistence of poverty, rising inequalities and environmental degradation. It will also continue to explore holistic approaches and strategies to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals into economic policymaking. The subprogramme will examine the role of macroeconomic policies, in particular fiscal policy, and regional cooperation in dealing with such shocks as the COVID-19 pandemic, with a view to making the region more resilient. It will also analyse the implications of policies for macrodynamics down the line, such as on debt. In terms of capacity-building, the subprogramme will strengthen the links between its research workshops and its technical assistance workshops and will work with member States in order to develop economic policies and financing strategies aimed at transforming economies so as to achieve stable, inclusive and sustainable economic development. It will also enhance 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. On policy advocacy through intergovernmental mechanisms, the subprogramme will support its main intergovernmental platform, the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development, by working closely with member States on key economic policy and financing issues that could facilitate the envisaged economic transformation. It will also leverage other existing platforms, such as the annual session of the Commission and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, for policy advocacy, consensus-building and collective actions by countries in the Asia-Pacific region on pertinent policy issues. These activities are expected to result in an improved understanding of the impact of economic policies on sustainable development, the enhanced capacity of policymakers to mainstream and align economic policies and financing strategies with sustainable development objectives and a greater ability to mobilize and allocate financial resources for sustainable development. Past results in this area include the availability of estimates of financing requirements to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and the increased capacity of member States to develop public-private partnership projects and associated financing strategies for their infrastructure development.
- 19.25 By highlighting the need to transform economies to meet the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda and suggesting economic policies and financing strategies to undertake that transformation, the subprogramme will directly contribute to member State efforts towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals 1 (no poverty), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 10 (reduce inequalities), 12 (responsible consumption and production) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

- 19.26 The subprogramme will build on its existing and extensive cooperation with multilateral organizations and Asia-Pacific think tanks to advance economic and sustainable development policy research and promote regional policy dialogue and advocacy. 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. Since 2017, the subprogramme has collaborated with more than 10 multilateral organizations on policy research and capacity-building activities. Expected main partners for 2021 include the Asian Development Bank and its Institute, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, as well as leading regional and national think tanks.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

- 19.27 A planned result for 2019, which is improved capacity of member States, particularly least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to implement policies in support of internationally agreed development goals, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was exceeded, as evidenced by the fact that 94 per cent (compared with a target of 86 per cent) of surveyed participants in ESCAP initiatives reported increased skills to implement policies for achieving internationally agreed development goals.

Programme performance in 2019: new estimates and capacity-building on Sustainable Development Goal financing requirements

- 19.28 The subprogramme developed an analytical framework in 2019 for region-wide comprehensive estimation of investment needs for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. On the basis of that framework, the subprogramme presented its findings, the first of their kind in the Asia-Pacific region, in its flagship publication, the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2019: Ambitions beyond Growth*.
- 19.29 Having such estimates of investment needs, along with a range of policy interventions needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, is a first step for countries to devise appropriate financing strategies, both in terms of resource mobilization and in the allocation of those resources across different investment areas. The research showed that developing countries in Asia and the Pacific needed to invest, on average, an additional 5 per cent of their combined 2018 gross domestic product (GDP) to achieve the Goals by 2030. It also found that the financing gap for least developed countries was much higher, at 16 per cent of GDP. While overall financing needs are within the financial potential of the region as a whole, it is clearly beyond the capacities of least developed countries at the national level. Therefore, cross-country cooperation and partnerships to achieve the Goals are indispensable.
- 19.30 The Sustainable Development Goal investment needs estimation framework, the findings of the estimation exercise and key policy messages were disseminated through 5 media launches and 19 policy dialogues on the 2019 *Economic and Social Survey*. As at mid-November 2019, there were at least 50 media reports on the publication, while downloads of the full report from the ESCAP website alone had reached nearly 6,000. The policy dialogues engaged more than 400 policymakers and experts from 10 Asia-Pacific countries and 2 countries outside the region.
- 19.31 Building on that research, the subprogramme also organized a series of capacity-building workshops to support member States in aligning their economic, budgeting and resource-mobilization policies with their sustainable development needs and national priorities. For example, at the workshop on mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into national planning, budgetary, financing and

investment processes, held in November 2019, further knowledge on Goal-related costing and budgeting methodology was shared with 15 participating Asia-Pacific countries. In the second meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnership Network of Asia and the Pacific, held in August 2019, experts from 14 member countries of the Network participated and shared project-level knowledge on the mobilization of private resources for infrastructure investment. The second workshop on public resource mobilization for municipal finance, held in December 2019, was focused on public finance and fiscal governance at the subnational level to support sustainable development and urbanization in the region.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.32 That work contributed to the strengthened capacity of member States to achieve stable, inclusive and sustainable economic development in Asia and the Pacific, in particular by enhancing the understanding of financing needs and strategies among policymakers to effectively pursue the Sustainable Development Goals. This was demonstrated by the fact that 94 per cent of participants in the subprogramme's capacity-building activities indicated that the activities had enabled them to design and implement policies concerning the 2030 Agenda and financing for development.

Table 19.2

Performance measure

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific endorsed by the Commission (resolution 73/9)	Enhanced understanding among policymakers of policies that promote economic growth, reduce poverty and narrow development gaps in the region, as reflected in the Chair's summary of the first High-Level Follow-up Dialogue on Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in 2016	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	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	The ability to design and implement policies concerning the 2030 Agenda and financing for development expressed by 94 per cent of participants

Planned results for 2021

Result 1: enhanced understanding of financing needs and strategies for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (result carried over from 2020)

- 19.33 The subprogramme will continue the work related to achieving stable, inclusive and sustainable economic development, in line with its mandate, and will assist countries in taking policy initiatives towards this objective, including through financing for development in accordance with their specific circumstances, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated, to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution [74/251](#), approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Table 19.3
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
N/A	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 at least five 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

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: Asia-Pacific countries take action to transform their economies for sustainable development (new result)

- 19.34 Considerable groundwork was already laid in 2017 and 2018 in terms of analysing the challenges, such as the persistence of poverty, rising inequalities and environmental degradation, of an unbalanced approach to development that places insufficient emphasis on the social and environmental aspects of sustainable development. The subprogramme also examined various economic policy options and financing strategies and engaged with member States regarding ways to implement them, so that the necessary transformation of economies could take place.
- 19.35 Building on that work, in 2019, the subprogramme provided a systematic assessment of investment needs for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region and analysed the necessary policy interventions and financing strategies. Knowing the investment requirements for all Goals is an important first step in developing holistic and integrated approaches to economic policymaking that can facilitate the necessary economic transformation.
- 19.36 The 2020 programme plan was focused on translating the transformative vision and supportive research into implementable economic policies at the country level. For that purpose, the plan adopted a focused and country-specific approach that provided policy suggestions tailored to the specific circumstances and requirements of member States. This targeted approach is particularly useful in addressing the diverse circumstances affecting least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

Internal challenge and response

- 19.37 The challenge for the subprogramme was that the transformation towards sustainable and inclusive economies and the alignment of economic policies and national economic systems with the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda requires holistic consideration beyond the economic aspects, to take into account social-environmental implications. Another challenge lay in the need to operationalize related economic policies through adjustments to fiscal frameworks, financial systems and related institutional arrangements. In the process of transformation, new policy trade-offs will also inevitably emerge and need to be analysed before policies can be implemented.
- 19.38 In response, for 2021, the subprogramme will broaden the scope of its research and technical assistance workshops and work with member States to develop policy-relevant knowledge products that can facilitate the transformation of economies according to the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda. The focus will be broadened from research and capacity-building on immediate economic and financial policies to research and capacity-building on the underlying transitions and adjustments that need to be made in fiscal frameworks, financial systems and institutional arrangements to facilitate the transformation.

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

- 19.39 This work is expected to contribute to the strengthened capacity of member States to achieve stable, inclusive and sustainable economic development in Asia and the Pacific and identify, formulate and implement policies to transform their economies in a manner that is consistent with the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda, and to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals into various aspects of economic policymaking. This would be demonstrated by at least five member States taking policy action aimed at transforming their economies according to the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda, informed by knowledge products prepared under the subprogramme.

Table 19.4
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
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	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	The process to design economic policies and implement financing strategies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, informed by knowledge products prepared under the subprogramme, started by at least five member States	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

Legislative mandates

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

General Assembly resolutions

74/202	International financial system and development	74/205	Financial inclusion for sustainable development
74/203	External debt sustainability and development	74/231	Development cooperation with middle-income countries

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

- 19.41 Table 19.5 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.5

Subprogramme 1: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	2	6	1	4
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	1	1	1
2. Reports for the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development	1	5	–	3
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	14	18	8	14
3. Meetings of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development	6	6	–	6
4. Regional dialogues on issues related to financing for development	4	4	–	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	5	1	1
7. Projects on selected economic policy and financing for development issues	1	5	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	0.5	6	6	7
8. Economic and Social Council side event on financing for development	–	1	1	1
9. Policy-focused discussion 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	0.5	5	5	6
Publications (number of publications)	4	4	1	4
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	1	–	1
12. <i>Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal</i>	2	2	–	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	3	24	11	14
13. Knowledge products on economic issues and policies tailored to countries' specific circumstances	–	–	8	8
14. Working paper series on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	1	7	1	2
15. Policy briefs on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	2	17	2	4
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: technical advice on 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.				
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: updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme for the ESCAP website; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

Subprogramme 2

Trade, investment and innovation

Objective

- 19.42 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

- 19.43 To contribute to the strengthened 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, the subprogramme will continue to support member States in formulating and conducting trade policies and measures in accordance with other public policies. This work encompasses increasing their capacity 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. For example, by supporting member States in implementing paperless trade through workshops and research on the impact of specific measures and strategies, the subprogramme helps them to make informed decisions on strategies in this area, which is expected to result in the reduction of trade costs and the increased participation of companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, in international trade. Further expected results include the adoption of more efficient rules and procedures governing trade, leading to more efficient trade flows and, in turn, higher competitiveness of companies in the region. Through its capacity- and knowledge-building work, the subprogramme will continue to support and promote country efforts to move to paperless trade, which reduces physical interaction, thereby increasing the resilience of supply chains by enabling continued trade activities, including in such situations as the COVID-19 pandemic. This work is implemented in close cooperation with global and regional partners, including the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization. Past results in this area include the adoption of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific by ESCAP member States in May 2016 and the active engagement of 25 member States in drafting a road map for the implementation of the substantive provisions of the Agreement. As at the end of 2019, seven countries had either signed or acceded to this treaty.
- 19.44 In addition, the subprogramme, including through the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, will provide capacity-building through workshops, training activities and policy advice and will 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. Furthermore, the subprogramme will incorporate elements emanating from exchanges among member States, with a view to sharing technology-led approaches in the fight against the COVID-19 and other pandemics and collaborating on identifying innovative solutions in preparation for future pandemics. This work is expected to result in the increased capacity of policymakers to adopt policies and programmes aimed at achieving more inclusive and sustainable outcomes of business and investment activity in the region. Past results in this area include the development of social enterprise legislation in the Philippines, the establishment of the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship in Pakistan and the design of a blueprint for the first national technology database in Bhutan, which became an integral part of the country's Cottage and Small Industry Policy of 2019. Moreover, ASEAN member States endorsed the inclusive business approach and Cambodia initiated the process to submit a national inclusive business framework to its Supreme National Economic Council. The capacity of member States to leverage investment for development has increased through knowledge-sharing by means of the Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment

Network and provision of on-demand national training courses on the promotion and facilitation of FDI. Past results in this area have facilitated the creation of other regional cooperation networks, such as the Biotechnology Information Network for Asia, the Asia-Pacific Traditional Medicine and Herbal Technology Network, the Renewable Energy Cooperation-Network for the Asia-Pacific, the Asia-Pacific Nanotechnology R&D Management Network, the ASEAN Network of Excellence Centre of Biomass Conversion Technology and the Asia-Pacific Regional Innovation Knowledge Network for Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies.

- 19.45 In building the capacity of member States to channel trade, investment and innovation towards sustainable development, the subprogramme will support member States in making progress towards the achievement of targets 8.1 to 8.4, 8.10 and 8.a of Sustainable Development Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth), targets 9.2, 9.3 and 9.b of Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and targets 17.6 to 17.8, on technology and innovation, and 17.10 to 17.12, on trade, of Goal 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

- 19.46 A planned result for 2019, which is broadened and deepened capacity of member States to advance trade, investment, enterprise development, science, technology and innovation that support sustainable development and include gender perspectives, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was exceeded, as evidenced by the fact that 91 per cent (compared with a target of 85 per cent) of more than 2,300 surveyed participants in 43 capacity-building activities offered through the subprogramme indicated that they had increased their skills through ESCAP initiatives, including the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology.

Programme performance in 2019: Association of Southeast Asian Nations countries move to promote inclusive business

- 19.47 Inclusive business, as defined by the Group of 20, refers to business that provides goods, services and livelihoods on a commercially viable basis to people living at the base of the pyramid, making them a part of the value chain of companies as suppliers, distributors, retailers or customers.
- 19.48 As part of its work on encouraging innovation that leaves no one behind, ESCAP has, since 2018, been exploring different avenues in which policymakers can encourage innovation with more inclusive outcomes. Inclusive business is one such approach that Governments and business leaders can take to promote innovation that leaves no one behind.
- 19.49 Building on this work, and to support implementation of the ASEAN Inclusive Business Framework adopted at the forty-ninth ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting, held in 2017, ESCAP and the Inclusive Business Action Network partnered to support ASEAN member States in developing national policies to promote inclusive business. In 2019, that work included conducting national landscape studies on promoting inclusive business for Cambodia, Malaysia and Viet Nam, providing inclusive business policy advice in Indonesia and the Philippines and promoting policy dialogue and endorsements at the regional level, including through the organization of the second ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit, jointly with the Inclusive Business Action Network, the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion of Thailand and the ASEAN Business Advisory Council. ESCAP also produced a joint report, together with ASEAN and the Inclusive Business Action Network, showcasing progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Inclusive Business Framework.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.50 This work has contributed to the strengthened 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, as demonstrated by the endorsement of the inclusive business approach by ASEAN member

States and the initiation by Cambodia of the process to submit a national inclusive business framework to its Supreme National Economic Council by 2020, as well as by requests from five ASEAN member States for ESCAP policy advice to identify actions to support the growth of inclusive businesses. The framework for promoting inclusive businesses in Cambodia is based on eight strategic areas: awareness, coordination, accreditation, procurement, incentives, finance, technical assistance, and monitoring and reporting. ASEAN leaders have also encouraged Governments and private sector actors to continue to promote inclusive business in their vision statement on partnership for sustainability and in the Chair's statement of the thirty-fifth ASEAN Summit. Viet Nam, the Chair of ASEAN for 2020, has further committed to promoting inclusive business under the ASEAN umbrella in 2020. This commitment has also led the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to include, as a priority deliverable for 2020, the development of regional guidelines for inclusive business to guide policy development in ASEAN member States.

Table 19.6

Performance measure

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
• N/A	• N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of ASEAN Inclusive Business Framework at forty-ninth ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum on Policies for Inclusive Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship • Regional consultation on inclusive technology and innovation policies • ASEAN Inclusive Business Policy Development Programme established jointly with the Inclusive Business Action Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement by ASEAN member States of the inclusive business approach and initiation by Cambodia of the process of submitting an inclusive business framework to its Supreme National Economic Council for endorsement by 2020 • Promotion by ASEAN leaders of inclusive business through the inclusion of the issue in the ASEAN agenda • Support for the conduct of inclusive business within ASEAN expressed by leaders in their vision statement on partnership for sustainability, and call for more collaboration between medium and large enterprises and Governments to promote inclusive business through conducive rules and

regulations, enhance access to financial resources and education and build capacity for entrepreneurs and underprivileged communities expressed in the Chair's statement of the thirty-fifth ASEAN Summit

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Planned results for 2021

Result 1: harnessing innovative business models for social progress (result carried over from 2020)

- 19.51 The subprogramme will continue the work related to harnessing investment, innovation, technology and enterprise development for sustainable development, in line with its mandate, and will assist countries in creating an enabling environment for innovative business models that incorporate social and/or environmental objectives alongside economic objectives, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution [74/251](#), approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Table 19.7
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
N/A	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 member States to support impact enterprises and investors	Implementation of measures by member States to support impact enterprises and investors

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: harnessing innovative technologies to enhance women's access to financial services (new result)

- 19.52 Entrepreneurship is a key catalyst for advancing women's economic empowerment in the Asia-Pacific region. While entrepreneurs in general face considerable barriers, women entrepreneurs face additional disadvantages that hold them back from achieving their full potential. To address such challenges, ESCAP, with the support of the Government of Canada, is implementing a five-year project entitled Catalyzing Women's Entrepreneurship. With a focus on six countries of the region (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Nepal, Samoa and Viet Nam), the project is aimed at tackling barriers faced by women entrepreneurs at three levels: (a) the policy and regulatory environment; (b) access to finance and credit; and (c) access to ICT and capacity-building.

Internal challenge and response

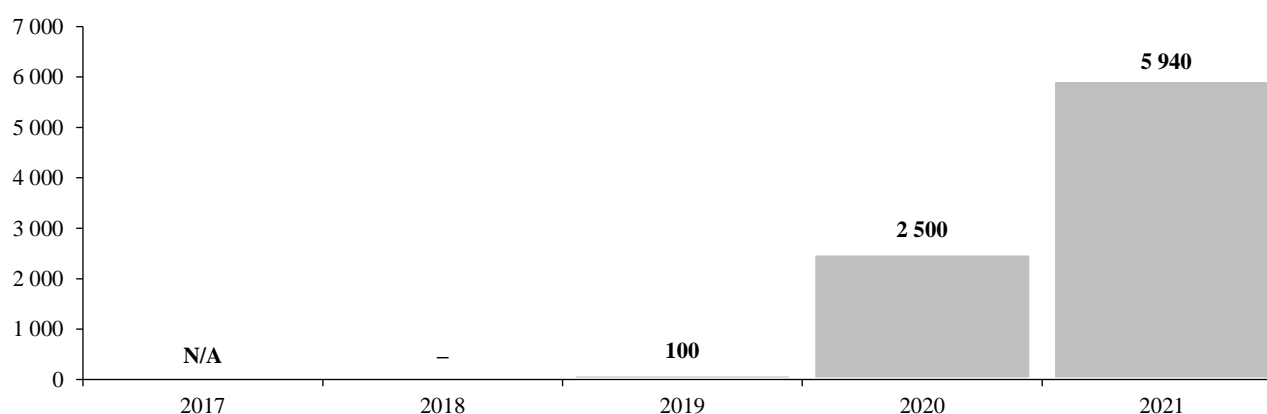
- 19.53 The challenge for the subprogramme was that, when addressing a multifaceted issue such as access to finance for women entrepreneurs, an intervention must identify and address the full range of underlying constraints faced by women entrepreneurs in accessing financial services. In response, the subprogramme will implement the project with a market system approach, combining support and capacity-building for regulators with support for market actors, so as to scale innovative financial and digital solutions that address the needs of women entrepreneurs.
- 19.54 The subprogramme introduced three key initiatives to address financial bottlenecks faced by women entrepreneurs in starting up and scaling their businesses. First, a Women Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Fintech Innovation Fund was launched in March 2019, to support organizations implementing digital solutions that benefit women entrepreneurs. Implemented together with the United Nations Capital Development Fund and with support from the private sector, the Innovation Fund provides recipient organizations with risk capital of up to \$50,000, as well as technical and mentorship assistance through key partner networks of ESCAP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund, plus links to potential investor capital to bring their initiatives to scale. Second, ESCAP is supporting the 2020 launch of a women's bond and an impact investment fund for women entrepreneurs. Third, the subprogramme will provide 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.

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

- 19.55 This work is expected to contribute towards strengthening 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 in the area of women's entrepreneurship, which would be demonstrated by 5,940 women entrepreneurs having open access to financial services in 2021 as a result of the project.

Figure 19.I

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



Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Legislative mandates

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

General Assembly resolutions

69/210	Entrepreneurship for development	74/229	Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development
74/201	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

19.57 Table 19.8 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.8

Subprogramme 2: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	6	21	16	18
1. Reports for ESCAP	2	2	2	1
2. Reports for the Committee on Trade and Investment	4	8	–	6
3. Reports for the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	–	–	3	–
4. Reports for the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	–	3	3	3
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	–	4	4	4
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	26	34	31	30
7. Meetings of the Committee on Trade and Investment	6	6	–	6
8. Meetings of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	–	–	3	–
9. Meetings of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	4	4	4	4
10. Meetings of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement Standing Committee	4	12	8	8
11. Meetings of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation	4	4	4	4
12. Expert group meetings on trade, investment and innovation	4	4	8	4
13. Meetings of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network	2	2	2	2

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
14. Meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Trade	2	2	2	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	6	7	4	4
15. Capacity-building project on women's entrepreneurship: innovative finance component	–	1	1	1
16. Capacity-building projects on trade policy and facilitation	3	3	1	1
17. Capacity-building projects on investment, enterprise and innovation	1	1	1	1
18. Capacity-building projects on new and emerging technologies	2	2	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	–	1	6	1
19. Asia-Pacific Business Forum	–	1	1	1
20. Workshops on trade, investment and innovation	–	–	5	–
Publications (number of publications)	3	4	2	3
21. <i>Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report</i>	1	1	–	1
22. <i>Studies in Trade, Investment and Innovation</i>	2	3	1	2
23. <i>Science, Technology and Innovation in Asia and the Pacific</i>	–	–	1	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	8	11	10	11
24. Trade, Investment and Innovation Working Paper Series	2	2	2	2
25. Briefs on trade, investment and innovation	4	4	4	4
26. Reports on trade facilitation and paperless trade implementation	1	1	–	1
27. <i>Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor</i>	1	4	4	4
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services 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; 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.				
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: website of the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade; updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme for the ESCAP website; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

Subprogramme 3 Transport

Objective

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

Strategy

- 19.59 To contribute to the achievement of sustainable transport connectivity and logistics in the Asia-Pacific region, the subprogramme will continue its work with regard to the Asian Highway network, the Trans-Asian Railway network and dry ports 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, by (a) continuing 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 respective working groups; (b) providing 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; (c) facilitating the exchange of good practices on the utilization of new technologies; and (d) conducting research and analysis that address the challenges and ways forward in realizing regional connectivity, including collecting and analysing transport-related restrictions and facilitation measures in Asia and the Pacific and identifying good practices, such as those that facilitate cross-border transport while helping to contain pandemics such as COVID-19 and other similar disruptions to regional connectivity. These activities are expected to result in an increased number of ESCAP member signatories of and parties to regional and subregional agreements; an increased number of national projects, programmes and initiatives to upgrade regional transport infrastructure, including the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway and dry ports of international importance; and increased measures to remove bottlenecks and facilitate the efficient movement of people and goods along transport routes and at border crossings. This work will help member States to make progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, most notably Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), target 11.2 of Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities), target 12.2 of Goal 12 (responsible consumption and production), target 13.1 of Goal 13 (climate action) and targets 17.9 and 17.14 of Goal 17 (partnerships for the Goals). Past results in the area include the signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network by China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation. In 2019, the Lao People's Democratic Republic became the fourteenth party to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, and Turkey acceded to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, bringing the number of parties to that Agreement to 20.
- 19.60 To contribute to the achievement of sustainable transport mobility in the Asia-Pacific region, the subprogramme will advocate and provide capacity-building assistance in the areas of sustainable urban transport, for example, to facilitate the application of the ESCAP-developed sustainable urban transport index in major cities of the region; road safety, for example, the formulation of the implementation framework on strategies to tackle main causes of road crashes and fatalities, and smart transport, for example, the development of a regional road map to support regional cooperation for wider deployment of smart transport systems, which are expected to result in 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 road safety, and increasing the use of smart mobility approaches in the region. This work will support member States in making progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, most notably target 3.6 of Goal 3 (good health and well-being), target 7.3 of Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy), target 11.2 of Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and targets 17.9 and 17.14 of Goal 17 (partnerships for the Goals). Past results in this area include evidence-based urban transport policies and interventions by Governments through the integrated assessment of multiple transport issues, including using the ESCAP-developed sustainable urban transport index, which is a user-friendly framework of 10 indicators that help policymakers track, summarize and compare the performance of sustainable urban transport systems in cities.

- 19.61 In order to achieve the above objective, the subprogramme will continue to collaborate with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the other United Nations regional commissions, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Road Safety Fund and the World Health Organization; regional development banks, including the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and the World Bank; international, regional and subregional organizations, including the Economic Cooperation Organization, the International Transport Workers' Federation, the Organization for Cooperation between Railways, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the International Union of Railways; and research institutes, associations and other civil society organizations.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

- 19.62 A planned result for 2019, which is improved transport infrastructure to increase physical connectivity and intermodal integration, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was exceeded, as evidenced by the 99 projects and programmes (compared with a target of 76) supporting the development of transport infrastructure to increase physical connectivity and intermodal integration, in line with ESCAP recommendations.

Programme performance in 2019: advancing seamless intermodal transport connectivity for Asia and the Pacific

- 19.63 The subprogramme has been facilitating the regional intergovernmental process on transport, in part through its role as the designated technical 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. These agreements provide a comprehensive institutional framework for transport infrastructure development, within which related policies and actions can be collectively defined and implemented. In that capacity, the subprogramme provides secretariat services for the meetings of the respective treaty bodies, namely, the Working Group on the Asian Highway Network, the Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway Network and the Working Group on Dry Ports, which deliberate on, and decide on amendments to, the legal text of the relevant Agreement and monitor its implementation. The subprogramme also provides technical expertise and input for the intergovernmental deliberations of the Working Groups and implements capacity development projects in support of the further development of the Agreements.
- 19.64 In their meetings in 2019, the three Working Groups took another step towards enabling seamless intermodal transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific by adopting a series of amendments that updated the geographical extension and status of the highway, rail and dry port networks. The regional transport network currently comprises 143,000 km of highways in 32 countries, 118,000 km of railway lines in 28 countries and 250 dry ports in 27 countries. In addition, the Working Groups addressed practical issues affecting operational connectivity along the networks, such as the harmonization of the weights and dimensions of road vehicles along the Asian Highway network, the facilitation of information exchanges at railway border crossings and the strengthening of countries' institutional capacity to design and manage international dry ports.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.65 This work contributed to the achievement of sustainable transport connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region, as demonstrated by the geographical extension of the region's highway, rail and dry port networks, the adoption of new resolutions on safe and intermodal transport and the increased number of accessions by ESCAP member States to the three intergovernmental agreements.

Table 19.9
Performance measure

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan became parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkmenistan acceded to the intergovernmental agreements on the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Turkmenistan became parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports The Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports entered into force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annex II bis to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, entitled “Asian Highway design standards for road safety”, was adopted at the seventh meeting of the relevant Working Group The Islamic Republic of Iran became party to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional framework for the planning, design, development and operation of dry ports of international importance was adopted by the Commission (resolution 74/2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The length of actual Asian Highway routes was expanded by 17,100 km The Lao People’s Democratic Republic became party to the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports Turkey became party to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, bringing the number of parties to 20

Planned results for 2021

Result 1: shifting towards more sustainable freight transport in Asia and the Pacific (result carried over from 2020)

- 19.66 The subprogramme will continue the work related to sustainable transport connectivity, logistics and mobility in the Asia-Pacific region, in line with its mandate, including supporting countries in formulating and implementing policies and measures to strengthen international railway transport so as to enhance sustainable transport connectivity and logistics in Asia and the Pacific, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated, to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution [74/251](#), approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Table 19.10
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
N/A	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 five policies and measures to facilitate international rail transport	Increased number of freight trains and/or reduced border-crossing times along Trans-Asian Railway routes

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: realigning the region's priorities towards sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific (new result)

- 19.67 The subprogramme has been supporting member States in implementing the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021), adopted at the third session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Moscow in December 2016. The Regional Action Programme is designed to promote regional cooperation and to facilitate countries' implementation of their infrastructure projects and cross-border facilitation measures within a shared vision of development. While the vision of the Asia-Pacific region to attain seamless regional connectivity is focused on addressing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of connectivity in a balanced and integrated manner, the persistence of missing links and non-physical barriers to infrastructure that relate to legal, regulatory, administrative, documentary and organizational hindrances adversely affect the inclusiveness and sustainability of transport and logistics systems. The elimination of those physical, institutional and regulatory hurdles requires further support by the subprogramme with a view to facilitating the formulation and implementation of national policies by Governments and to coordinating among Governments and related parties at the subregional and regional levels.

Internal challenge and response

- 19.68 The challenge for the subprogramme was to effectively stimulate the formulation and timely implementation of national, subregional and regional policies and measures to address the missing links and non-physical barriers to sustainable and inclusive transport and logistics systems. A regional platform for policy debate on emerging transport issues and priorities among member States would serve to provide strategic direction for the subprogramme to effectively stimulate the formulation and implementation of the policies needed to foster regional sustainable transport connectivity, logistics and mobility. In response, the subprogramme will convene the fourth session of the Ministerial Conference on Transport, to be held in 2021, to review the implementation of the first phase of the Regional Action Programme, discuss the priority needs of member States, intensify collaboration among stakeholders and set out a future direction that takes various facets of sustainable and inclusive transport into account.

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

- 19.69 This work is expected to contribute to achieving sustainable transport connectivity, which would be demonstrated by the adoption of the second phase of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, for the period 2022–2026, and other policy frameworks and tools that would enhance the advancement of sustainable transport connectivity, logistics and mobility in the region.

Table 19.11
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Countries participated in and benefited from activities under the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017–2021)	Countries assessed progress made in implementing the first phase of the Regional Action Programme at the fifth session of the Committee on Transport	Countries further identified key activities to accelerate the implementation of the Regional Action Programme	Countries participate in the evaluation of the implementation of the first phase of the Regional Action Programme and initiate 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

Legislative mandates

19.70 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	72/271	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

19.71 Table 19.12 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.12

Subprogramme 3: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	4	5
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	1	1	–
2. Reports for the Committee on Transport	–	–	3	–
3. Reports for the Ministerial Conference on Transport	–	–	–	5
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	24	28	20	30
4. Meetings of the Committee on Transport	–	–	6	–
5. Meetings of the Ministerial Conference on Transport	–	–	–	10
6. Meetings on the Asian Highway network	4	4	–	4
7. Meetings on the Trans-Asian Railway network	4	4	–	4
8. Meetings on dry ports	4	4	–	4
9. Meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity	4	4	4	4
10. Expert group meetings on transport connectivity and logistics	8	8	8	4
11. Expert group meetings on mobility	–	4	2	–

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	8	19	7	8
12. Capacity-building projects on transport connectivity and logistics	5	12	4	4
13. Capacity-building projects on mobility	3	7	3	4
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	1	–	1	–
14. Training event on transport connectivity and logistics	1	–	1	–
Publications (number of publications)	2	3	2	2
15. Publication on transport developments in Asia and the Pacific	1	1	–	1
16. Publications on transport connectivity, logistics and mobility	1	2	2	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	4	5	3	3
17. Technical materials on transport connectivity and logistics	4	4	2	2
18. Technical materials on mobility	–	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; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website.				
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: updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme for the ESCAP website; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

Subprogramme 4 Environment and development

Objective

- 19.72 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

- 19.73 To contribute to the reduction of 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, the subprogramme, inclusive of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, will employ three main approaches: (a) circular economy-based solutions, by identifying and applying tools to optimize resource use and efficiency, analysing environmental externalities of unsustainable growth patterns, developing policies to reduce waste and encourage waste to resource and analysing markets for new low-carbon products; (b) nature-based solutions, by identifying actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, providing benefits for both human well-being and biodiversity; and (c) governance for environmental transformation, by using tools and approaches that support an integrated and participatory approach to environmental policymaking, such as community-focused financing and systems frameworks, and that support the strengthening of engagement and multi-stakeholder partnerships. The subprogramme will 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 least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and will generate evidence and provide technical support for integrated policymaking and regional cooperation. In addition, in its analytical and capacity development deliverables, the subprogramme will factor in environmental considerations emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that similar pandemics might be more likely in the context of a warming planet. 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 2, 13, 14 and 15; realizing sustainable urban development, thereby contributing towards the achievement of Goal 11; and eliminating pollution and waste, thereby contributing to the achievement of Goals 6, 11 and 12.

- 19.74 To contribute to the strengthening of climate action and sustainable resource use, the subprogramme will identify and address developmental gaps in the region and in which the subprogramme has a mandate and expertise. The subprogramme will support member States in building capacity for action for climate empowerment and participation (see article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and for the vertical integration of climate action and sustainable resource use among the regional, national, subnational and local levels, including with non-State actors. The subprogramme will promote low-carbon, green growth solutions through the provision of knowledge products and capacity-building activities, including on-site and online resource efficiency training and toolboxes to assess and analyse how to accelerate implementation of nationally determined contribution commitments and how to fulfil Convention reporting requirements. This work is expected to result in enhanced actions to address climate change and the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 13 (climate action) and the Paris Agreement in Asia-Pacific countries. Past results in this area include the promulgation of several pathways for transformation towards the 1.5°C target and climate-resilient development, during Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2019;¹ the creation of online spaces on Goal 13 through the Sustainable Development Goals help desk platform; the launch of resource efficiency training at national and regional forums and at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Madrid in December 2019; and the global promulgation of the Youth Voices for Climate Action campaign, also at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference.
- 19.75 To contribute to building the capacity of member States to realize sustainable urban development, the subprogramme will help cities to strengthen their urban planning processes, adopt urban resilience strategies, apply appropriate smart technologies and finance urban infrastructure. Following the seventh Asia-Pacific Urban Forum and given the policy pathways proposed in the 2019 report entitled *The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities: Transformative Pathways Towards Sustainable Urban Development*, both of which had been developed jointly with multiple partners, ESCAP has been recognized as an important convener in this area. Building on this work, ESCAP can 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, including the analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the incorporation of responses to communicable diseases into future urban action plans. That support will be delivered through the Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanization, a collaboration initiative implemented jointly by United Nations entities, development partners, city networks and cities and national ministries. Specific initiatives, such as the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy, Development Account projects on localizing Sustainable Development Goals in cities and the Ocean Cities project, 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 actions. That increased vertical integration is expected to result in more sustainable and resilient communities and

¹ Regional transformational pathways identified during Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2019 included 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.

in reduced negative impacts of urbanization on resources. Past results in this area include the establishment of the Penang Platform by the seventh Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, held in 2019, and, as part of the first phase of the Platform, the launch of the Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy to provide support to newly appointed mayors in areas related to sustainable urbanization.

- 19.76 To contribute to eliminating pollution and waste, and in response to ESCAP resolution [75/4](#) on strengthening regional cooperation to tackle air pollution challenges in Asia and the Pacific, 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, which is expected to result in the development of scenarios, policies, plans to address the risk of air pollution in the region. Past results in this area include the improvement of development policies and practices in member States through the integration of environmental priorities in waste management. For example, integrated resource recovery centres were established in six developing countries with the support of the subprogramme.
- 19.77 Lastly, the subprogramme will continue its work on strengthening partnerships and cooperation (Sustainable Development Goal 17) with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes (including through the mandated regional coordination mechanism, 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 subprogrammes within ESCAP to enhance synergy and coherence in relevant areas.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

- 19.78 A planned result for 2019, which is enhanced evidence-based policies, strategies and frameworks that integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development, including gender perspectives, at the national level and in both urban and rural areas, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was exceeded, as evidenced by the fact that 18 such policies, strategies and frameworks (compared with a target of 10) were developed by member States and other stakeholders during the biennium, to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development, including gender perspectives, at the national level and in both urban and rural areas, in line with ESCAP recommendations.

Programme performance in 2019: Asia-Pacific countries benefit from the Sustainable Development Goals help desk for planning, capacity development support and voluntary national reviews

- 19.79 ESCAP launched the Sustainable Development Goals help desk in March 2018 in response to requests for capacity development support from member States with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The help desk is partly supported by the Development Account. Its function is to service policymakers and sustainable development practitioners who are seeking multilingual information and capacity support for the achievement of the Goals. The help desk is designed as a one-stop, web-enabled service that provides access to Goal-related tools, knowledge products, data portals, expertise and technical assistance through the ESCAP rapid response facility. The help desk supports peer learning and regional South-South cooperation in partnership with 130 (and growing) United Nations, regional and global knowledge providers. ESCAP developed the platform and substantive content for the help desk and ensured service delivery by coordinating inputs from development partners and responding to country requests.
- 19.80 One of the foundational services of the help desk is building capacity for the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into national policies. It has accomplished this by introducing the ESCAP systems thinking framework for integration at regional, subregional and country workshops and trainings and through a dedicated e-learning course. In addition to this, the help desk maintains a thematic area on the integration of the Goals into national planning and links its nearly 20,000 users to a host of other relevant knowledge resources, tools and services.

- 19.81 In 2019, additional professional development on stakeholder engagement planning was also incorporated into the services of the help desk, and support was provided at the national level. Through the help desk, ESCAP has provided a gateway to knowledge products and services available to member States across a range of areas, including, for example, lessons drawn from the Closing the Loop initiative on reducing plastic waste, the Ocean Cities project and projects on integrated resource management through an urban nexus approach and on environmental change through participation and such knowledge products as the reports entitled *The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities* and *Accelerating Progress: An Empowered, Inclusive and Equal Asia and the Pacific*, all completed in 2019.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.82 This work contributed to the reduction of the negative impacts of growth on the natural environment and to improved human well-being in urban and rural environments in all focus areas by enabling more coherent and inclusive policies for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national, subnational and municipal levels, as demonstrated by improved country processes and high-quality voluntary national review reports, which include inputs on integration, mechanisms for stakeholder engagement and effective interministerial collaboration, as seen in the reports produced by Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Turkmenistan.
- 19.83 By the end of 2019, the Sustainable Development Goals help desk had benefited more than 3,000 policymakers and stakeholders who had participated in on-site peer learning sessions, hands-on training and online e-learning sessions, upon request from member States. A total of 20 countries benefited from these trainings. In addition, regional peer learning workshops on the voluntary national review, delivered as part of the help desk, provided an overview of success stories and best practices related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by member States that had been highlighted during the fifth and sixth sessions of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

Table 19.13
Performance measure

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Adoption of the 2030 Agenda	Adoption of ESCAP resolution 72/6, in which the Commission committed to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and voiced the need for capacity development to member States	Initiation of a needs assessment for the development of the Sustainable Development Goals help desk, with four countries receiving assistance for the preparation of their voluntary national reviews	Access to the help desk and its rapid response facility available to ESCAP member States	Production by Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Turkmenistan of high-quality voluntary national review reports, which include inputs on integration, mechanisms for stakeholder engagement and effective interministerial collaboration

Planned results for 2021

Result 1: inclusive and integrated policy processes for effective climate action and natural resources management (result carried over from 2020)

- 19.84 The subprogramme will continue the work related to strengthening climate action and sustainable resource use, in line with its mandate, and will assist countries in developing initiatives that promote broader engagement and climate action, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated, to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution [74/251](#), approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Table 19.14

Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
N/A	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	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	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

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: more ambitious nationally determined contributions to meet commitments to the Paris Agreement (new result)

- 19.85 The subprogramme has been working on strengthening regional collaboration on climate change mitigation, resource efficiency and sustainable urbanization, with an emphasis on supporting those furthest behind, including taking into account gender considerations by encouraging gender parity in the consultative process and due regard for outreach, including to women and girls.

Internal challenge and response

- 19.86 The challenge for the subprogramme was the absence of a comprehensive toolkit to support member States that were committed to undertaking reviews of their nationally determined contributions. In response, ESCAP is developing a multisectoral toolbox of capacity support for countries, in order to assess and enhance their readiness for climate actions.
- 19.87 In 2021, the subprogramme will focus on improving the capacity of member States to accelerate climate action and to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development into policies, strategies and frameworks at the national level and in both urban and rural areas. ESCAP activities will support member States by enhancing their understanding of the cost of inaction and the benefits of climate action, taking into account differences in impact for men and women, and by providing access to tools and methodologies that support the various means (e.g. finance, policy coherence and/or partnerships) of implementing nationally determined contribution commitments and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 13 through relevant climate actions. Through the organization of regional workshops and Asia-Pacific Climate Week events, ESCAP activities will

also enhance regional cooperation on the implementation of the Paris Agreement. In particular, the subprogramme will support policymakers in the development of plans to operationalize, update and revisit their nationally determined contributions so as to accelerate the implementation of commitments to the Paris Agreement, including concrete actions in critical sectors of energy use, urban development, industrialization and agriculture.

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

- 19.88 This work is expected to contribute to the reduction of the negative impacts of growth on the natural environment and to improved human well-being in urban and rural environments through building member States' capacity to strengthen climate action, such as by raising the ambition of nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement in the region. These activities will further boost national experts' understanding of the main principles of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement and strengthen countries' capacity to fulfil the reporting requirements of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Those results would be demonstrated by at least two countries having revised and updated their nationally determined contributions based on ESCAP support.

Table 19.15
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
The first Asia-Pacific Climate Week held to advance regional climate action	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	Scenarios, policies, plans or programmes developed by member States to operationalize environment and climate action at different levels, including gender mainstreaming	With the support of ESCAP, plans updated and revised by at least two countries to make their commitments to nationally determined contributions more ambitious

Legislative mandates

- 19.89 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	74/224	Harmony with Nature
71/256	New Urban Agenda	74/226	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		sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
70/12	Strengthening efforts on human settlements and sustainable urban development for the Asia-Pacific region	73/5	Strengthening Asia-Pacific's support for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14
71/9	Strengthening cooperation on sustainable management of water resources in Asia and the Pacific	74/4	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, 2017
72/2	Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization	75/4	Strengthening regional cooperation to tackle air pollution challenges in Asia and the Pacific
72/9	Regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for		

Deliverables

19.90 Table 19.16 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.16

Subprogramme 4: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 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 Environment and Development	–	–	1	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	19	23	26	21
3. Meetings of the Committee on Environment and Development	–	–	5	–
4. Meetings of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization	2	2	2	2
5. Meetings of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery	5	5	5	5
6. Meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment	2	2	2	–
7. Expert group meetings for the implementation of internationally agreed agendas related to the environment and development	4	6	2	2
8. Expert group meetings on sustainable and resilient cities in the Asia-Pacific region	4	4	8	8
9. Policy forums on the greening of economic growth for sustainable development	2	4	2	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	8	11	7	9
10. Capacity-building projects on strengthening the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda	2	3	2	–

Section 19 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2019 actual</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>
11. Capacity-building project on the sustainable management of natural resources	1	1	1	1
12. Capacity-building projects on sustainable urban development	1	3	1	3
13. Capacity-building projects on sustainable agricultural mechanization	3	2	1	1
14. Capacity-building project on the greening of economic growth	1	1	1	1
15. Capacity-building projects on supporting countries in the Asia-Pacific region to meet commitments to the Paris Agreement	–	1	1	3
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	2	11	4	11
16. Workshop on the integrated management of straw residue	–	–	–	1
17. Workshops on strengthening human resources for sustainable agricultural mechanization	–	–	3	2
18. Regional forums on sustainable agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific	1	3	1	–
19. Workshop on promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization through South-South cooperation	–	–	–	2
20. Forum on sustainable urban development	1	3	–	–
21. Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean	–	–	–	1
22. Asia-Pacific Climate Week	–	5	–	5
Publications (number of publications)	2	2	1	2
23. Publications on environment and development	1	1	1	1
24. <i>The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities: Transformative Pathways Towards Sustainable Urban Development</i>	1	1	–	–
25. Publication on progress towards sustainable urbanization in Asia-Pacific	–	–	–	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	5	6	4	5
26. Documents on the environment and development (policy briefs, knowledge products and case studies)	1	2	1	3
27. Guidelines and training manual related to a regional database on agricultural mechanization	1	1	–	–
28. Documents on agricultural machinery	3	3	3	2

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory support for task forces and regional initiatives on United Nations water and sustainable urban development; 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 Water, Energy and Environment.

Databases and substantive digital materials: e-learning courses on the environment and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: information material on agricultural mechanization; observance of United Nations international days, including special events on sustainable urban development and on the 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: updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme for the ESCAP website; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.

Subprogramme 5

Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

Objective

- 19.91 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 the sharing of best practices.

Strategy

- 19.92 To contribute to strengthened ICT, space technology applications and disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific through regional cooperation and the sharing of best practices, the subprogramme will continue to support member States by developing norms for geospatial data-sharing, digital connectivity and 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, and, in particular, Goals 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17.
- 19.93 To contribute to strengthened ICT for resilient and sustainable development, the subprogramme will provide the intergovernmental platform for the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway. In this context, the subprogramme will develop norms and common principles for seamless regional connectivity and provide gap analysis, supplemented by advocacy, networking and partnerships in support of the Information Superhighway initiative. These efforts are expected to result in improved cross-border broadband connectivity; strengthened internet traffic management in the most disconnected countries of the region; improved e-resilience and the cross-border operability of ICT networks that support disaster management; and more reliable, resilient and affordable broadband for all. Bringing broadband to all and bolstering network capacity for e-resilience has proved to be even more crucial in times of working and schooling from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These efforts will be augmented by the capacity development activities of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development related to digital inclusion and ICT for sustainable development. Past results in this area include increased knowledge and skills of member States to leverage ICT in national development strategies and programmes and the endorsement of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document (2019–2022) and the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (2019–2022) at the second session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation.
- 19.94 To contribute to strengthened space technology applications for resilient and sustainable development, the subprogramme will continue to assist member States in harnessing the latest advances in space technology applications and geospatial data. The subprogramme will continue to 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 subprogramme will add COVID-19 and pandemic-related components to the geospatial data hub that is being established. These components will promote a common understanding of the principles of geospatial data-sharing in the context of

pandemics and of mapping pandemic risk hotspots and will enhance the interoperability of data across sectors by developing common data formats. These efforts are expected to result in the anticipation and reduction of disaster risks through improved early warning systems, especially for slow-onset disasters in high-risk and low-capacity developing countries. The work of the subprogramme will be anchored in regional cooperation mechanisms, including the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific. Past results in this area include the adoption 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) at the third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

- 19.95 To contribute to strengthened disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development, particularly in the context of COVID-19, the subprogramme will 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. These actions are expected to result in improved understanding of disaster risks, access to multi-hazard early warning information and enhanced disaster preparedness. Past results in this area include the first-ever estimation of the costs of slow-onset disasters published in the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019* and the implementation of drought monitoring systems by countries such as Mongolia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.
- 19.96 In order to achieve the above objective, the subprogramme will collaborate with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including through the mandated regional coordination mechanism, international, regional and subregional organizations, regional development banks, community-based organizations, research institutes, associations and other civil society organizations.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

- 19.97 A planned result for 2019, which is enhanced evidence-based policies on ICT, space technology applications and disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development, including gender perspectives, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was exceeded, as evidenced by 11 member States (compared with a target of 10) formulating and implementing policies on ICT, space technology applications and disaster risk reduction and management based on ESCAP analytical products. The subprogramme contributed to the enhanced use of enabling technology, in particular ICT, to promote the empowerment of women across the region. It also provided a gender-disaggregated analysis of disaster data that will contribute to the formulation of targeted and gender-inclusive national policies.

Programme performance in 2019: prioritized policy response to address the risk of droughts as slow-onset disasters in Asia-Pacific

- 19.98 Disasters are increasingly linked to environmental degradation and climate change, leading to events of unprecedented complexity and uncertainty. When slow-onset disasters such as droughts are taken into account, economic losses quadruple as compared with losses focused on rapid-onset disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis.
- 19.99 Since 2015, the subprogramme has supported member States in tackling the challenge of slow-onset disasters through the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning. The Mechanism pools regional resources and facilitates timely and free access to and exchange of space-derived data, products and services between space-faring countries and those most in need.

Tools tailored to specific country contexts are provided through training and other capacity-building activities. Through collaboration between China and Mongolia, the DroughtWatch tool was tailored for Mongolia and is now in full use. Similar operationalization is under way in Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. The experience gained and operational tools developed will be replicated in other countries and tailored to address their specific contexts.

- 19.100 In 2019, the subprogramme enhanced further evidence-based approaches by sharing the key findings of an ESCAP-ASEAN joint study with the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, in a report entitled *Ready for the Dry Years: Building Resilience to Drought in South-East Asia*. The study was focused on the social and economic impacts of drought in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam. Furthermore, in the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019* evidence was provided on the changing geography and intensification of drought, transboundary floods and sand and dust storms. Subsequent discussions at the sixth session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction contributed to informed and more timely decision-making for risk mitigation of slow-onset disasters. Multi-stakeholder awareness and advocacy was further strengthened through print and online press, social media and television coverage, which included more than 140 feature articles (a three-fold increase in the coverage of previous editions of the publication); citations in reports of other organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross; and references in policy statements by member States.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.101 This work contributed to strengthened ICT, space technology applications and disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. Following the success of the joint ESCAP-ASEAN analytical report on drought, *Ready for the Dry Years*, ASEAN requested ESCAP support in stressing the urgent need for policy development and in accelerating momentum on the priority actions needed at the national and regional levels, based on the recommendations of the report. The areas of intervention highlighted in ESCAP publications contributed to the development of policy responses to increase awareness and enhance resilience, thus mitigating the impact of slow-onset disasters in the Asia-Pacific region, as demonstrated by the number of member States supporting those responses and expressing their commitment to implementing them, for example in the area of drought monitoring.

Table 19.17

Performance measure

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka committed to becoming pilot countries of the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning • Drought monitoring system installed and customized in Mongolia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought monitoring system calibrated and validated in Mongolia • System set up in Myanmar with the support of regional service nodes in China, India and Thailand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought monitoring system further calibrated and validated in Mongolia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DroughtWatch system handed over and operationalized in Mongolia • Drought monitoring system for seasonal drought monitoring applied in Myanmar • Drought monitoring system operationalized in Sri Lanka 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service for drought monitoring expanded to crop monitoring in the Lower Mekong Basin • Cambodia, Myanmar and Viet Nam committed to replicating the crop monitoring system to country-specific resilient agriculture contexts

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service for drought monitoring expanded to social monitoring and impact analysis in Mongolia

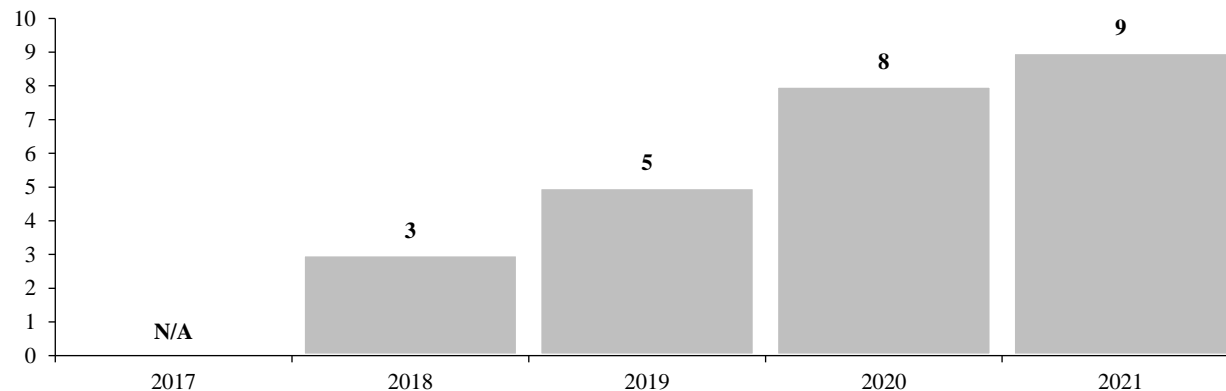
Planned results for 2021

Result 1: advanced subregional implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (result carried over from 2020)

- 19.102 The subprogramme will continue the work related to strengthening digital technologies and innovations for resilient and sustainable development, in line with its mandate, and will continue to support policy and strategy formulations through its analytical and technical cooperation activities for identifying innovative solutions that increase access to broadband networks in a more inclusive and affordable manner, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated, to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution [74/251](#), approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Figure 19.II

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



Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: accelerating regional policy coordination for risk-informed and climate-resilient development (new result)

- 19.103 The subprogramme has been working on operationalizing the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network, which consists of the following work streams: (a) multi-hazard early warning system; (b) data and statistics; (c) technology innovation and applications; and (d) knowledge for improved policymaking. To operationalize the network, a risk hotspot approach has been used. The fact that the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019* is the second-most downloaded publication from the ESCAP website emphasizes the importance of ESCAP-produced research and policy analysis in setting the groundwork for future regional policymaking and coordination, in line with the subprogramme objective. Drawing from the disaster trends outlined in the report, there are four hotspot clusters in the Asia-Pacific region: the transboundary river basins; the Pacific Ring of Fire; the Pacific small island developing States; and the sand and dust storm risk corridors. To ensure that multi-hazard risk information and early warning services are fully integrated into broader resilience targets, ESCAP

is working with partners to deliver innovative climate and weather services for floods and droughts in South Asia. The 2019 release of the ESCAP-ASEAN joint study, *Ready for the Dry Years*, combined with several in-country multi-stakeholder policy dialogues in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam, have propelled high-level discussions on drought resilience. With regard to the sand and dust storm risk hotspot, ESCAP has joined the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and has developed key policy documents to support the establishment of a regional slow-onset hazards network and a sand and dust storms alert system. Work carried out by ESCAP on resilient infrastructure supports regional economic cooperation and integration in landlocked countries in the Central Asia and North-East Asia subregions.

Internal challenge and response

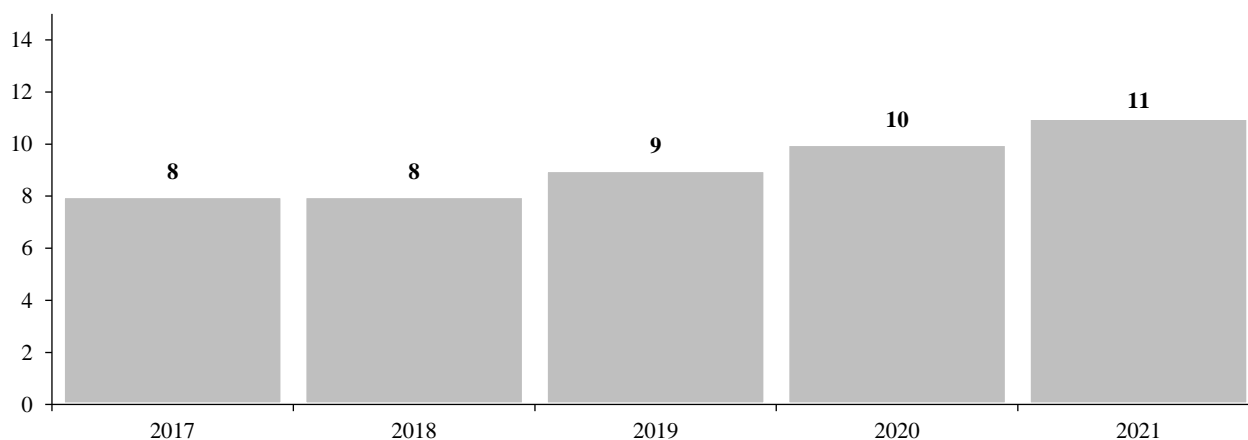
- 19.104 The challenge for the subprogramme was the coordination of the large and diverse group of stakeholders involved in the first phase of the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network. In response, in 2021, the subprogramme will prioritize its efforts on the key stakeholders involved in two of the four multi-hazard risk hotspots identified in the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019*, namely, transboundary river basin floods and slow-onset disasters (drought, desertification and sand and dust storms). The subprogramme will also focus on (a) promoting the inclusion and empowerment of at-risk communities in disaster risk hotspots; (b) capitalizing on existing multi-tier partnership networks to build regional cooperation with regard to slow-onset disasters and floods; and (c) promoting solutions through the uptake of innovative technology applications. While ESCAP has already upgraded its partnerships with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) through memorandums of understanding and by joining the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, it will formalize its cooperation with other key stakeholders, such as Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization. In this regard, the subprogramme will support member States in accessing regional cooperation networks.

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

- 19.105 This work is expected to contribute to strengthened disaster risk reduction and management through regional cooperation and the sharing of best practices that effectively address shared challenges and opportunities for resilient and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. This result would be demonstrated by the existence of at least 11 ESCAP-facilitated cooperation initiatives, such as regional cooperation mechanisms, projects and programmes, in the subprogramme's areas of work. As disaster risk evolves into a more complex factor, accelerated regional policy coordination for risk-informed and climate-resilient development will be facilitated through the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network.

Figure 19.III

Performance measure: number of initiatives for improving disaster resilience



Legislative mandates

19.106 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	74/197	Information and communications technologies for sustainable development
		74/218	Disaster risk reduction
		74/226	Combating sand and dust storms
74/82	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space	74/229	Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development
74/115	International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development		

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2015/14	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations	2018/14	Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters
2015/31	Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	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		
73/6	Implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative through regional cooperation	75/7	Advancing the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative through regional cooperation

Deliverables

19.107 Table 19.18 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.18

Subprogramme 5: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2019 actual</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	2	9	5	5
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	6	1	3
2. Reports for the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction	1	3	—	2
3. Reports for the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	—	—	4	—
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	34	44	35	34
4. Meetings of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	—	—	3	—
5. Meetings of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction	6	6	—	6
6. Meetings of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	4	4	4	4
7. Meetings of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	4	—	4	4
8. Meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development	4	4	4	4
9. Meetings of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones	4	8	4	4
10. Meetings of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development	4	6	4	4
11. Meetings of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee	4	8	4	4
12. Expert group meetings on space applications	—	—	4	—
13. Expert group meetings on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway	—	—	4	—
14. Expert group meetings on disaster risk reduction	4	8	—	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	6	6	6	6
15. Capacity-building projects on disaster information management	1	1	1	1
16. Capacity-building projects on disaster risk reduction	2	2	2	2
17. Capacity-building projects on ICT	2	2	2	2
18. Capacity-building projects on space technology applications	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	14	14	14	14
19. Training events on information and communication technology	14	14	14	14
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	1	1
20. Publications on disaster information management	1	1	1	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	8	7	9	8
21. Technical paper on disaster information management	—	—	1	—
22. Technical paper on disaster risk reduction	—	—	1	—
23. Technical papers on ICT	6	6	6	6
24. Technical paper on infrastructure resilience	1	—	—	1
25. Technical papers on space technology applications	1	1	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory support for the task forces of ESCAP Sustainable Business Network; and advisory support for committees and organizations on issues related to disaster risk reduction, space applications and ICT.				

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
<p>Databases and substantive digital materials: guidelines on space technology applications; guidelines for the development and management of disaster information databases and spatial data infrastructure; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website.</p> <p>D. Communication deliverables</p> <p>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: information materials, brochures and briefing notes on ICT; brochures on disaster information management; and press interviews for major publications and events.</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: update of e-collaborative hub website on ICT; updating of content for the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development Virtual Academy; updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme for the ESCAP website; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.</p>				

Subprogramme 6 Social development

Objective

- 19.108 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

- 19.109 To contribute to the realization of 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, the subprogramme will build upon the multidisciplinary nature of ESCAP and, taking into account its analytical, intergovernmental and capacity development functions, the subprogramme will, in close collaboration with relevant United Nations and non-United Nations partners, including the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), bring together Asia-Pacific Governments on critical issues related to social development in the region. Socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are likely to be extensive in the region and will certainly widen poverty and inequality gaps. In this context, the subprogramme will support member States with strategies to recover from the shocks induced by COVID-19, taking into account the differentiated impacts on vulnerable groups and with a view to ensuring that no one is left behind. These intergovernmental processes will be informed by analyses and research tools. This will be conducted in partnership with relevant think tanks and United Nations entities. Such work is expected to result in the development of strong and relevant regional frameworks, drawing upon the complementary strengths of ESCAP in terms of its regional convening power and the national implementation capacity of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. These regional frameworks will be used as the basis for capacity development by member States, upon their request.
- 19.110 To contribute to the realization of inclusive and equitable societies that empower, protect and leave no one behind in the area of population and development, the subprogramme will provide continued support to Asia-Pacific Governments in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and their recommitment to it in the context of the 2030 Agenda, as well as its regional follow-up document, the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development of 2013. This will be done by, among others, building 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. The subprogramme will focus on further developing a monitoring framework to assess the

implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. This work is expected to result in the development of policies and programmes in the domain of population and development, which are expected to be rendered more responsive, contributing to the achievement of Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 17 of the 2030 Agenda. Past results in this area include the achievement of regional consensus on and the incorporation of Asia-Pacific priorities into global processes such as those that resulted in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the International Conference on Population and Development.

- 19.111 To contribute to the realization of inclusive and equitable societies that empower, protect and leave no one behind in the area of social protection, the subprogramme will provide assistance to Asia-Pacific Governments in implementing the modality for strengthening regional cooperation on social protection in Asia and the Pacific. The subprogramme will also develop new and innovative analytical products and capacity development tools. This work is expected to result in enhanced skills and knowledge for countries to design and implement inclusive social protection policies, thereby contributing to the achievement of Goals 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 and 17 of the 2030 Agenda. Past results in this area include increased access to tools for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to build inclusive social protection systems, such as the Social Protection Toolbox, and the convening of the first meeting of the Group of Experts for Strengthening Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific in response to the recommendation made by the Committee on Social Development at its fifth session.
- 19.112 To contribute to the realization of inclusive and equitable societies that empower, protect and leave no one behind in the area of disability, 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 focus on conducting analytical and research work and providing capacity-building support to member States in Asia and the Pacific on building disability-inclusive societies. This work is expected to result in informed intergovernmental dialogues and to assist member States in the achievement of Goals 1, 4, 8, 10, 11 and 17. Past results in this area include the adoption of the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy at the high-level intergovernmental meeting on the midpoint review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022. Both the Incheon Strategy and the Beijing Declaration and Action Plan provide Governments with strategic guidance in support of their endeavour to work towards the full and effective implementation of the Decade.
- 19.113 To contribute to the realization of inclusive and equitable societies that empower, protect and leave no one behind in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women, the subprogramme will follow up on the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific regional 25-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, by supporting Asia-Pacific Governments in addressing critical concerns and undertaking priority actions to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The subprogramme will also provide technical assistance in developing gender-responsive policies in the context of economic empowerment and entrepreneurship for women. This work is expected to result in the provision of support for gender-responsive business development and investment policies and programmes and thereby to contribute to the achievement of Goals 1, 5, 8, 10 and 17 of the 2030 Agenda. Past results in this area include the adoption of a ministerial declaration, which included strengthened regional commitments to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda, at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

- 19.114 A planned result for 2019, which is enhanced regional cooperation between member States to reduce inequalities and address the impact of demographic challenges, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was exceeded, as evidenced, for example, by five

(compared to a target of four) recommendations and decisions adopted by member States, based on or drawing from initiatives promoted by ESCAP, towards strengthening regional and subregional frameworks, arrangements and agreements for regional cooperation aimed at reducing inequalities and addressing the impact of demographic challenges, including gender perspectives.

Programme performance in 2019: Asia-Pacific region strengthens commitment to realize the equal rights of women for an equal future by 2030

- 19.115 The 25-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was conducted in the Asia-Pacific region, with the participation of Governments and civil society organizations. As part of the review, the secretariat undertook research and analysis of challenges to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and recommended policy actions to advance this agenda in the region. Among others, this fed into the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review, convened by ESCAP, in collaboration with UN-Women, to take stock of progress, share experiences and lessons learned, and to identify effective and innovative solutions to address key challenges. As a result, member States adopted a ministerial declaration, which included strengthened regional commitments to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda.
- 19.116 In 2019, the subprogramme supported six countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Nepal, Samoa and Viet Nam) to accelerate their efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing in particular on advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. In the region, entrepreneurship is a major pathway for women to gain economic empowerment and equality, which can, in turn, have a multiplier effect on family well-being, poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth. However, entrepreneurship by women is hindered by numerous challenges, including structural and regulatory barriers, and a lack of access to finance and information and communication technology tools for business development. The subprogramme assisted policymakers and regulators in developing gender-responsive policies for small and medium-sized enterprises that included special provisions for women entrepreneurs and 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.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.117 This work contributed to the realization of inclusive and equitable societies that protect, empower and leave no one behind in Asia and the Pacific in the area of economic empowerment for women, as demonstrated by the adoption of the ministerial declaration at the Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review, which included a call to intensify actions to realize the equal rights of women for an equal future by 2030. A survey conducted as part of the review showed that 63 per cent of the member States that participated in the survey reported advancing economic empowerment of women as a key achievement; this included improved legislation to offer equality at the workplace, as well as policies and programmes to support entrepreneurship by women. Building upon regional and subregional dialogues, as well as national capacity-building workshops, member States identified a set of priority actions to address gender disparities in the Asia-Pacific region over the next five years, as reflected in the Beijing+25 ministerial declaration.

Table 19.19
Performance measure

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Countries agreed on the key measures to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as part of the Beijing+20 review	15 countries identified strategies to increase financing for achieving gender equality and other issues covered by the Sustainable Development Goals	Policymakers from 17 countries agreed on key recommendations to enhance the economic empowerment of women in the changing world of work at the Asia-Pacific policy dialogue on “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work”	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

Planned results for 2021

Result 1: inclusive national policies to protect and empower vulnerable and marginalized groups (result carried over from 2020)

- 19.118 The subprogramme will continue the work related to realizing inclusive and equitable societies that protect, empower and leave no one behind in Asia and the Pacific, in line with its mandate, and will assist countries in creating an enabling environment that takes into account the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution [74/251](#), approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Table 19.20
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
N/A	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	ESCAP member States develop and implement an increased number of evidence-informed socially inclusive policies to ensure that no one is left behind	At least six ESCAP member States adopt and implement policies that realize inclusive and equitable societies that protect, empower and leave no one behind

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: developing and implementing a modality for strengthening regional cooperation on social protection in Asia and the Pacific (new result)

- 19.119 The subprogramme has been working on strengthening the national capacities of Asia-Pacific countries to develop comprehensive social protection systems that provide support for all, including those furthest behind, over the life cycle. In this context, ESCAP member States, at the fifth session of the Committee on Social Development, requested the ESCAP secretariat to explore and develop a modality for strengthening regional cooperation on social protection, in collaboration with other United Nations entities.

Internal challenge and response

- 19.120 The challenge for the subprogramme was that the development of a regional cooperation modality for social protection required consideration of a broad range of social and economic issues. In response, the subprogramme will coordinate closely with development partners in supporting Asia-Pacific countries to develop and implement a viable modality for strengthening regional cooperation on social protection.
- 19.121 The subprogramme will also continue to develop innovative analytical products and capacity development tools on social protection. Through these products, the subprogramme will aim to strengthen further the national capacities of Asia-Pacific countries to develop comprehensive social protection systems, including through peer learning and knowledge-sharing.

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

- 19.122 This work is expected to contribute to the realization of inclusive and equitable societies that protect, empower and leave no one behind in Asia and the Pacific in the area of social protection, which would be demonstrated by the use of capacity development tools on social protection following the adoption of the regional modality on social protection.

Table 19.21
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Policymakers in Asia and the Pacific enhance their understanding of social protection through the ESCAP Social Protection Toolbox, policy guides and analytical studies	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 regional modality on social protection is 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

Legislative mandates

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

General Assembly resolutions

49/128	Report of the International Conference on Population and Development	65/234	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014
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Part V Regional cooperation for development

65/312	Outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding	74/121 74/122	Policies and programmes involving youth Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
68/4	Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development		
69/147	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls	74/125	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	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
73/241	International migration and development		
73/326	Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums		

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	2018/6	Third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
2015/5	Modalities for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002	2018/8 2019/4	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women 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		

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

66/12	Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference	69/14	Implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
67/5	Full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region	70/14	Enhancing participation of youth in sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
67/6	Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP	71/13	Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
67/8	Strengthening social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific	74/7	Towards disability-inclusive sustainable development: implementation of the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy
67/9	Asia-Pacific regional review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS	74/11	Strengthening regional cooperation to tackle inequality in all its forms in Asia and the Pacific
68/6	Asia-Pacific regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014	Decision 74/26	Report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
68/7	Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022	Decision 75/7	Report of the Midterm Review of the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development including the Chair's summary
69/13	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific		

Deliverables

19.124 Table 19.22 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.22

Subprogramme 6: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	2	1	6	3
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	–	1	3
2. Reports for the Committee on Social Development	–	–	2	–
3. Reports for intergovernmental meetings on social development	1	1	3	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	24	23	34	18
4. Meetings of the Committee on Social Development	–	–	6	–
5. Intergovernmental meetings on social development	6	6	6	–
6. Meetings of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013–2022	–	–	4	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	–
9. Expert group meetings on disability inclusion	4	4	–	4
10. Expert group meetings on social policies	12	12	8	4
11. Expert group meetings on population	–	–	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	7	9	8	9
12. Capacity-building projects on gender equality	1	3	3	4
13. Capacity-building projects on population	4	2	1	1
14. Capacity-building projects on disability inclusion	1	3	3	3
15. Capacity-building projects on inequality	1	1	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	3	2	5	1
16. Publications on gender equality	1	1	1	–
17. Publications on disability inclusion	1	1	–	1
18. <i>Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific</i>	1	–	1	–
19. Publication on migration	–	–	1	–
20. <i>Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal</i>	–	–	2	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	13	13	12	11
21. Policy papers on gender equality	–	1	1	1
22. Policy papers on disability inclusion	1	1	1	1
23. Policy papers on population	3	2	2	2
24. Policy papers on inequality	4	4	3	2
25. Datasheets on population	1	1	1	1
26. Policy briefs on social development	4	4	4	4

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory support to the task forces of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: online databases and resource facilities on social development; substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website.				
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: updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme for the ESCAP website; inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

Subprogramme 7 Statistics

Objective

- 19.125 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

- 19.126 To contribute to the improved availability, accessibility and use of quality data and official statistics in support of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, 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). This work is expected to result in more detailed and timely data and statistics, accessible in a more efficient way. Data and statistics to inform strategies to sustainably recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting socioeconomic shocks will be given due attention. Past results in this area include enhanced capacity of member States in compiling environmental-economic accounts, including ocean accounts for Sustainable Development Goal 14, with support from ESCAP, and a training programme, supported by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, on innovations in the use of new data sources and methodologies for statistics on the Sustainable Development Goals. The subprogramme also plans to develop, deploy and expand the use of tools such as “Every policy is connected”. This work is expected to result in the collective development of sustainable national indicator frameworks in line with universal guiding principles and frameworks and to lead to improved user engagement, stronger policy-data links for decision-making and supportive and well-coordinated policy environments for the improved production and use of quality data and official statistics. Stronger policy-data links will support member States in further refining their strategies to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and will support progress towards achieving the Goals. Past results in this area include indicator frameworks for several sectoral plans, such as transport in Samoa, and, in the Philippines, for the economic empowerment of women.
- 19.127 Furthermore, the subprogramme will continue to provide statistical products and services, such as the *Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report* and the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goal

Gateway, that make regional data and official statistics accessible and enable assessment of progress in the Asia-Pacific region towards the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the subprogramme will continue to develop or support the production of knowledge products in the form of research papers, working papers, statistics briefs and blogs to raise awareness and share knowledge and experience around official statistics.

- 19.128 The subprogramme will also continue to 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.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

- 19.129 A planned result for 2019, which is increased availability and use of quality and gender-sensitized statistical products and services for regional follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was exceeded, as evidenced by 64 (compared to a target of 5) documents and statements prepared for the regional follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that refer to ESCAP statistical products and services, including in relation to gender issues.

Programme performance in 2019: navigating policy with data to leave no one behind

- 19.130 In 2018, Asia-Pacific countries agreed to strengthen national statistical systems and improve official statistics for the 2030 Agenda through the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind. The Declaration is the proposed solution for transforming national statistical systems in the region into stronger bodies that are enabled and empowered to lead the development of, and deliver innovative, trusted and timely, products and services for urgently needed and evolving statistical requirements of the 2030 Agenda.
- 19.131 Throughout 2019, the subprogramme worked to advance the Declaration. For example, the subprogramme presented the Declaration at the fiftieth session of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, in March 2019, during which further work was suggested with the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to communicate the global relevance of the Declaration at the United Nations World Data Forum in 2020. The Declaration was further endorsed by ESCAP at its seventy-fifth session, in May 2019.
- 19.132 Furthermore, in line with the commitments of the Declaration, in order to improve the availability, accessibility and use of quality data and statistics in support of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, the subprogramme, in cooperation with development partners, provided technical and capacity-building assistance to member States. In 2019, the subprogramme organized 82 workshops, expert group meetings and trainings (35 by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and 47 by the ESCAP Statistics Division, 7 of which were organized with partners), involving participants from 48 member States and 6 associate members, and provided technical assistance on the review and modernization of national statistical systems in a few countries, including Sri Lanka. In addition to enhancing statistical capacities, these technical assistance and capacity-building activities were mostly focused on the areas in which there are data gaps for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.133 This work contributed to the improved availability, accessibility and use of quality data and official statistics in support of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, as demonstrated by the recognition and adoption by ESCAP at its seventy-fifth session, in May 2019, of the Declaration on

Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind, as the regional solution to enable and empower national statistical systems to improve the availability, accessibility and use of quality data and official statistics. At the seventy-fifth session, member States appreciated the efforts of the Asia-Pacific statistical community and acknowledged the indispensability of reliable and timely official statistics for evidence-based decision-making, transparency, accountability and inclusive societies.

Table 19.23

Performance measure

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
N/A	N/A	N/A	Adoption by ESCAP member States of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind at the sixth session of the Committee on Statistics	Endorsement of the Declaration by ESCAP at its seventy-fifth session; acknowledgment of the global relevance of the Declaration by the Statistical Commission of the United Nations at its fiftieth session

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Planned results for 2021

Result 1: stronger policy-data links for better decision-making (result carried over from 2020)

- 19.134 The subprogramme will continue the work related to the improved availability, accessibility and use of quality data and official statistics in support of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, in line with its mandate, and will support countries in building their capacity to strengthen their national statistical systems, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated, to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution [74/251](#), approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Table 19.24

Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
N/A	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	At least five countries demonstrating strengthened statistical systems in the account of progress prepared for the seventh session of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics, in 2020	Further national implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: Asia-Pacific countries take steps to transform their statistical systems: the case of Bhutan (new result)

- 19.135 The subprogramme has been working in several countries to enhance national statistical capacity and to encourage and support the use of administrative data and new data sources to produce official statistics, which can lead to more granular and timely data and official statistics. These enhancements are in line with the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind and are geared towards supporting countries in the implementation of national commitments. The national statistical system of Bhutan is one that ESCAP is supporting substantially. Since 2018, ESCAP has been a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2019–2023 of Bhutan, and has provided support in particular with respect to data and statistics. The desired outcome by 2023 is enhanced access to and use of reliable and timely data for inclusive and evidence-based policymaking and decision-making in the country. The workplan aims to strengthen the integration, monitoring and reporting of the country's five-year plans and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and to produce disaggregated data on gender, vulnerable groups, multi-hazard preparedness and risk reduction and ensure that such data are used effectively.
- 19.136 The subprogramme has shifted its approach and placed greater emphasis on strengthening national statistical systems to produce official statistics by using administrative data, such as through the harmonization of classifications used by government entities, in particular the International Standard Industrial Classification, and the use of civil registration data for producing vital statistics, instead of relying only on traditional data production methods such as censuses and surveys conducted by the national statistical office. As part of this shift, the subprogramme also strives to mainstream gender perspectives, for instance through the use of civil registration data, including marriage and divorce registration, disaggregated by sex and age, which is crucially important to the public health programme development and targeted interventions, including on gender-related issues.

Internal challenge and response

- 19.137 The challenge for the subprogramme was to trigger and support the enhancement of the institutional strength, legislative frameworks and coordination mechanisms in place within the country for increased and improved use by the national statistical office of data sources generated by components of the national data system to produce official statistics. In response, the subprogramme will focus on working closely with the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the United Nations country team on institutional strengthening across the statistical system of Bhutan, supporting the chief statistician of Bhutan in his role as coordinator of the statistical system of Bhutan, developing and deploying opportunities to share regional knowledge and experience, and reaching out to development partners with the expertise and experience needed to support outcomes of the Cooperation Framework of Bhutan. In this regard, the subprogramme will support the Government of Bhutan in discussions to modernize statistical legislation.

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

- 19.138 This work is expected to contribute to the improved availability, accessibility and use of quality data and official statistics in support of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, which would be demonstrated by the further implementation of the national commitments contained in the Declaration. In the case of Bhutan, this would include increased and improved use by the National Statistics Bureau of Bhutan of data sources generated by components of the data ecosystem of Bhutan to produce official statistics, following the adoption of modernized statistical legislation and the further use of administrative data and new sources of data to produce official statistics in support of the five-year plan and for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Table 19.25
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
N/A	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	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 prepared for the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics	Further implementation of the national commitments contained in the Declaration

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Legislative mandates

19.139 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	2013/21	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
2011/15	Revision of the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	2017/7	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

246 (XLII)	Statistical services in Asia and the Pacific		Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific
65/2	Regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development 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
67/10	A core set of economic statistics to guide the improvement of basic economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific	71/14	Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade, 2015–2024
67/11	Strengthening statistical capacity 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
67/12	Improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific		
69/15	Implementing the outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil	74/6	Advancing disaster-related 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
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Deliverables

19.140 Table 19.26 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.26

Subprogramme 7: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 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	2	1
2. Report for the Committee on Statistics	–	–	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)	21	17	45	15
4. Meetings of the Committee on Statistics	–	–	6	–
5. Meetings of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	3	3	3	3
6. Meetings of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Project Working Group on Statistics	6	2	6	–
7. Expert group meetings on the use of non-traditional and complementary data sources in official statistics	–	–	6	6
8. Meetings of the Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	6	6	6	6
9. Expert group meetings on strengthening national statistical systems for enhanced quality and trust in official statistics	–	–	6	–
10. Meetings of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	6	6	6	–
11. 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	5	5	5
12. Capacity-building projects on statistics	5	5	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)	1	2	2	2
14. Statistical briefs and working papers	1	2	2	2
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory support to 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.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: ESCAP statistical database; database on statistical training materials and resources; substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website.				

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 planned
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: updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme for the ESCAP website; inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

Subprogramme 8 Subregional activities for development

Component 1 Subregional activities for development in the Pacific

Objective

- 19.141 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

- 19.142 To contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of the Pacific, including building resilience to climate change, the component, in cooperation with subprogrammes 4 and 6, will facilitate subregional dialogues among member States on policy and legal challenges to climate-related migration and displacement, in cooperation with other United Nations entities in the Pacific, such as the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office, the International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Organization; subregional organizations of the Pacific, such as the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat and the Pacific Community; and civil society. This work is expected to result in more effective subregional responses to climate change-related human security issues. Past results in this area include increased attention accorded to climate-related human mobility and displacements in Pacific subregional policy frameworks, such as the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP) 2017–2030*, and the commitment to human security made by Pacific Islands Forum leaders in the Boe Declaration on Regional Security.
- 19.143 To contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of the Pacific, including sustainable ocean management, the component, in cooperation with subprogramme 7, will continue to 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. This work is expected to result in improved data availability for evidence-based policymaking on ocean management. Past results in this area include the development and release of accounts for the first time in four Pacific island countries (Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau and Samoa) and diagnostic readiness assessments for the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in five Pacific island countries (Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, Samoa and Vanuatu).
- 19.144 To contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of the Pacific, including reducing inequalities, the component, in

cooperation with subprogramme 6, will continue to provide technical assistance to Pacific 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. These efforts are expected to result in 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. Past results in this area include policies and legislative compliance in support of gender equality and disability rights in the Pacific subregion, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, and the Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review. This will help member States in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5, in particular target 5.a on equal rights to economic resources and target 5.c on strengthening sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality.

- 19.145 The component will continue to 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 Goal 10 (reduced inequalities), Goal 13 (climate action), Goal 14 (life below water) and Goal 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

- 19.146 A planned result for 2019, which is increased effectiveness of subregional initiatives and coordination processes to address regional and subregional dimensions of sustainable development, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the increased number of ESCAP-facilitated subregional initiatives and coordination processes to address regional and subregional dimensions of sustainable development. That number increased from a baseline of 0 in 2017 to 12 in 2019 (compared to a target of 12), in cooperation with various partners.

Programme performance in 2019: stronger policy-data links for integrated monitoring of national plans

- 19.147 A common challenge in the development of policies and the monitoring of their implementation is insufficient dialogue between policy and data stakeholders, resulting in a lack of data from the perspective of policymakers and a lack of demand to drive data production from the perspective of data producers. To strengthen policy-data integration and ensure the effective monitoring of development progress, the component has been supporting member States to develop tailored national sustainable development indicator sets based on existing national results frameworks and planning tools as well as global and regional frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. By balancing global reporting requirements and national policy priorities, national sustainable development indicator sets support follow-up and review processes at the national, regional and global levels and reduce reporting burdens for small island developing States.
- 19.148 The development of national sustainable development indicator sets has been integrated into the voluntary national review support that the component provides to member States in the form of subregional workshops and in-country technical assistance, which includes training on the voluntary national review process, the preparation of workplans and the identification of data needed.
- 19.149 To facilitate policy-data integration, the component also contributed to the development of a tool called "Every policy is connected". By using the tool, member States can review, develop or enhance the coverage of national and sector policies and plans and ensure that the most suitable indicator framework to monitor progress is developed. This work was carried out in cooperation with

subprogramme 7. The tool was tested extensively in Samoa and to some extent in Fiji and Vanuatu. An information technology application has also been developed. In Samoa, the tool has been used for all 14 sectors, with the information technology application being used for the tourism, community development and education sectors.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.150 This work contributed to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, as demonstrated by the submission of voluntary national review reports from five countries (Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu) to the 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development, and by the testing of the “Every policy is connected” tool to facilitate national policy-data integration processes in Fiji and Vanuatu.

Table 19.27
Performance measure

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Mapping of Sustainable Development Goal indicators with Pacific sustainable development frameworks, the Samoa Pathway, the Pacific Leaders Gender Declaration and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism	Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Task Force guided and consolidated the regional implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, the Samoa Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism	Pacific Islands Forum leaders endorsed the Pacific Road Map for Sustainable Development, which included a subset of Sustainable Development Goal indicators relevant to the Pacific	Member States called for support for harmonizing indicators for regional and global reporting processes; indicators were populated in the Pacific Road Map for Sustainable Development and at the national level in Kiribati (through voluntary national reviews and by mapping the Goals to national development plans) and Samoa (through the “Every policy is connected tool” across all 14 sectors)	Five member States (Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu) integrated the Sustainable Development Goals into national processes and voluntary national review reports for 2019

Planned results for 2021

Result 1: strong national sustainable development indicator sets for follow-up and review (result carried over from 2020)

- 19.151 The component will continue the work related to the acceleration of progress towards sustainable development, in line with its mandate, and will support countries in leveraging frameworks that accelerate subregional development, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution [74/251](#), approved a programme narrative at the component level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Table 19.28
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
N/A	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 sustainable development frameworks supported by localized indicators	Strengthened subregional data ecosystem to produce harmonized and integrated data to guide policy planning, implementation and monitoring

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: Pacific small island developing States advance cooperation for climate change-related displacement and migration (new result)

- 19.152 In the Boe Declaration on Regional Security, Pacific Islands Forum leaders identified climate change as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of people in the subregion. The component has been working on the development of national and regional actions to support countries in addressing challenges related to migration, displacement and relocation resulting from climate change, with a focus on the low-lying atoll nations of Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu. National action plans had been developed in Kiribati and Tuvalu with financial and technical support from ESCAP. The plans were aligned with climate change policies and national sustainable development planning, including budgetary processes, to build the resilience of vulnerable communities through the establishment of safe and regularized migration channels. In 2016, senior officials at a meeting convened by ESCAP and the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat called for the establishment of a regional framework on climate change-related displacement and migration. In 2018 and 2019, ESCAP facilitated policy discussion in these focus countries on national policy and protection gaps for vulnerable communities. Small island developing States are among the most likely to be affected by climate-induced displacement and are on the front line of climate insecurity with regard to displacement and migration. The work of ESCAP in this area is guided by the expanded concept of security, inclusive of human security, to address climate change challenges as endorsed by leaders in the Boe Declaration.

Internal challenge and response

- 19.153 The challenge for the component was the difficulty of supporting discussions with a view to achieving a common understanding of the policy and legal challenges facing countries with regard to migration and displacement in the subregion. Pacific small island developing States differ in their positions on understanding and conceptualizing migration in the context of climate change adaptation, the human security risks they may face in the medium term (5–10 years) and the regional actions needed to address those risks. The complexity of the issues and political risks makes it more important that the process be driven by member States to ensure its continuity. In response, the component will establish a subregional dialogue platform for member State-led deliberation on subregional actions that can address legal and policy gaps on climate change-related migration and displacement to protect vulnerable communities. The platform will consist of a series of meetings

of senior officials followed by a ministerial discussion with a view to supporting the development of a regional declaration on climate change-related migration in which human rights-based guiding principles are established to empower and protect communities vulnerable to climate change displacement. Moreover, given that women and men have different experiences at every stage of the migration cycle, whether the migration is informal or regularized, the component will seek to promote gender equality and migration approaches that are consistent with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and that contribute to the achievement of target 8.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on the rights of migrants, particularly women, and target 17.18, on the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by gender and migratory status, among other characteristics.

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

- 19.154 This work is expected to contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of the Pacific, including building resilience to climate change, which would be demonstrated by the adoption of a declaration by five States of the subregion. Such a declaration would show an evolving subregional consensus on a subregional normative policy and legal framework that empowers and protects communities vulnerable to climate change displacement.

Table 19.29

Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Governments accord priority to a regional framework for climate change-related migration, planned relocation, resettlement and displacement in the Pacific	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	Governments agree 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	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

Legislative mandates

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

General Assembly resolutions

63/260 Development-related activities

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

244 (XLI)	The Commission's Activities in the Pacific	sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
72/9	Regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for	

Deliverables

- 19.156 Table 19.30 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.30

Subprogramme 8, component 1: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2019 actual</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2021 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)	8	4	8	4
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	4	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	2	3	2	2
4. Capacity-building projects on institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in the Pacific	1	1	1	1
5. Capacity-building projects on economic and social development	1	2	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	—	1
6. Publication on sustainable development in the Pacific	1	1	—	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Databases and substantive digital materials: web pages on economic and social development in the Pacific region; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website.				
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: updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme component for the ESCAP website; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

Component 2

Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia

Objective

- 19.157 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

- 19.158 The component will place emphasis on the promotion of cooperation among member States, regional entities and other partners working on the sustainable development of East and North-East Asia, including through the implementation of programmes on sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability, and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies, in cooperation with relevant subprogrammes.

- 19.159 To contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of East and North-East Asia, including sustainable connectivity, the component, in cooperation with relevant subprogrammes, will facilitate 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. This work is expected to result in policy coherence and the integration of connectivity initiatives, for example with regard to trade and transport facilitation. Past results in this area include the establishment of the North-East Asia Regional Power Interconnection and Cooperation Forum as a regular forum.
- 19.160 To contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of East and North-East Asia, including environmental sustainability, the component, in cooperation with subprogramme 4, will strengthen subregional platforms, such as the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation and the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership, by enhancing the technical and institutional capacities of subregional platforms. This work is expected to result in coordinated actions among stakeholders and governments to counter common environmental challenges. Past results in this area include the adoption by the Commission, at its seventy-fifth session, of its resolution 75/4 on strengthening regional cooperation to tackle air pollution challenges in Asia and the Pacific, building on subregional initiatives such as the North-East Clean Air Partnership.
- 19.161 To contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of East and North-East Asia, including innovation for inclusive and resilient societies, the component, together with relevant subprogrammes, will facilitate subregional cooperation on science, technology and innovation policies and support stakeholders in developing policies and programmes to promote gender equality and inclusion in the technology industry and science, technology and innovation for ageing societies and disaster resilience. This work is expected to result in enhanced knowledge-sharing on and use of science, technology and innovation in building inclusive and resilient societies in the subregion. Past results in this area include enhanced monitoring of droughts in Mongolia as a showcase for wider application.
- 19.162 The strategy will be delivered by supporting and promoting intergovernmental processes on sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability, and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies in East and North-East Asia, contributing mainly to the achievement of targets 3.9, 5.c, 7.2, 9.1, 10.2, 11.b, 13.2, 14.2, 15.3, 17.3 and 17.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals. The component will further build the capacity of member States to identify subregional challenges and opportunities and apply best practices. This work is expected to result in the more effective formulation and implementation of policies and strategies consistent with 2030 Agenda, including through the North-East Asia Multi-stakeholder Forums on Sustainable Development Goals.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

- 19.163 A planned result for 2019, which is increased effectiveness of subregional initiatives and coordination processes to address regional and subregional dimensions of sustainable development, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the two (compared to a target of two) ESCAP-facilitated subregional initiatives and coordination processes to address regional and subregional dimensions of sustainable development. Specifically, during the biennium, the component facilitated the launch of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership, the first subregional intergovernmental initiative on transboundary air pollution in North-East Asia, involving all six member States of the subregion, and the North-East Asia Regional Power Interconnection and Cooperation Forum, a subregional mechanism to facilitate dialogues among key stakeholders on power interconnection in North-East Asia.

Programme performance in 2019: North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership institutionalized

- 19.164 The component supported the institutionalization of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership, an intergovernmental platform launched in October 2018 to address transboundary air pollution in North-East Asia. This was followed by other regional cooperation initiatives to tackle air pollution challenges in Asia and the Pacific. In 2019, the component facilitated the establishment of the Science and Policy Committee as the steering body of the Partnership by working with the member States on the selection of the Committee members and the development of the rules of procedure. The component has also commenced consultation with member States on the formulation of the Partnership workplan, including with regard to scientific assessment and policy cooperation on air pollution.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.165 This work contributed to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of East and North-East Asia, including environmental sustainability, as demonstrated by the adoption by the Commission of its resolution 75/4 on strengthening regional cooperation to tackle air pollution challenges in Asia and the Pacific and by the formation of the Science and Policy Committee of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership. The Committee identified four programmatic areas of the Partnership to be developed: (a) an emissions inventory on transboundary air pollution; (b) a subregional integrated assessment modelling framework; (c) a subregional scientific assessment report by mid-2020; and (d) policy dialogue in collaboration with relevant mechanisms.

Table 19.31

Performance measure

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Member States discussed transboundary air pollution in North-East Asia on the basis of an ESCAP study	Member States proposed the development of a new subregional framework on transboundary air pollution	Member States considered a partnership framework developed by ESCAP	Member States formally launched the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership and adopted its terms of reference	Member States inaugurated the Science and Policy Committee of the Partnership and agreed on four programmatic areas

Planned results for 2021

Result 1: subregional intergovernmental policy dialogue on integrated trade and transport facilitation (result carried over from 2020)

- 19.166 The component will continue the work related to strengthening regional cooperation and integration for sustainable connectivity, in line with its mandate, and will support dialogue among member States on trade and transport facilitation for improved connectivity, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution [74/251](#), approved a programme narrative at the component level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Table 19.32
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
N/A	Absence of dialogue between subregional governmental bodies	Lack of a structured subregional intergovernmental body	Establishment of a formal subregional intergovernmental policy dialogue 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

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: strengthening coordination between trade and transport facilitation in East and North-East Asia (new result)

- 19.167 The component has been working on promoting sustainable connectivity in East and North-East Asia, including through trade facilitation and transport facilitation. Initiatives facilitated by ESCAP, including the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, the Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, have advanced in East and North-East Asia. The component has supported the sharing of knowledge and best practices on trade facilitation and transport facilitation in East and North-East Asia through subregional seminars and policy dialogues. The component has also utilized partnerships with subregional entities and national institutions and conducted joint activities to raise awareness about the importance of connectivity in the subregion and to strengthen support for ESCAP-facilitated initiatives on trade facilitation and transport facilitation. For instance, ESCAP has collaborated with the Greater Tumen Initiative in organizing separate subregional seminars on trade facilitation and on transport issues, which are regularly held in conjunction with annual meetings of the Initiative and attended by government officials, experts and practitioners involved in trade and transport. These seminars provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation on advancing trade facilitation by strengthening transport connectivity in the subregion. Trade officials from member countries of the Initiative are considering working closely with other priority sectors, including transport, on the next steps in the implementation of the Initiative's road map for trade and investment cooperation.

Internal challenge and response

- 19.168 The challenge for the component was that while diverse activities had been conducted in the areas of trade facilitation and transport facilitation, the opportunities and synergies between the two areas had not been jointly promoted by the component. In response, and given that opportunities exist to further foster the synergies between these two key areas of regional connectivity in North-East Asia, for instance on cross-border institutional coordination and cross-border information exchange, the component will promote trade facilitation and transport facilitation in an integrated and coordinated manner across government units at the national level and in a subregional context to attract more officials and stakeholders working on trade and transport.
- 19.169 A more integrated approach to trade facilitation and transport facilitation will provide an enabling environment to optimize the impact of regional connectivity, including by broadening the reach of economic activities and access to services that accompany stronger economic performances, such as increased trade in goods and services in the subregion and higher employment in the trade sector and its ancillary activities.

- 19.170 Building on a planned subregional study which will provide an evidence-based reference point on synergies between trade facilitation and transport facilitation, and on the collective engagement of trade and transport officials through subregional policy dialogue on trade and transport facilitation in 2020, planned deliverables in 2021 include a subregional workshop on operationalizing joint initiatives that reflect policy coordination on trade and transport.

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

- 19.171 This work is expected to contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of East and North-East Asia, including sustainable connectivity, which would be demonstrated by at least one additional initiative among East and North-East Asian countries reflecting policy coordination on trade and transport facilitation.

Table 19.33
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Member States promote trade and transport facilitation through separate initiatives such as the adoption of Commission resolution 73/4 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific	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 engage in intergovernmental policy dialogues on trade and transport facilitation in a joint manner	Member States implement initiatives reflecting policy coordination on trade and transport facilitation

Legislative mandates

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

General Assembly resolutions

63/260 Development-related activities

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

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

Deliverables

- 19.173 Table 19.34 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.34

Subprogramme 8, component 2: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 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)	11	13	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	6	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	4	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	3	2	2
5. Capacity-building projects on institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in East and North-East Asia	1	2	1	1
6. Capacity-building projects of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation	–	1	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	–	–	1	–
7. Publications on sustainable development of North-East Asia	–	–	1	–
C. Substantive deliverables				
Databases and substantive digital materials: web page on economic and social development in East and North-East Asia; 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; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website.				
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: updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme component for the ESCAP website; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

Component 3

Subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia

Objective

- 19.174 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

- 19.175 To contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of North and Central Asia, including sustainable connectivity, the component, in cooperation with subprogrammes 2 and 3, will encourage subregional dialogue through the thematic working groups of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia. This work is expected to result in enhanced ownership by member States of programmes to improve trade and transport facilitation as well as energy and ICT connectivity, contributing mainly to Sustainable Development Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy), Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth), Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities). Past results in this area include the recognition by the Governing Council of the Special Programme of the need to redouble efforts in strengthening connectivity in trade, transport, energy and ICT.
- 19.176 To contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of North and Central Asia, including economic transformation, the component, in cooperation with subprogramme 1, 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. This work is expected to result in an enhanced understanding of policy options for economic transformation in the subregion, contributing mainly to Sustainable Development Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth), in particular target 8.2, to achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors. Past results in this area include the recognition by the Economic Forum of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia that the acceleration of structural economic transformation is a fundamental condition for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and for increasing shared prosperity.
- 19.177 To contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of North and Central Asia, including social inclusion and resilience, the component will mainstream social and environmental dimensions into its analytical work on the Sustainable Development Goals acceleration framework for North and Central Asia to address Goals related to gender issues, such as women's economic empowerment, and will continue its support for the subregional implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through collaboration with other subprogrammes and United Nations entities. This work is expected to result in strengthened contributions of the above-mentioned priorities to the development of countries in North and Central Asia, contributing mainly to Goal 5 (gender equality) and Goal 10 (reduced inequalities).
- 19.178 To contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development through follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, the component will organize annual expert group meetings on sustainable development and support voluntary national review processes at the request of member States. This work is expected to improve knowledge-sharing and cooperation among member States for the preparation of their voluntary national reviews, contributing mainly to Sustainable Development Goal 17 (partnerships for the Goals), in particular target 17.16, to enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries. Past results in this area include the exchange of best practices and methodologies for the preparation and follow-up of voluntary national reviews through a twinning programme involving four countries and facilitated by ESCAP.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

- 19.179 A planned result for 2019, which is a strengthened policy environment that supports the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, including gender perspectives, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by 95 per cent (compared to a target of 90 per cent) of participants in ESCAP initiatives reporting increased skills to articulate, plan and implement coherent policies supporting the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, including gender perspectives.

Programme performance in 2019: member States in North and Central Asia pilot twinning programme to support the preparation of voluntary national reviews

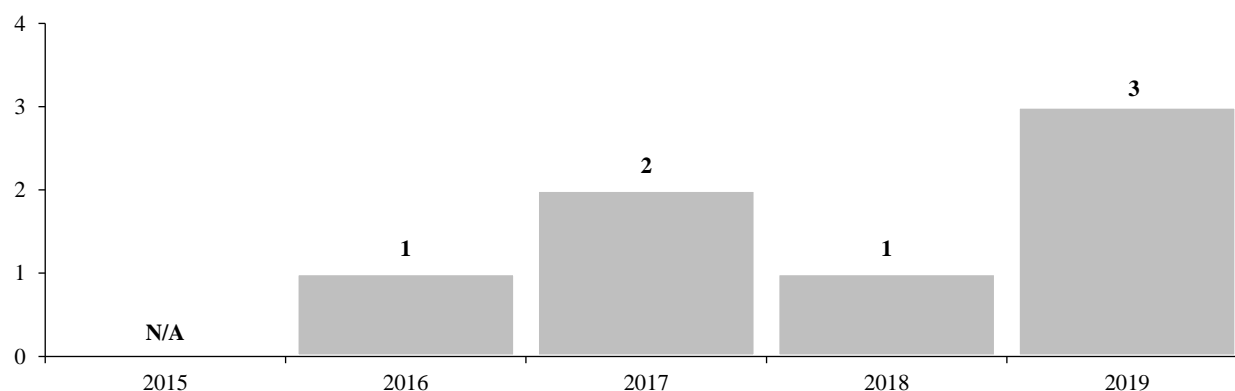
- 19.180 The North and Central Asia Multi-stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and a workshop on leaving no one behind in North and Central Asia were held in August 2019. Those events were aimed at strengthening the policy environment that supports the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development by ensuring that subregional perspectives on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in the region are articulated and well reflected in all the analytical and normative work of the secretariat. The Forum provided a platform for interactive discussions among member States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, academia and United Nations agencies on current challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in North and Central Asia and on ways forward. One of the actionable outcomes of the Forum, and an example of South-South cooperation, was the pilot of the ESCAP twinning programme for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and voluntary national reviews.
- 19.181 Member States at the Forum agreed to pilot a twinning programme, facilitated by ESCAP, which involved member States identifying other member States as suitable partners to learn from. All member States participating in the twinning programme would agree on specific activities, such as peer-reviewing road maps and draft documents for the voluntary national reviews in support of knowledge transfer.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.182 This work contributed to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development through follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, including the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and inputs to the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, as demonstrated by an increase in the number of member States that submitted voluntary national review reports in 2019. The component also facilitated the exchange of best practices and methodologies for the preparation and follow-up of the voluntary national reviews between the four countries participating in the twinning programme, namely Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. The first voluntary national reviews from Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan are expected in 2020, and the process of preparing for a second review is under way in Armenia.

Figure 19.IV

Performance measure: number of member States in North and Central Asia that have presented voluntary national reviews



Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Planned results for 2021

Result 1: enhanced structural economic transformation through policy advice and dialogue (result carried over from 2020)

- 19.183 The component will continue the work related to strengthening regional cooperation and integration for economic transformation, in line with its mandate, and will support countries in the creation of holistic approaches and enabling environments for sustainable development, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution [74/251](#), approved a programme narrative at the component level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Table 19.35

Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
N/A	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	References to a more integrated approach to structural economic transformation in national strategic documents and in statements at intergovernmental meetings	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

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: accelerate action and generate solutions to address gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in North and Central Asia (new result)

- 19.184 Recognizing the urgent need to accelerate action at all levels and by all stakeholders while gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, the component will continue to engage member States, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The component has been working to assist member States in North and Central Asia in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda through economic transformation. Recalling the priorities of member States highlighted during the North and Central Asia Multi-stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, among others, and recognizing the multidimensional aspect of the 2030 Agenda, the component will generate solutions through the consideration and adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals acceleration framework for North and Central Asia, in alignment with the priority areas iterated in the objective, moving beyond economic transformation to embrace social inclusion and resilience with a view to addressing gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda in the subregion.

Internal challenge and response

- 19.185 The challenge for the component was to support the holistic achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in a manner that would reflect a multi-stakeholder view. In response, the component will expand collaboration and engagement with other United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, and with existing intergovernmental and subregional platforms to ensure the facilitation of a multi-stakeholder process and engagement in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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

- 19.186 This work is expected to contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development in North and Central Asia, which would be demonstrated by member States in the subregion recognizing the Sustainable Development Goals acceleration framework for North and Central Asia and at least two of them using the framework to initiate actions for accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Table 19.36
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiatives to align subregional and national frameworks with the Sustainable Development Goals, such as the adoption by the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia of the 2018–2019 workplan, which was aligned with the 2030 Agenda Endorsement by the Governing Council of the recommendations of the Economic Forum of the Special Programme, organized on the theme of innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals in the region, including aligning national development plans with the Sustainable Development Goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> References to a more integrated approach to economic transformation are made in national strategic documents and in statements at intergovernmental and subregional meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member States in the subregion agree on a set of key drivers to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

Legislative mandates

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

General Assembly resolutions

63/260 Development-related activities

Deliverables

- 19.188 Table 19.37 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.37

Subprogramme 8, component 3: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2019 actual</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2021 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	13	12	12
2. Meetings of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	1	2	1	1
3. Meetings of the Economic Forum of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	3	3	3	3
4. Expert group meetings on policy and programme options to address emerging economic and social development issues in North and Central Asia	4	4	4	4
5. Expert group meetings on sustainable development in North and Central Asia	4	4	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	–
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	–	–
7. Publications on the sustainable development of North and Central Asia	1	1	–	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	–	1	1
8. Technical materials on regional cooperation and integration for the landlocked and transit developing countries	1	–	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Databases and substantive digital materials: web page on economic and social development in North and Central Asia; fact sheets on North and Central Asia; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website.				
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: updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme component for the ESCAP website; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

Component 4

Subregional activities for development in South and South-West Asia

Objective

- 19.189 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

- 19.190 To contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of South and South-West Asia, including sustainable connectivity, the component will collaborate with other subprogrammes, relevant agencies of the member States and subregional organizations to implement the programmes and activities of ESCAP in the subregion in the areas of trade and investment facilitation; science, technology and innovation; transport; ICT connectivity; road safety; and the clean energy transition. This work is expected to result in increased connectivity in the subregion, especially for landlocked developing countries (Afghanistan, Bhutan and Nepal) and with the contiguous subregions of South-East Asia and North and Central Asia. The component will also provide a platform for subregional dialogue and knowledge-sharing to facilitate the transition towards sustainable energy systems and enhance resilience to climate change and natural disasters. Past results in this area include the implementation of partnerships and cooperation between member States on regional railway connectivity, for example the memorandum of understanding between container companies in Bangladesh and India to establish a container train service between Dhaka and Kolkata, India.
- 19.191 To contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of South and South-West Asia, including women's economic empowerment, the component, in cooperation with other subprogrammes, will collaborate with 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. This work is expected to result in the 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. It will also help to advance poverty reduction through the generation of employment opportunities and incomes. Furthermore, as women entrepreneurs tend to employ more women workers, this work is likely to improve the female labour force participation rate in South Asia, which is among the lowest in the world. Past results in this area include the launch of the work on women's empowerment through a project on e-commerce capacity-building for women-led micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in South Asia.
- 19.192 To contribute to regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of South and South-West Asia, including the sustainable graduation of the least developed countries, the component will collaborate with relevant subprogrammes, government agencies and think tanks to strengthen their institutional capacity for policy analysis and to take appropriate policy actions. This work is expected to result in the enhanced capacities of least developed countries in South Asia to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and transition to sustainable graduation by 2024. Past results in this area include the identification of specific sustainable graduation challenges and the sharing among Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal of experiences, concerns, policy lessons and strategies in mitigating those challenges, with facilitation by ESCAP. In addition, the component has been delivering demand-driven assistance to Afghanistan and Bhutan to build analytical capacity to support the process of sustainable development through evidence-based policy analysis.
- 19.193 In working towards the achievement of the objective and to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in South and South-West Asia, the component will collaborate with other subprogrammes; planning and statistical agencies of the member States, including national think tanks; United Nations country teams; and subregional organizations. The component will carry out analytical work and convene subregional consultations on the Sustainable Development 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, as well as to support country-level processes, such as the development and implementation of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. The component will also leverage the South Asia network on the Sustainable Development Goals, to be launched in 2020, to foster regional cooperation by sharing good practices on sustainable development.

- 19.194 The component's work will contribute to progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 1 (no poverty), in particular targets 1.4, 1.a and 1.b; Goal 5 (gender equality), in particular targets 5.a to 5.c; Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy), in particular targets 7.a and 7.b; Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth), in particular targets 8.3 and 8.5; Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), in particular targets 9.1, 9.3 and 9.c; Goal 10 (reduced inequalities), in particular targets 10.2 and 10.6; Goal 13 (climate action), in particular targets 13.1, 13.2 and 13.b; and Goal 17 (partnerships for the Goals), in particular targets 17.9, 17.16, 17.18 and 17.19.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

- 19.195 A planned result for 2019, which is increased effectiveness of subregional initiatives and coordination processes to address regional and subregional dimensions of sustainable development, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by two (compared to a target of two) outcome documents of the Second and Third South Asia Forums on the Sustainable Development Goals, held in 2018 and 2019, reflecting consensus on regional and subregional dimensions of sustainable development.

Programme performance in 2019: member States in South and South-West Asia advance cooperation on sustainable development

- 19.196 In 2019, the component supported the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by strengthening regional cooperation in several areas.
- 19.197 In the area of sustainable connectivity, working with subprogrammes 3 and 5, the component facilitated policy discussion and subregional consensus on the co-deployment of ICT along with passive infrastructure in South Asia. The component also collaborated with subprogramme 5 to facilitate the sharing of analytical findings on the incidence of disasters and their link with inequality and poverty in the subregion, and a discussion on policy lessons. In addition, the component facilitated subregional sharing of experiences and good practices for road safety, working with subprogramme 3. Those initiatives helped to build consensus among the member States of South Asia to lay broadband cables alongside the national highways and other transport corridors. The initiative on road safety helped member States to improve understanding of the causes of road accidents, which kill more than 800,000 people annually in the Asia-Pacific region, and how they can be prevented by sharing good practices in road safety.
- 19.198 Countries in South Asia lag behind in women's economic empowerment, with very low rates of female labour force participation. In collaboration with relevant associations of women entrepreneurs, the component launched the work on women's empowerment through a project on e-commerce capacity-building for women-led micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in South Asia and organized national inception workshops in Nepal and Bangladesh as well as subregional discussions in Sri Lanka and Pakistan in 2019. This initiative is expected to result in the enhanced knowledge and capacity of women entrepreneurs in South Asia to apply e-commerce and digital marketing platforms to expand their business opportunities and participate in local, regional and global value chains.
- 19.199 Responding to the requests of member States graduating from the category of least developed country in the subregion, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal, the component conducted a series of workshops to facilitate the identification of specific sustainable graduation challenges and the sharing of experiences, concerns, policy lessons and strategies in mitigating those challenges. In addition, in response to requests from Bhutan and Afghanistan, the component organized capacity-building activities to equip the fledgling think tanks in those countries with the analytical capacity for evidence-based policy analysis to support the process of sustainable development. These interventions helped to identify specific trade policy lessons that could mitigate the adverse effects of graduation and further enhanced the capacities of least developed countries in South Asia to

accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and transition to sustainable graduation by 2024.

- 19.200 Working closely with the United Nations country teams in the subregion, the component also contributed to the Common Country Assessment for Bangladesh and to the development in Bhutan and implementation in India of their respective United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, thereby enhancing the capacities of these member States to formulate and implement their development frameworks.
- 19.201 The component conducted a series of studies to examine the countries' priorities on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and perspectives on subregional cooperation. These studies were discussed at a subregional workshop organized as a side event of the Sixth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, held in 2019. The component also organized the Third South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals and a policy dialogue, held in Dhaka in December 2019, in preparation for the Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. Participants at the Third South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals discussed how member States in the subregion could cooperate to address gaps and challenges in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the opportunities for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.202 This work contributed to strengthened 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, as demonstrated by the adoption by member States of outcome documents at the Sixth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, the seventy-fifth session of the Commission and the Third South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals, reflecting general agreement among member States on the importance of the component's objective.

Table 19.38
Performance measure

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Member States in South and South-West Asia agreed to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development as part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals	Member States in South and South-West Asia discussed further the modalities for strengthening the policy environment in support of the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development	Six member States in the subregion participated in the subregional follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, covering progress, achievements and challenges related to the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and taking into account subregional perspectives	Eight member States in the subregion reviewed the progress of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including regional cooperation for accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account subregional perspectives	Eight member States in the subregion took stock of progress, achievements and challenges in the five years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and agreed on the importance of advancing regional cooperation to accelerate inclusive and sustainable development

Planned results for 2021

Result 1: regional cooperation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in South Asia (result carried over from 2020)

- 19.203 The component will continue the work related to strengthening regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with its mandate, and will support exchanges among countries in the subregion and promote the sharing of best practices to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution [74/251](#), approved a programme narrative at the component level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Table 19.39
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
N/A	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	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 in line with the evidence-based research findings and recommendations of ESCAP

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: least developed countries in South Asia are well equipped to mitigate graduation challenges (new result)

- 19.204 Three of the four least developed countries in South Asia, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal, have met the criteria for graduation from the category of least developed country following the triennial reviews conducted by the Committee for Development Policy in 2018 and will move towards graduation. While it is a recognition of their socioeconomic development achievements, graduation from the category of least developed country also implies a possible disruption of the preferential market access and concessional financing available to these member States, including Aid for Trade privileges, beyond the end of a three-year transition period in 2021. This calls for the adoption of policies by these member States to minimize the risk of falling back into the category of least developed country.
- 19.205 The component has been assisting the three member States to respond to the graduation challenges through analytical work and a series of capacity-building activities, during which policymakers from the three countries discussed and identified specific sustainable graduation challenges, and to share their experiences, concerns, policy lessons and strategies in mitigating those challenges. To support evidence-based policymaking more broadly in least developed countries, the component organized capacity-building activities to equip the fledgling think tanks of Bhutan and Afghanistan with the analytical capacity to support the process of sustainable development through evidence-based policy analysis.

Internal challenge and response

- 19.206 The challenge for the component was coordinating the assistance that least developed countries in the subregion received from ESCAP sectoral subprogrammes to ensure maximum impact in supporting sustainable graduation from the category of least developed country. In response, the component will work in close cooperation with the Countries in Special Situations Section of ESCAP to ensure effective support is given to the least developed countries in the subregion. In addition, to enhance the capacity of least developed countries in South Asia to accelerate the progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable graduation, the component, in cooperation with relevant subprogrammes, will intensify assistance to Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. Specifically, the component will assist in the formulation and implementation of road maps for sustainable graduation, including by identifying possible pathways for meeting the Sustainable Development Goal targets, and attribute due importance to specific challenges facing least developed countries that are also landlocked developing countries. More focused and tailor-made technical assistance and advice on trade policy options will be provided to them. The component will also provide a platform for the sharing of best practices for sustainable graduation. Assistance will be provided to these member States to review and renegotiate the bilateral and regional trade agreements of these countries to secure continued non-reciprocal market access and technical assistance from their regional trade agreement partners. In addition, the component will continue to strengthen the analytical capacity of the think tanks of Afghanistan and Bhutan to support the formulation of policies for accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, not only through research but also by assisting the Governments in holding stakeholder consultations and providing advisory services.

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

- 19.207 This work is expected to contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of South and South-West Asia, including the sustainable graduation of the least developed countries, which would be demonstrated by their enhanced understanding of the imminent challenges and enhanced capacity to adopt policy strategies in the transition period to mitigate the challenges for smooth and sustainable graduation.

Table 19.40

Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Bhutan and Nepal on track for graduation from the category of least developed country, having cleared the first stage of the graduation process by meeting the graduation criteria in the triennial review conducted by the Committee for Development Policy	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 are supported with tailor-made 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

Legislative mandates

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

General Assembly resolutions

63/260 Development-related activities

Deliverables

19.209 Table 19.41 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.41

Subprogramme 8, component 4: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 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	6	8	6
2. Expert group meetings on policy and programme options to address emerging sustainable development issues in South and South-West Asia	4	2	4	2
3. Expert group meetings on sustainable development in South and South-West Asia	4	4	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	–
5. Publications on sustainable development in South and South-West Asia	–	–	1	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	2	3	4
6. Development paper series on economic and social development	1	2	3	4
C. Substantive deliverables				
Databases and substantive digital materials: web page on economic and social development in South and South-West Asia; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website.				
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; 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: updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme component for the ESCAP website; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

Component 5

Subregional activities for development in South-East Asia

Objective

- 19.210 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

- 19.211 The scope of the component is framed by the partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations to a significant extent. The component will support the implementation of the Plans of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations for the current period (2016–2020) and the succeeding period (2021–2025), as well as the complementarities road map for the period 2020–2025,² the preparation of which was noted by leaders at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations–United Nations Summit in 2019. These subregional processes represent opportunities to address the current challenges and priorities of ASEAN and the United Nations, and to continue working towards enhancing effective coordination among the various agencies and sectoral bodies while ensuring synergy in the implementation of the processes. The component will focus on the areas of 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.
- 19.212 To contribute to strengthened 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, the component 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 ASEAN regional frameworks in collaboration with the sectoral subprogrammes of ESCAP. The component will 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.
- 19.213 In the area of sustainable connectivity, the work of the component, in cooperation with subprogramme 5, is expected to result in enhanced innovation, infrastructure and competitiveness in the ICT sectors of member States to support an economic and social transition towards a truly digital ASEAN. Past results in this area include enhanced capacity of ASEAN member States due to the implementation of initiatives such as the Commission’s Women ICT Frontier Initiative in the subregion.
- 19.214 In the area of inclusive and equitable societies, the work of the component, in cooperation with subprogramme 6, is expected to result in enhanced dialogue on opportunities for fair and equitable access to social protection, especially for various vulnerable groups, and in member States improving disability statistics, ageing and disability policies and social protection costing. Past

² The complementarities road map serves as a guide for further advancing the complementarities initiative for the period 2020–2025. The complementarities initiative represents a commitment on the part of ASEAN and the United Nations to the implementation of two parallel but interrelated processes: the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda. To meet the goals of the two processes, focus is on the complementarities between them to deliver high-impact and inclusive benefits across a broad range of sustainable development priorities.

results in this area include subregional discussions on critical constraints facing women entrepreneurs in the context of the ASEAN Economic Community in a forum informed by the analytical work of ESCAP.

- 19.215 In the area of efficient management of natural resources, the work of the component, in cooperation with subprogramme 4, is expected to result in 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. Past results in this area include the promotion and dissemination of a sustainable approach to water supply, wastewater, energy and solid waste management through a series of ESCAP-organized events on integrated resource management, including a regional workshop in Indonesia on developing policy recommendations for integrated resource management at the national level.
- 19.216 In the area of resilient development, the work of the component, in cooperation with subprogrammes 4 and 5, is expected to result in improved policy coherence and synergized initiatives on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Past results in this area include ASEAN member States taking disaster risk reduction policy decisions that were informed by analytical work such as the ESCAP-ASEAN joint study on drought resilience, entitled *Ready for the Dry Years: Building resilience to drought in South-East Asia – With a focus on Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam: 2020 update*.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

- 19.217 A planned result for 2019, which is increased effectiveness of subregional initiatives and coordination processes to address regional and subregional dimensions of sustainable development, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, was achieved, as evidenced by two (compared to a target of two) outcome documents and resolutions reflecting consensus on regional and subregional dimensions of sustainable development: (a) *Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Framework for Action*; and (b) the complementarities road map for the period 2020–2025.

Programme performance in 2019: achieving complementarities between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- 19.218 The shared commitment and mutual interest of ASEAN and the United Nations to accelerate the achievement of national, regional and global sustainable development objectives was highlighted in *Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Framework for Action*. In 2019, progress was made in implementing the flagship initiatives and follow-up actions contained therein. The component has been working on the implementation of various cross-sectoral activities in cooperation with relevant ESCAP subprogrammes and with other United Nations entities such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; the United Nations Children's Fund; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; and the World Health Organization. These activities included disaster risk reduction and management involving close cooperation among the ASEAN secretariat, member States, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management and participating United Nations agencies to pursue efforts based on agreed priorities under the ASEAN-United Nations Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management.
- 19.219 Regular meetings were convened to provide progress updates and address coordination matters among the relevant stakeholders to ensure the harmonized and timely execution of initiatives in satisfying the needs and priorities of the stakeholders. As a result, engagement has intensified and the number of consultations has increased between ASEAN sectoral bodies and United Nations

entities, particularly in the areas of population ageing, disability and drought mitigation, among others. The Commission successfully conducted national policy dialogues on droughts in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam. The second phase of the above-mentioned ASEAN-ESCAP joint study on drought resilience encompassing all ASEAN member States will be initiated in 2020 under the complementarities road map. Engagement will continue with Viet Nam, the current ASEAN Chair, with a view to raising the political profile of drought as a slow-onset disaster in the run-up to the 2020 ASEAN Summit.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.220 This work contributed to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of South-East Asia, including the efficient management of natural resources and resilient development, as demonstrated by further support or agreement by ASEAN member States with regard to (a) the commitment of the Government of Thailand to set up the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue; (b) the development of the draft complementarities road map for the period 2020–2025, including ESCAP support for drought mitigation in all ASEAN member States and taking into account the experience with Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam; and (c) the establishment of an ASEAN Resources Panel with support from the secretariat and substantive divisions of ESCAP as one of the flagship initiatives of the complementarities road map. These initiatives were adopted by leaders at the 2019 ASEAN Summit in their Vision Statement on Partnership for Sustainability, in which they agreed to enhance sustainable development cooperation, and reflected in the Chair's statement at the Tenth ASEAN-United Nations Summit, held in November 2019.

Table 19.42

Performance measure

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Conceptualization of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations 2016–2020	Adoption of the Plan of Action	Implementation of the Plan of Action	Publication of <i>Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Framework for Action</i> served as the impetus to accelerate efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by focusing on the complementarities between the two processes	Member States agreed to act on some of the recommendations contained in the publication, namely to set up the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue; to develop the draft complementarities road map for the period 2020–2025, including the drought mitigation work carried out by ESCAP; and to establish the ASEAN Resources Panel with support from the secretariat and substantive bodies of ESCAP

Planned results for 2021

Result 1: enhanced subregional energy connectivity and accessibility (result carried over from 2020)

- 19.221 The component will continue the work related to strengthening regional cooperation and integration for sustainable connectivity, in line with its mandate, and will promote engagement and cooperation among countries to address energy challenges and increase energy connectivity and accessibility, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution [74/251](#), approved a programme narrative at the component level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Table 19.43

Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
N/A	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	ASEAN member States agree on solutions to Goal 7-related challenges that can be implemented through subregional cooperation	ASEAN member States identify strategies to further advance power grid connectivity and energy access

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: strengthened cooperation and relations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (new result)

- 19.222 Activities planned for 2021 are mainly focused on ASEAN-United Nations cooperation. The programme plan will strengthen assistance for member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda and support implementation of the complementarities road map and 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). Efforts will be made to ensure the successful implementation of activities and initiatives in the Plan of Action and the draft road map while strengthening relations with the ASEAN secretariat and ASEAN sectoral bodies and committees, including the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN. Enhanced engagement with the ASEAN dialogue and external partners will be pursued to complement the expertise of ESCAP and broaden the scope of assistance to ASEAN.
- 19.223 For instance, as a flagship initiative of the complementarities road map, the ASEAN Resource Panel will be established, with support from the component, following endorsement of the terms of reference and Panel members and experts in 2020. The secretariats of ESCAP and ASEAN serve as the secretariat of the Panel in order to support implementation of its activities. In addition to providing secretariat support, ESCAP, together with other relevant United Nations entities, will provide experts on the management of natural resources to conduct analytical work related to the Panel's activities.
- 19.224 The component will also support knowledge-sharing among South-East Asia and other subregions with facilitation by ESCAP and other United Nations entities, as appropriate. For example, an event

will be organized to showcase the ASEAN modality of cooperation in South-East Asia to other subregions in the Asia-Pacific region. The objective of the activity is to share best practices in implementing regional cooperation programmes and forming networks with officials from other subregional groupings, for example the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Pacific Islands Forum and the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia. The activity is aimed at bringing the various subregional groupings closer together through knowledge-sharing and possible joint collaborations. The component will deliver this work in conjunction with the South-South cooperation activities jointly organized by ESCAP and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

Internal challenge and response

- 19.225 The challenge for the component was the insufficient capacity for coordination at the institutional level, which is essential for tangible outcomes. In response, the component will mobilize additional resources needed to strengthen the policy environment in the subregion, including with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and development cooperation agencies in ASEAN member States.

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

- 19.226 This work is expected to contribute to strengthened regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, which would be demonstrated by the increased number of joint activities organized by ASEAN and the United Nations.

Table 19.44
Performance measure

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
• N/A	• 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 • Adoption of the Plan of Action 	• Implementation of the Plan of Action with an increased number of joint ASEAN-United Nations initiatives

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Legislative mandates

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

General Assembly resolutions

63/260 Development-related activities

Deliverables

19.228 Table 19.45 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.45

Subprogramme 8, component 5: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2019 planned	2019 actual	2020 planned	2021 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	8	4	8
2. Expert group meetings on policy and programme options to address emerging sustainable development issues in South-East Asia	4	4	–	4
3. Expert group meetings on sustainable development in South-East Asia	4	4	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	–	–	1
4. Capacity-building project on institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in South-East Asia	1	–	–	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	2	1	1
5. 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	2	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: consultations and advisory services to prioritize areas of regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of South-East Asia; and meetings with ASEAN member States 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) to prioritize areas of cooperation in strengthening regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: web page on economic and social development in South-East Asia; web page on partnership with ASEAN; and substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website.				
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: updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme component on the ESCAP website; and inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

Subprogramme 9

Energy

Objective

- 19.229 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

- 19.230 To contribute to ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Asia and the Pacific by enhancing member States' capacity for renewable energy, the subprogramme will first focus on promoting heavily the share of renewable energy in the regional energy mix. The subprogramme will disseminate information on global trends and new developments in renewable energy technologies, policy tools and modalities for energy-related interventions. The subprogramme will help to ensure that the energy transition supports social development and inclusive economic growth. In partnership with international development agencies and development banks, such as the Asian Development Bank, the subprogramme will support countries in developing national road maps for energy planning to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy). This work is expected to result in 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 Goal 7 on the basis of each country's context and priorities. Past results in this area include the commitment by member States to accelerate progress on Goal 7 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. The Forum was informed by the report entitled *Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific* prepared by the subprogramme.
- 19.231 To contribute to ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Asia and the Pacific by enhancing member States' capacity for energy efficiency, the subprogramme will work with member States to help to identify gaps and opportunities in policies and standards for enhancing energy efficiency through research and capacity-building activities. Furthermore, the subprogramme will produce research and recommendations on sustainable cities to support energy efficiency in urban settings. This work is expected to result in the development of evidence-based policies and investment plans to promote energy efficiency for a transition towards low-carbon economies. Past results in this area include a knowledge product on assessing institutional arrangements for energy efficiency in the region.
- 19.232 To contribute to ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Asia and the Pacific by enhancing member States' capacity for energy access, the subprogramme will support efforts to expand infrastructure, upgrade technology and improve policy mechanisms for supplying modern and sustainable energy service to all in the region. In collaboration with relevant agencies, donors, implementers and practitioners, the subprogramme will produce knowledge products on the long-term socioeconomic impacts of global programmes and policies to support access to electricity, and clean cooking fuels and technologies. Using this research, the subprogramme will host capacity-building activities and provide subregional and national policy recommendations. This work is expected to result in greater capacity of member States to successfully advance energy access and enable ensuing socioeconomic benefits in line with Goal 7 and other related Goals. The subprogramme will further ensure that the health impacts of access to electricity and clean cooking fuels are taken into account, including in the context of enhancing the resilience of vulnerable populations and health facilities in rural and peri-urban areas to pandemics, such as COVID-19. Past results in this area include the three national road maps developed by member States with support from the subprogramme in 2019, which detail country strategies to achieve Goal 7, including universal energy access.

- 19.233 To contribute to ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Asia and the Pacific by enhancing member States' capacity for energy connectivity, the subprogramme will facilitate international cooperation on energy connectivity in support of Goal 7, contributing also to Goal 17 (Partnerships for the goals). The subprogramme will produce knowledge products on the technical potential of energy connectivity to improve energy reliability. The subprogramme will facilitate intergovernmental dialogue and provide recommendations on policies, laws and framework mechanisms needed to enable greater connectivity to enhance sustainable energy. The subprogramme will also provide capacity-building support on the co-deployment of infrastructure, including energy, information and communication technologies and transport, in Central Asia. This action is expected to result in increased capacity among policymakers in that subregion to implement co-deployment for shared benefit. Furthermore, connectivity activities will strengthen regional cooperation on energy and increase the capacity for power grid interconnection, including power generation, transmission and distribution, which supports energy transition while making energy more affordable. Past results in this area include the development of the first regional road map on power system connectivity for Asia and the Pacific, a framework facilitated by the subprogramme and agreed to by member States at the second session of the Committee on Energy for submission to the Commission at its seventy-sixth session.
- 19.234 To contribute to ensuring 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, in alignment with Goal 7, the subprogramme will also promote poverty reduction, gender equality and climate change action, hence contributing to the achievement of Goals 1 (No poverty), 5 (Gender equality) and 13 (Climate action). Through its work on electricity access, the subprogramme will produce evidence on how electricity access can help to reduce poverty; for example, by enabling the use of appliances for work, it can help farmers and entrepreneurs to improve their production and profit. It can also improve the functioning of schools, hospitals and other facilities, which can lead to economic and social development. The subprogramme will produce knowledge products on the specific types of programmes that benefit the poorest. The subprogramme will undertake similar studies on the topic of clean cooking and will conduct country visits to provide capacity-building and more targeted support to policymakers. In its policy recommendations, the subprogramme strives to empower people of all genders and encourage inclusive planning and advancement of policy action on clean cooking, an issue that primarily affects women and girls. The subprogramme will provide evidence-based recommendations on how energy access initiatives can be more inclusive and how they can be targeted to improve social and economic outcomes for women and girls. To promote climate change mitigation, the subprogramme is developing the national expert Sustainable Development Goal tool for energy planning to support countries in their development of national road maps to achieve Goal 7 and the Paris Agreement to combat climate change. Through the Asia Pacific Energy Portal, the subprogramme offers data, policy information and infrastructure maps in support of the achievement of Goal 13, including information on carbon emissions, air pollution and nationally determined contributions, which can support the integration of climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. This work is expected to result in comprehensive progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the region. Past results in this area include a document prepared by the subprogramme for consideration by the Commission at its seventy-fifth session, in 2019; the document was focused on energy access issues and inequality, which served to raise member States' awareness of the issue and build capacity to address it.

Programme performance in 2019 against planned result

- 19.235 A planned result for 2019, which is enhanced regional cooperation frameworks on energy security, sustainable use of energy and energy connectivity, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was exceeded, as evidenced by the two ESCAP-facilitated regional cooperation mechanisms on energy security, sustainable use of energy and energy connectivity (compared to a target of one). The first such mechanism was established through the adoption in

2018 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. In 2019, a second mechanism, the regional road map on power system connectivity: promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development was created by the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity, a group established by member States at the seventy-third session of ESCAP, in 2017, to advance regional energy connectivity. To advance the agenda of energy connectivity, the road map identifies specific strategies and milestones towards regional energy interconnection, in particular for electricity. Several subsets of countries are already successfully engaging in interconnected systems, which can increase cost savings, electricity reliability and the proportion of renewables in the energy mix. The road map lays the groundwork for greater interconnection among countries in the region.

Programme performance in 2019: regional road map on power system connectivity

- 19.236 Regional energy connectivity, in particular power grid integration, enhances sustainability, increases energy security and helps to balance electricity surpluses and deficits within and across countries. Because areas rich in energy resources are often far from demand centres, increasing connectivity aligns supply with demand. In addition, because renewable resources, such as solar and wind, are variable, connectivity enables greater use of renewables when supply is high and allows supplemental energy to enter the system when supply is low. This increases the overall share of renewables in the energy mix. For example, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, a country with great installed hydropower potential, signed a power exchange agreement to export power to both Thailand and Viet Nam. This increases the overall share of renewable energy in the subregion, thus advancing Goal 7.
- 19.237 In 2018, member States, facilitated by ESCAP, committed to improving connectivity in the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Energy Transition towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies in Asia and the Pacific, and through its subsequent endorsement in Commission resolution 74/9. In the Declaration, member States agreed to promote regional cooperation in pursuit of Goal 7 and to continue to support the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity. Member States also requested the Executive Secretary to support members and associate members in promoting regional cooperation.
- 19.238 The regional road map on power system connectivity: promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for sustainable development was a direct response to the requests included in the Declaration. It operationalizes some of the concepts emphasized in the Declaration and sets the scene for further action. Developed by the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity, the road map creates the framework for pan-Asia interconnected grid integration over the period from 2020 to 2035, which will offer more reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity supply. The road map includes nine detailed strategies with suggested key milestones, time frames and roles for realizing each strategy.
- 19.239 The first strategy is to build trust and political consensus for cross-border electricity trade. The second strategy is to develop and agree upon a regional cross-border electricity grid master plan to develop a long-term vision for the region. Advancing from bilateral to multilateral trade would advance the integration of the power market, thus accelerating action towards Goal 7. The road map was discussed favourably during the second session of the Committee on Energy, and member States made proposals for its further development and operationalization. The implementation of the road map will result in greater capacity of member States to plan for energy connectivity and integration of large-scale renewable generation into the power grid, thus supporting energy transition.

Progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.240 This work contributed to ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Asia and the Pacific by enhancing member States' capacity for energy connectivity, as

demonstrated by the development of the regional road map on power system connectivity for Asia and the Pacific, which constitutes a step towards advancing work on Goal 7. The road map is the first ESCAP-facilitated regional cooperation mechanism on Goal 7 that investigates specific strategies and mechanisms to advance regional cooperation on energy. It therefore serves as a starting block for further collaboration and builds upon the cooperation mechanisms established in 2018.

Table 19.46
Performance measure

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
N/A	N/A	At the seventy-third session of ESCAP, member States agreed to establish the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity to enhance cooperation among Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the business community and the private sector	Commitment made to promoting regional cooperation in the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Energy Transition towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies in Asia and the Pacific; ESCAP member States requested the secretariat to further promote regional and subregional cooperation through existing and new international platforms	ESCAP member States emphasized the importance of the regional road map on power system connectivity

Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

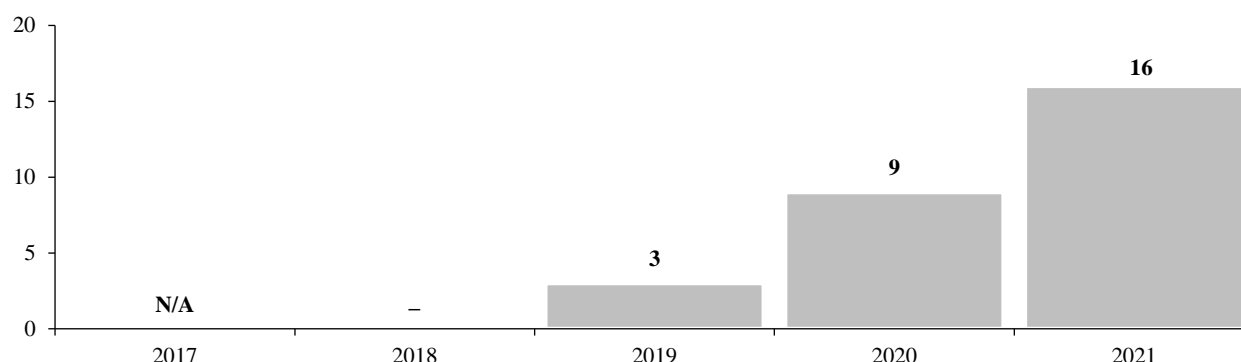
Planned results for 2021

Result 1: changing course: Goal 7 national road maps to set Asia and Pacific on track for sustainable energy by 2030 (result carried over from 2020)

- 19.241 The subprogramme will continue the work related to ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in Asia and the Pacific, in line with its mandate, and will support countries in developing road maps that promote energy efficiency and renewable energy in the region, which is expected to be demonstrated by the performance measure for 2021 below. For 2020, a proxy performance measure is indicated to reflect that the General Assembly, in its resolution [74/251](#), approved a programme narrative at the subprogramme level that is composed solely of the objectives.

Figure 19.V

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



Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Result 2: evidence-based and people-focused planning for sustainable energy (new result)

- 19.242 Many countries have developed targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency in line with Goal 7. The next step in the region will be to operationalize these plans through specific policies and strategies. In addition, national targets for energy access, in particular for access to clean cooking, are largely lacking. With the regional rate of clean cooking at only 56 per cent as at 2017, there is a need for policy action to attain universal access by 2030. Energy access is a critical issue because it is strongly linked to issues of inequality and poverty. In the absence of access to energy, communities are without means to prosper and advance.

Internal challenge and response

- 19.243 The challenge for the subprogramme was that, while there had previously been a focus on regional knowledge products and tools, given the diversity of contexts and experiences in Asia and the Pacific, the subprogramme recognized that countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, had unique contexts and obstacles that needed to be addressed through more targeted support. The subprogramme also found that tools for energy planning for Goal 7 at the national level were lacking. In response, the subprogramme will work to fill this gap and to provide further country-level support for countries with special needs. The subprogramme will place more focus on energy access, including access to both electricity and clean cooking. The subprogramme will develop research and knowledge products to support evidence-based policies on access and will engage in country-level capacity-building workshops on this topic. The subprogramme will also partner with academic institutions, relevant agencies, donors and implementers in order to provide policymakers with relevant evidence to operationalize policies that promote sustainable energy. The implementation of the national expert Sustainable Development Goal tool for energy planning will provide more focused support to least developed countries and small island developing States with evidence-based projections on how policy choices would affect national outcomes. Member States may use this tool to produce national road maps with recommendations for best pathways forward, taking into consideration energy demand and supply, investment needs and emissions. These road maps are expected to result in improved government capacity to assess gaps between the targets and the current implementation rate, to identify strategies to fill the gaps and to forecast the outcomes of the strategies, ultimately building towards energy transition and the attainment of Goal 7.

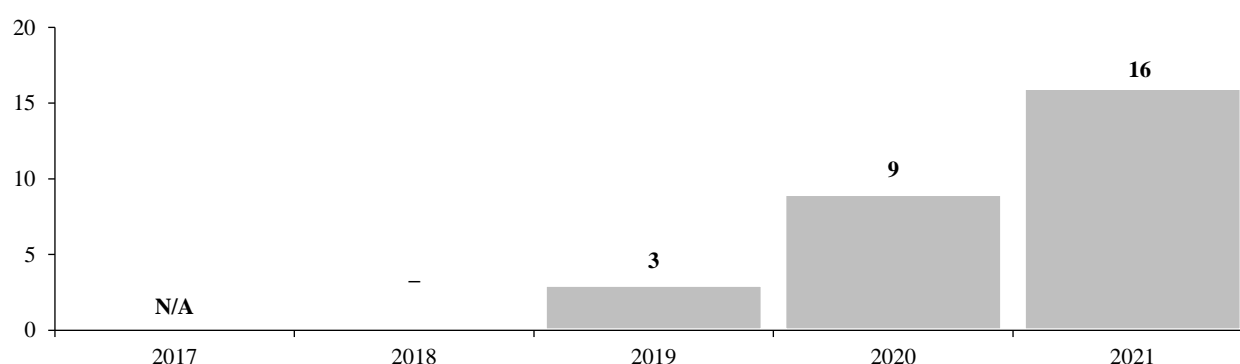
Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective, and performance measure

- 19.244 This work is expected to contribute towards ensuring 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, which would be demonstrated by the establishment of a total of 16 national road maps by the end of 2021, at least two of which would support least developed countries and small island developing States. Using the national expert Sustainable Development Goal tool for energy planning, the subprogramme has already worked collaboratively with three pilot countries in 2019, namely, Bangladesh, Georgia and Indonesia, to support their development of national road maps. The subprogramme will monitor these countries' progress and provide ongoing guidance as needed. In 2020 and 2021, six and seven additional countries, respectively, are expected to use the tool to develop their own national road maps with support from ESCAP. These road maps will result in enhanced capacity to develop and operationalize evidence-based energy plans to accelerate progress towards achieving Goal 7 in line with national priorities.

Figure 19.VI

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



Abbreviation: N/A, not applicable.

Legislative mandates

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

General Assembly resolutions

65/151	International Year of Sustainable Energy for All	74/225	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

19.246 Table 19.47 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2019–2021 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 19.47

Subprogramme 9: deliverables for the period 2019–2021, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2019 actual</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	2	4	1	2
1. Reports for ESCAP	1	1	1	1
2. Reports for the Committee on Energy	1	3	–	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	12	12	10	16
3. Meetings of the Committee on Energy	6	6	–	6
4. Expert working group meetings to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7	–	4	4	4
5. Expert working group meetings on energy connectivity and regional cooperation	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	2	2	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	5	3	2
7. Capacity-building projects on the implementation of Goal 7	1	5	3	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)	2	2	1	1
9. Publications on energy	2	2	1	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	–	–	1	1
10. Technical materials on energy	–	–	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: policy advice on the implementation of Goal 7.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: update of the Asia Pacific Energy Portal, including policy information, data and infrastructure maps; substantive blog posts for the ESCAP website.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: information materials on subregional statistical perspectives on sustainable energy; 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: updating and maintenance of web pages of the subprogramme for the ESCAP website; inputs for ESCAP social media platforms.				

B. Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2021

Overview

19.247 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021, including the breakdown of resource changes, as applicable, are reflected in tables 19.48 to 19.50.

Table 19.48

Financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)	Recosting	2021 estimate (after recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage			
Posts	46 316.6	48 085.8	—	—	—	—	—	48 085.8	269.0	48 354.8
Other staff costs	559.1	860.9	—	—	(18.1)	(18.1)	(2.1)	842.8	12.6	855.4
Hospitality	0.3	14.3	—	—	—	—	—	14.3	0.2	14.5
Consultants	455.3	346.7	—	—	7.3	7.3	2.1	354.0	5.6	359.6
Experts	386.9	600.2	—	—	(53.5)	(53.5)	(8.9)	546.7	8.6	555.3
Travel of staff	327.6	613.5	—	—	58.1	58.1	9.5	671.6	12.6	684.2
Contractual services	1 152.8	760.0	—	—	302.0	302.0	39.7	1 062.0	15.6	1 077.6
General operating expenses	2 064.6	2 403.1	—	—	(321.9)	(321.9)	(13.4)	2 081.2	33.8	2 115
Supplies and materials	116.2	330.5	—	—	(79.2)	(79.2)	(24.0)	251.3	4.0	255.3
Furniture and equipment	609.4	604.6	—	—	75.3	75.3	12.5	679.9	10.7	690.6
Improvements to premises	26.3	—	—	—	30.0	30.0	—	30.0	0.4	30.4
Fellowships, grants and contributions	1 064.7	907.2	(907.2)	—	—	(907.2)	(100)	—	—	—
Total	53 079.8	55 526.8	(907.2)	—	—	(907.2)	(1.6)	54 619.6	373.1	54 992.7

Table 19.49

Post changes^a

	Number	Level
Approved for 2020	418	1 USG, 2 D-2, 15 D-1, 35 P-5, 63 P-4, 52 P-3, 33 P-2/1, 214 LL, 3 NPO
		1 P-5, 1 P-4, 3 P-3, 2 LL from subprogramme 1 to executive direction and management
		1 P-4 from subprogramme 4 to executive direction and management
Redeployments (within section)		1 LL from programme support to executive direction and management
		1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2, 5 LL from executive direction and management to programme support
Proposed for 2021	418	1 USG, 2 D-2, 15 D-1, 35 P-5, 63 P-4, 52 P-3, 33 P-2/1, 214 LL, 3 NPO

^a Details on justifications for post changes are reflected in annex III.

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

Table 19.50
Post resources

Category	2020 approved ^a	Changes				2021 proposed ^a
		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
Other						
Local level	214	—	—	—	—	214
National Professional Officer	3	—	—	—	—	3
Subtotal	217	—	—	—	—	217
Total	418	—	—	—	—	418

^a Includes four temporary posts (three P-4 and one P-3).

19.248 Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in tables 19.51 to 19.53 and figure 19.VII.

19.249 As reflected in tables 19.51 (1) and 19.52 (1), the overall resources proposed for 2021 amount to \$54,619,600 before recosting, reflecting a decrease of \$907,200 (or 1.6 per cent) compared with the appropriation for 2020. Resource changes result from technical adjustments relating to the removal of non-recurrent requirements. The proposed level of resources provides for the full, efficient and effective implementation of mandates.

Table 19.51
Evolution of financial resources by component and subprogramme

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) Regular budget

Section 19 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)	Recosting	2021 estimate (after recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage			
2. Trade, investment and innovation	3 026.1	3 234.0	–	–	22.8	22.8	0.7	3 256.8	17.0	3 273.8
3. Transport	3 313.0	3 366.3	–	–	(35.1)	(35.1)	(1.0)	3 331.2	17.2	3 348.4
4. Environment and development	3 198.6	3 195.6	–	–	(257.7)	(257.7)	(8.1)	2 937.9	16.3	2 954.2
5. Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management	2 736.1	2 798.2	–	–	(1.8)	(1.8)	(0.1)	2 796.4	14.3	2 810.7
6. Social development	3 733.1	4 071.3	–	–	(77.5)	(77.5)	(1.9)	3 993.8	20.9	4 014.7
7. Statistics	2 774.3	3 063.4	–	–	(31.3)	(31.3)	(1.0)	3 032.1	16.5	3 048.6
8. Subregional activities for development	4 136.7	4 627.6	–	–	(35.2)	(35.2)	(0.8)	4 592.4	21.9	4 614.3
9. Energy	1 406.2	1 811.8	–	–	9.7	9.7	0.5	1 821.5	9.6	1 831.1
Subtotal, C	28 372.0	30 181.1	–	–	(1 418.5)	(1 418.5)	(4.7)	28 762.6	150.8	28 913.4
D. Programme support	20 787.2	21 126.8	(907.2)	–	1 106.2	199.0	0.9	21 325.8	189.9	21 515.7
Subtotal, 1	53 079.8	55 526.8	(907.2)	–	–	(907.2)	(1.6)	54 619.6	373.1	54 992.7

(2) Extrabudgetary

	2019 expenditure	2020 estimate	2021 estimate
A. Policymaking organs	–	–	–
B. Executive direction and management	136.6	279.6	100.0
C. Programme of work			
1. Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	546.3	458.8	–
2. Trade, investment and innovation	2 070.0	2 896.0	1 747.0
3. Transport	902.3	952.9	956.9
4. Environment and development	2 158.4	4 075.4	3 963.8
5. Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management	3 297.0	3 043.5	4 207.3
6. Social development	666.9	1 333.7	1 220.9
7. Statistics	2 895.6	2 884.3	2 532.8
8. Subregional activities for development	1 827.8	2 205.0	2 649.3
9. Energy	461.4	701.6	238.8
Subtotal, C	14 825.7	18 551.2	17 516.8

Part V Regional cooperation for development

	2019 expenditure	2020 estimate	2021 estimate
D. Programme support	5 265.9	5 526.3	5 676.3
Subtotal, 2	20 228.2	24 357.1	23 293.1
Total	73 308.0	79 883.9	78 285.8

Table 19.52
Evolution of post resources by component and subprogramme

(1) *Regular budget*

	2020 approved	Changes				2021 proposed
		Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	
A. Policymaking organs	–	–	–	–	–	–
B. Executive direction and management	25	–	–	(1)	(1)	24
C. Programme of work						
1. Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	30	–	–	(7)	(7)	23
2. Trade, investment and innovation	25	–	–	–	–	25
3. Transport	25	–	–	–	–	25
4. Environment and development	23	–	–	(1)	(1)	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	215	–	–	(8)	(8)	207
D. Programme support	178	–	–	9	9	187
Subtotal, 1	418	–	–	–	–	418

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

	2020 estimate	2021 estimate
A. Policymaking organs	–	–
B. Executive direction and management	–	–
C. Programme of work		
1. Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	2	–
2. Trade, investment and innovation	6	8
3. Transport	2	2
4. Environment and development	9	9

Section 19 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

	2020 estimate	2021 estimate
5. Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management	14	17
6. Social development	4	4
7. Statistics	10	10
8. Subregional activities for development	19	19
9. Energy	–	–
Subtotal, C	66	69
D. Programme support	39	39
Subtotal, 2	105	108
Total	523	526

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

Table 19.53

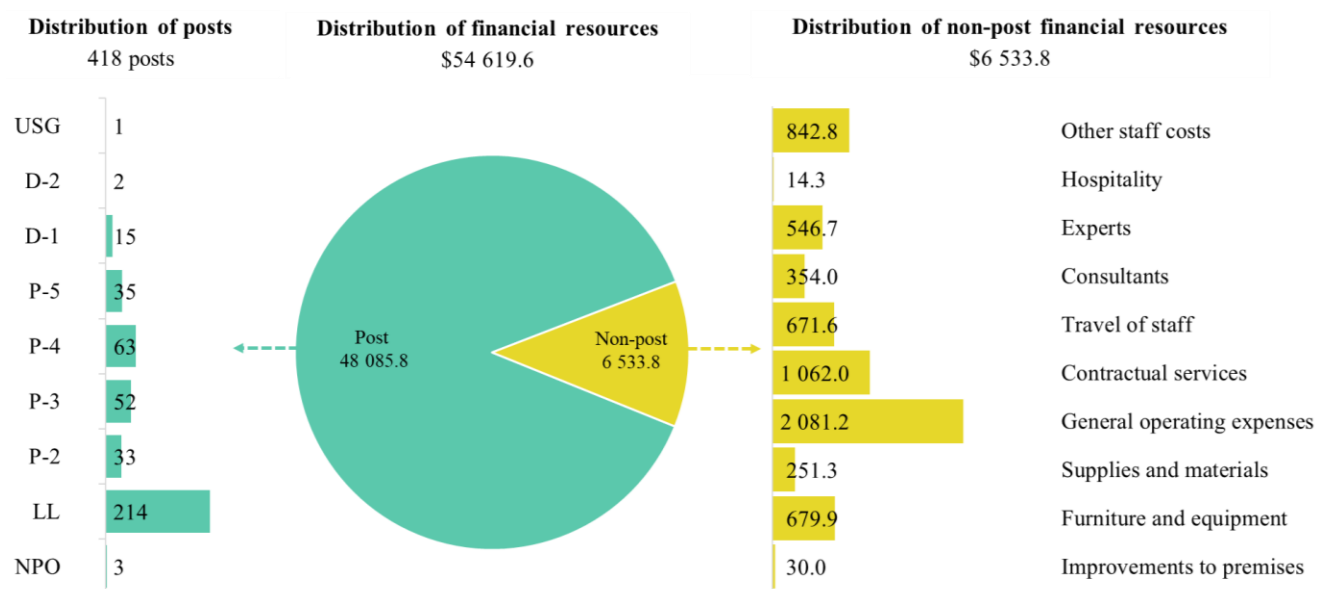
Evolution of financial and post resources by category

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	46 316.6	48 085.8	—	—	—	—	—	48 085.8
Non-post	6 763.2	7 441.0	(907.2)	—	—	(907.2)	(12.2)	6 533.8
Total	53 079.8	55 526.8	(907.2)	—	—	(907.2)	(1.6)	54 619.6
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		201	—	—	—	—	—	201
General Service and related		217	—	—	—	—	—	217
Total		418	—	—	—	—	—	418

Figure 19.VII
Distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Variance analyses by component and subprogramme

Overall resources changes

Technical adjustments

- 19.250 As reflected in table 19.51 (1), resource changes reflect a decrease of \$907,200, under programme support related to the removal of non-recurrent requirements approved by the General Assembly for 2020 in its resolution [74/263](#) relating to the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at ESCAP.

Other changes

- 19.251 As reflected in tables 19.51 (1) and 19.51 (2), proposed resource changes on a cost-neutral basis reflect net increases under executive direction and management (\$312,300); subprogramme 2 (\$22,800); subprogramme 9 (\$9,700); and programme support (\$1,106,200); that are fully offset by net decreases under subprogramme 1 (\$1,012,400); subprogramme 3 (\$35,100); subprogramme 4 (\$257,700); subprogramme 5 (\$1,800); subprogramme 6 (\$77,500); subprogramme 7 (\$31,300); and subprogramme 8 (\$35,200). The main reasons for the resource changes are as follows:

- (a) **Executive direction and management.** The net increase of \$312,300 reflects:

- (i) Net increased requirements of \$90,900 under posts, comprised of:

- a. Increased requirements of \$1,206,300 due to the proposed inward redeployment of nine posts: (a) one Sustainable Development Officer (P-4) post from subprogramme 4 to coordinate the preparation of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development; (b) one Chief of Section, Economic Affairs Officer (P-5), four Economic Affairs Officers (one P-4 and three P-3) and two local level support staff posts (one Research Assistant and one Staff Assistant) from the Section on Countries with Special Needs in subprogramme 1 to be renamed as the section on countries in special situations to support the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small

- island developing States; (c) one Staff Assistant post from programme support (Library) to the Office of the Executive Secretary to provide required administrative support;
- b. Decreased requirements of \$1,115,400 due to the proposed outward redeployment of 10 posts: one Chief of Section, Public Information Officer (P-5); one External Relations Officer (P-4), one Public Information Officer (P-3), one Information Systems Officer (P-3), one Associate Information Officer (P-2) and five local level posts (three Public Information Assistants, one Staff Assistant and one Website Assistant), from the Strategic Communications and Advocacy Section to programme support to be combined with six Library posts to create a new Communications and Knowledge Management Section to provide communication, knowledge management and information services. The above redeployments have been proposed to improve coordination and break down silos through the movement of deliverables that involve the whole secretariat and have a cross-cutting nature and to strengthen organization-wide coordination in these areas;
- (ii) Increased requirements of \$221,400 under non-post resources mainly reflect an increase in experts (\$140,400), consultants (\$33,500), travel of staff (\$36,400) and furniture and equipment (\$17,500) mainly due to the inward redeployment of deliverables from subprogramme 1 (section on countries in special situations), subprogramme 4 (organization of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development) and subprogramme 6 (theme study for the seventy-seventh session of the Commission);
- (b) **Subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development.** The decrease of \$1,012,400 mainly reflects:
- (i) Reduced requirements of \$964,300 under posts due to the proposed outward redeployment of seven posts: one Chief of Section, Economic Affairs Officer (P-5), four Economic Affairs Officers (one P-4 and three P-3) and two local level support staff posts (one Research Assistant and one Staff Assistant) from the Section on Countries with Special Needs, to be renamed the section on countries in special situations as explained in paragraph 19.251 (a) (i), to executive direction and management;
- (ii) Net reduced requirements of \$48,100 under non-post resources, mainly under consultants (\$10,800), experts (\$27,400) and travel of staff (\$11,500), that are related to the deliverables of the Section on Countries with Special Needs, which is proposed for redeployment to executive direction and management and to be renamed the section on countries in special situations as explained in paragraph 19.251 (a) (i), offset in part by increased requirements of \$11,500 mainly under contractual services to cover an increase in the number of publications;
- (c) **Subprogramme 2, Trade, investment and innovation.** The increase of \$22,800 mainly reflects increased requirements under contractual services (\$15,100) for one additional publication, and under travel of staff (\$4,500) to enhance engagement with member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region;
- (d) **Subprogramme 3, Transport.** The net decrease of \$35,100 under non-post resources mainly reflects reduced requirements under consultants (\$12,700) and experts (\$27,100) due to a reduction in the number of expert group meetings and associated consultancy services, partially offset by increased requirements under travel of staff (\$4,600) to enhance engagement with member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region;
- (e) **Subprogramme 4, Environment and development.** The decrease of \$257,700 mainly reflects:
- (i) Reduced requirements of \$182,600 under posts due to the outward redeployment of a Sustainable Development Officer (P-4) post to executive direction and management to coordinate the preparation of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development as explained in paragraph 19.251 (a) (i);

- (ii) Net reduced requirements of \$75,100 under non-post resources, mainly under experts (\$68,600) and travel of staff (\$13,500), that are proposed for redeployment to executive direction and management in line with the proposed redeployment of the coordination function for the hosting of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development as explained in paragraph 19.251 (a) (i), partially offset by increased requirements of \$7,000, mainly under contractual services (\$6,100) due to changes in the cost of publications;
- (f) **Subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management.** The net decrease of \$1,800 reflects reduced requirements under non-post resources, mainly under consultants (\$6,100) and experts (\$14,100) due to the decrease of one expert group meeting and its associated consultancy services, partially offset by increased requirements under travel of staff (\$6,300) to enhance engagement with member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region, and under contractual services (\$12,100) to produce one additional publication;
- (g) **Subprogramme 6, Social development.** The net decrease of \$77,500 under non-post resources mainly relates to reductions under consultants (\$20,200), experts (\$24,100) and contractual services (\$38,600) due to the redeployment of the resources from this subprogramme associated with the preparation of the theme study for the seventy-seventh session of the Commission to executive direction and management, partially offset by increased requirements under travel of staff (\$5,400) to enhance engagement with member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region;
- (h) **Subprogramme 7, Statistics.** The net decrease of \$31,300 under non-post resources falls mainly under consultants (\$11,000) and experts (\$24,100) due to a reduced number of expert group meetings and associated consultancy services, partially offset by increased requirements under furniture and equipment (\$5,000) for the purchase of statistical analysis and visualization software equipment;
- (i) **Subprogramme 8, component 1, Subregional activities for development in the Pacific.** The decrease of \$18,900 mainly reflects reduced requirements under consultants (\$5,500) and experts (\$9,300) due to a reduced number of expert group meetings and associated consultancy services;
- (j) **Subprogramme 8, component 2, Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia.** The net decrease of \$5,100 mainly falls under consultants (\$7,500) due to the use of more in-house expertise, and under contractual services (\$5,100) due to a reduction in publication supplies and materials, offset in part by increased requirements under experts (\$7,700) due to changes in the cost of organizing expert group meetings in the subregion;
- (k) **Subprogramme 8, component 3, Subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia.** The net decrease of \$5,000 mainly reflects reduced requirements under consultants (\$2,200) and experts (\$6,100) due to changes in the cost of organizing expert group meetings and consultancy services in the subregion, and under general operating expenses (\$2,800), which takes into consideration the expenditure experience, partially offset by increased requirements under travel of staff (\$6,800), which will be undertaken in order to enhance engagement with member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the subregion;
- (l) **Subprogramme 8, component 4, Subregional activities for development in South and South-West Asia.** The decrease of \$18,400 mainly reflects reduced requirements under consultants (\$3,100) and experts (\$13,900) mainly due to changes in the cost of organizing expert group meetings and consultancy services in the subregion;
- (m) **Subprogramme 8, component 5, Subregional activities for development in South-East Asia.** The increase of \$12,200 mainly reflects increased requirements under consultants (\$7,600) and experts (\$4,100) due to an increase of one expert group meeting and associated consultancy services;

- (n) **Subprogramme 9, Energy.** The increase of \$9,700 mainly relates to consultants (\$8,900) to prepare background studies for the regional trends report on energy for sustainable development;
- (o) **Programme support.** The net increase of \$1,106,200 reflects:
 - (i) Net increased requirements under post costs (\$1,056,000) due to the proposed inward redeployment of 10 posts: one Chief of Section, Public Information Officer (P-5), one External Relations Officer (P-4), one Public Information Officer (P-3), one Information Systems Officer (P-3), one Associate Information Officer (P-2) and five local level support staff posts (three Public Information Assistants, one Staff Assistant and one Website Assistant) from the Strategic Communications and Advocacy Section in executive direction and management to be combined with six Library posts to create a new Communications and Knowledge Management Section to provide communication, knowledge management and information services, partially offset by the outward redeployment of one local level post of Staff Assistant from Library to executive direction and management to provide required administrative support;
 - (ii) Reduced requirements under other staff costs (\$35,800), which takes into consideration expenditure experience; general operating expenses (\$289,000), which takes into consideration expenditure experience and the partial redeployment to construction, alteration and maintenance explained below, and also represents a reduction in utilities requirements due to the adjusting of air conditioning settings and contract negotiation; and supplies and materials (\$73,300) mainly due to a reduced use of paper and other office supplies and materials;
 - (iii) Increased requirements under consultants (\$35,100) due to the inward redeployment of resources from the Strategic Communications and Advocacy Section in executive direction and management and from consultancy services in the area of material testing and indoor air quality testing; official travel of staff (\$15,100) due to the inward redeployment of resources from the Strategic Communications and Advocacy Section in executive direction and management; contractual services (\$334,400) mainly due to an increase in Internet bandwidth requirements to support telecommuting and connectivity between ESCAP and its remote offices and an increase in maintenance of critical software; furniture and equipment (\$33,700) mainly due to the redeployment of resources from supplies and materials and the inward redeployment of resources from the Strategic Communications and Advocacy Section in executive direction and management; and construction, alteration and maintenance (\$30,000) due to the inward redeployment of resources from general operating expenses representing repairs and maintenance work under building and infrastructures for which related expenditure is not normally capitalized.

Extrabudgetary resources

- 19.252 As reflected in tables 19.51 (2) and 19.52 (2), ESCAP receives both cash and in-kind contributions, which complement regular budget resources and continue to be vital for the delivery of its mandates. In 2021, projected extrabudgetary resources (cash contributions) of \$23,293,100, including 108 posts, are expected to be received in support of extrabudgetary activities, which will focus on technical cooperation activities and programme support functions in the implementation of the activities of ESCAP. Extrabudgetary resources represent 29.8 per cent of the total resources for this programme.
- 19.253 Anticipated in-kind contributions will provide for rent-free premises (\$2,600,000), experts on a non-reimbursable loan (\$1,189,800) and in-kind contributions in the form of gratis personnel from Governments (\$400,000).

Policymaking organs

- 19.254 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 2021 are in accordance with Commission resolution 73/1, which set out the conference structure of the Commission. It is comprised of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and nine committees. In 2021, in addition to the annual session of the Commission and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, the biennial sessions of the following four committees will be held: the Committee on Trade and Investment; the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction; the Committee on Energy; and the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development. Also, 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 2021, the Ministerial Conference on Transport and the Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific will be organized as ad hoc meetings in accordance with Commission resolutions 73/4 and 74/10, respectively. Table 19.54 provides information on the standing intergovernmental organs and related resource requirements under the regular budget.

Table 19.54

Policymaking organs

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Policymaking organ</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Additional information</i>	<i>2020 appropriation</i>	<i>2021 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 2021: 1 (seventy-seventh session)	280.0	241.5
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 2021: 1 (eighth session)	25.2	25.2

Section 19 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

<i>Policymaking organ</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Additional information</i>	<i>2020 appropriation</i>	<i>2021 estimate (before recosting)</i>
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 2021: None	25.2	—
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 2021: None	25.2	—
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 2021: None	25.2	—
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 2021: None	25.2	—
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 2021: None	31.1	—
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 2021: 1 (third session)	—	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 2021: 1 (seventh session)	—	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 2021: 1 (seventh session)	—	25.2

Part V Regional cooperation for development

<i>Policymaking organ</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Additional information</i>	<i>2020 appropriation</i>	<i>2021 estimate (before recosting)</i>
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 2021: 1 (third session)	—	25.2
Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (midterm review)	This event will bring ministers together to agree on a regional action framework with national targets. The Conference will position civil registration and vital statistics systems as a key means of implementation for a people-centred and rights-based post-2015 development agenda.	Mandate: Economic and Social Council decision 2018/260 and Commission resolution 74/8 Membership: 53 members and 9 associate members Number of sessions in 2020: 1 (second session) 37.1	—	
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 2021: 1 (fourth session)	—	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 2021: 1 (third session)	—	Included in the cost of organizing the seventy-seventh session of the Commission
Total			474.2	474.2

19.255 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$474,200 and reflect no change in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2020. Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.55 and figure 19.VIII.

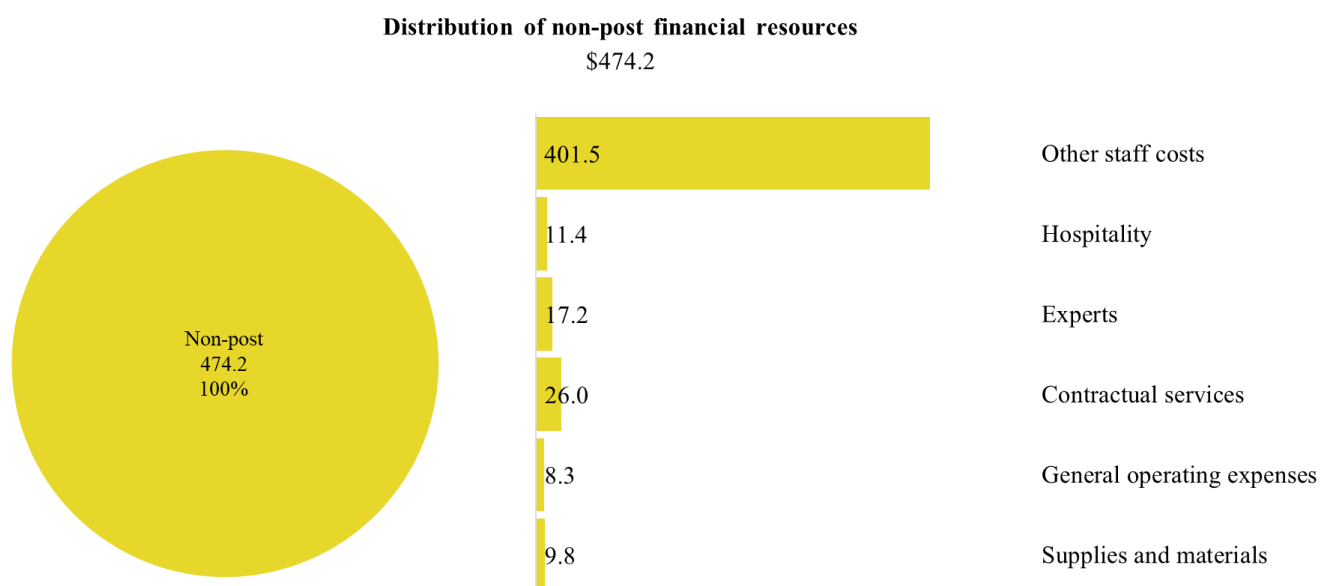
Table 19.55
Policymaking organs: evolution of financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	<i>2019 expenditure</i>	<i>2020 appropriation</i>	<i>Changes</i>					<i>2021 estimate (before recosting)</i>
			<i>Technical adjustments</i>	<i>New/ expanded mandates</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	
Non-post	339.2	474.2	—	—	—	—	—	474.2
Total	339.2	474.2	—	—	—	—	—	474.2

Figure 19.VIII
Policymaking organs: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Thousands of United States dollars)



Executive direction and management

- 19.256 Executive direction and management is led by the Office of the Executive Secretary and supported by the section on countries in special situations. 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.
- 19.257 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 and sustainable economic and social development, including through regional economic cooperation and integration, regional connectivity and the balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The Office also provides overall direction in mainstreaming policies and strategies on gender equality and the empowerment of women across the programme of work in the context of supporting member States in promoting inclusive, equitable and sustainable development.
- 19.258 ESCAP, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, 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 a regional collaborative platform, in line with the recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council ([A/74/73-E/2019/14](#)) and Economic and Social Council resolution [2019/15](#).

- 19.259 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 annual regional 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.
- 19.260 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.
- 19.261 The new section on countries in special situations will support the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. It will do so by monitoring the implementation of the relevant programmes of action for these 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 programmes' priorities. The section will also coordinate and manage the work across subprogrammes of the Commission, in particular the subregional offices, in these countries. This more concerted and focused approach will increase the impact of the Commission's activities in these countries, thereby accelerating their progress towards sustainable development.
- 19.262 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 2019, ESCAP continued its daily Earth Hour campaign, in which office lights are automatically switched off during the lunch break. The indicative savings of this initiative amount to up to 150,000 kWh per year, which is equivalent to 90 tons of CO₂, an amount that would power 280 average households in Thailand. This initiative, in addition to energy optimization initiatives, contributed to an additional saving of 5 per cent of grid electricity compared to 2018. In 2019, ESCAP went beyond single-use plastics by implementing a full ban on all main single-use catering items. This resulted in 9 tons of waste prevented in a year. ESCAP measured and offset the footprint of its intergovernmental meetings and organized fully sustainable meetings with low-carbon menus. Lastly, ESCAP will have achieved climate neutrality in its 2019 operations by procuring certified carbon emission reduction credits by June 2020. 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 target energy, waste, water, sustainable meetings and travel and address staff awareness as a cross-cutting issue for all the identified environmental issues.
- 19.263 Information on compliance with regard to the timely submission of documentation and advance booking for air travel is reflected in table 19.56. Noting the importance of advance purchase compliance, starting in 2018, ESCAP implemented several measures that increased its compliance rate from 44 per cent in the first quarter to 61 per cent in the second quarter and 66 per cent in the third quarter. The fourth quarter had a compliance rate of 54 per cent owing to the implementation of the United Nations Secretariat-wide austerity measures, which impacted travel and meeting plans, resulting in multiple revisions and last-minute changes. The following measures have been implemented:
- (a) Setting an internal key performance indicator on compliance targets for staff and non-staff travel;

- (b) Quarterly monitoring and reporting of compliance rate progress, together with details on savings achievable if targets are reached, to all managers and certifying officers;
- (c) Prompt reminder emails to division directors on their upcoming meetings, with specific information on the deadlines for the submission of their travel requests to attain the compliance rate;
- (d) Daily/weekly follow-ups by the ESCAP travel team with the respective division's travel administrative focal points;
- (e) Real-time travel data and analytics provided to divisions, if requested, on their historical and latest travel trends.

Table 19.56
Compliance rate
(Percentage)

	<i>Planned 2019</i>	<i>Actual 2019</i>	<i>Planned 2020</i>	<i>Planned 2021</i>
Timely submission of documentation	100	81	100	100
Air tickets purchased at least two weeks before the commencement of travel	100	57	100	100

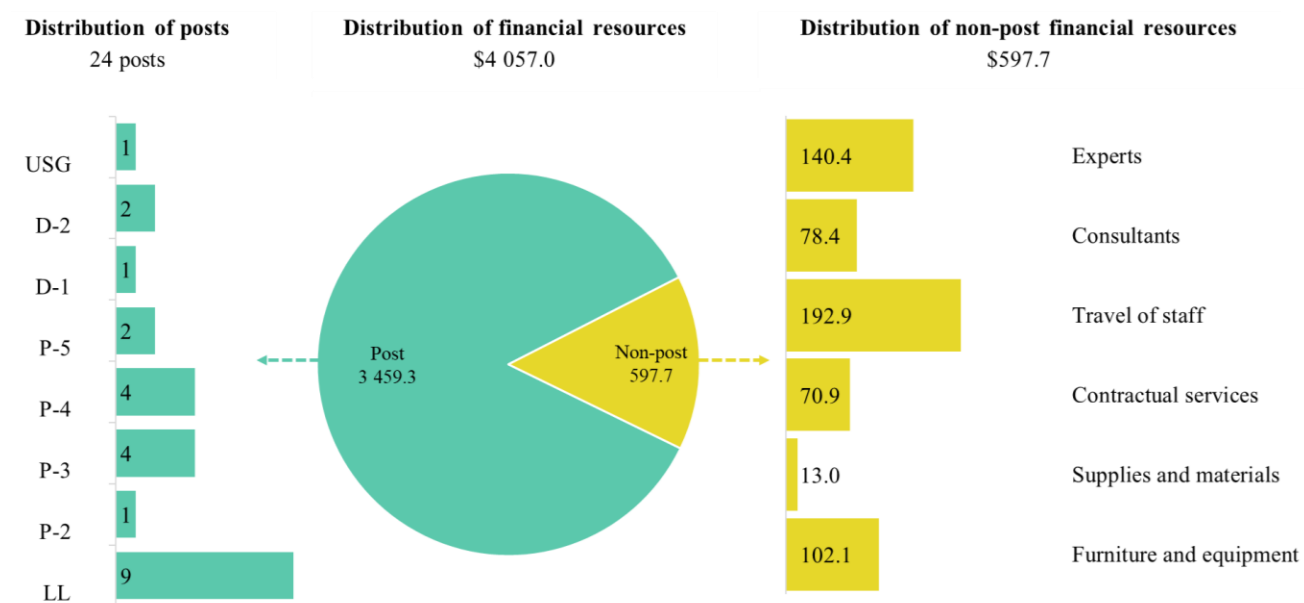
- 19.264 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$4,057,000 and reflect a net increase of \$312,300 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed increase of \$312,300 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (a). Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.57 and figure 19.IX.

Table 19.57
Executive direction and management: evolution of financial and post resources
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2021 estimate (before recosting)
	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 191.9	3 368.4	—	—	90.9	90.9	2.7	3 459.3
Non-post	389.5	376.3	—	—	221.4	221.4	58.8	597.7
Total	3 581.4	3 744.7	—	—	312.3	312.3	8.3	4 057.0
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		14	—	—	1	1	7.1	15
General Service and related		11	—	—	(2)	(2)	18.2	9
Total		25	—	—	(1)	(1)	(4.0)	24

Figure 19.IX
Executive direction and management: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

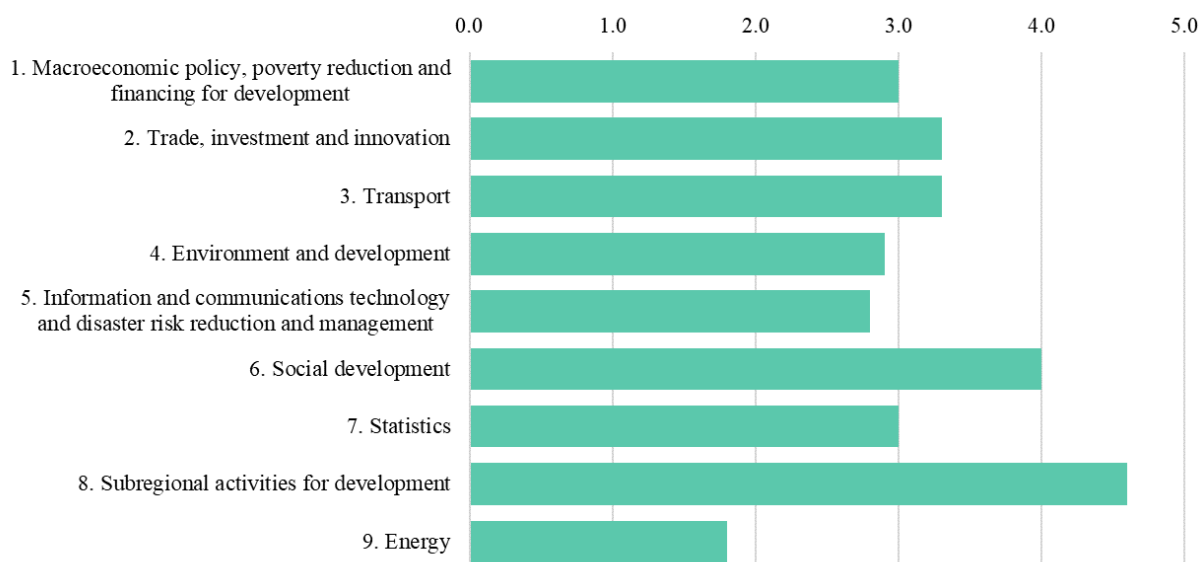


Programme of work

- 19.265 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$28,762,600 and reflect a net decrease of \$1,418,500 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed reduction of \$1,418,500 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (b) to (n). The distribution of resources per subprogramme is reflected in figure 19.X.

Figure 19.X
Distribution of proposed resources for 2021 by subprogramme

(Millions of United States dollars)



Subprogramme 1 Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

19.266 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$3,000,500 and reflect a net decrease of \$1,012,400 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed reduction of \$1,012,400 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (b). Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.58 and figure 19.XI.

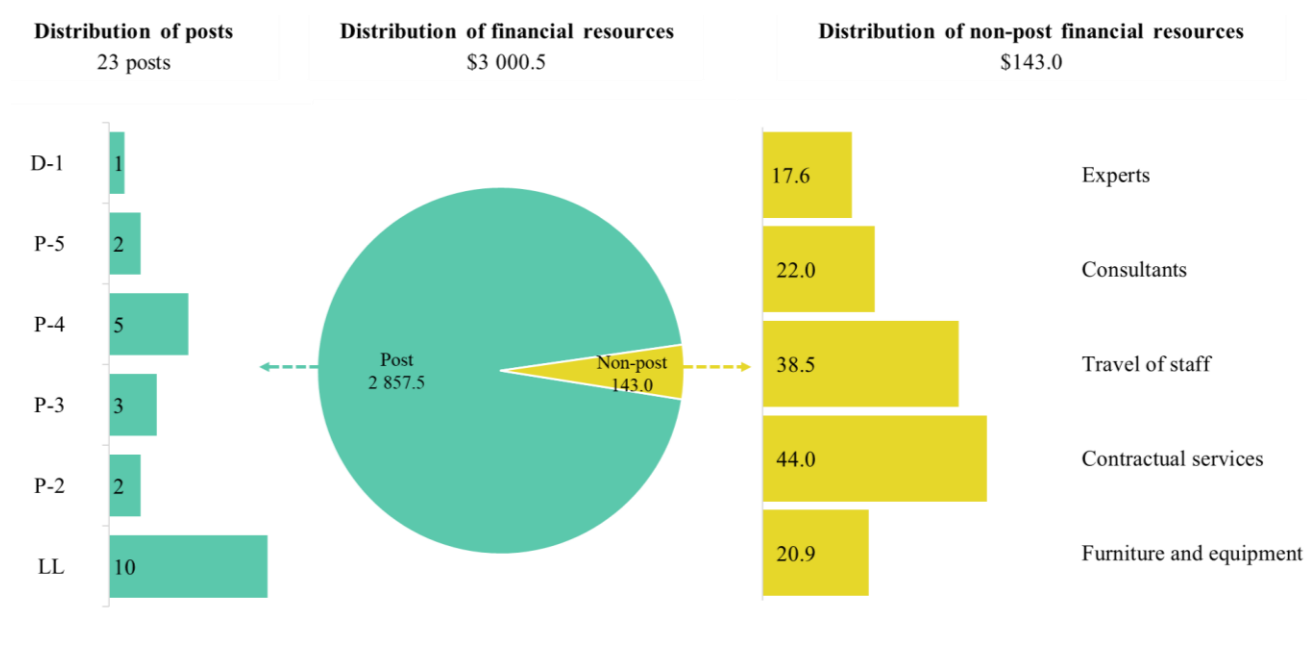
Table 19.58
Subprogramme 1: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 885.4	3 821.8	—	—	(964.3)	(964.3)	(25.2)	2 857.5
Non-post	162.5	191.1	—	—	(48.1)	(48.1)	(25.2)	143.0
Total	4 047.9	4 012.9	—	—	(1 012.4)	(1 012.4)	(25.2)	3 000.5
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		18	—	—	(5)	—	—	13
General Service and related		12	—	—	(2)	—	—	10
Total		30	—	—	(7)	—	—	23

Figure 19.XI
Subprogramme 1: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Subprogramme 2

Trade, investment and innovation

19.267 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$3,256,800 and reflect a net increase of \$22,800 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed increase of \$22,800 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (c). Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.59 and figure 19.XII.

Table 19.59

Subprogramme 2: evolution of financial and post resources

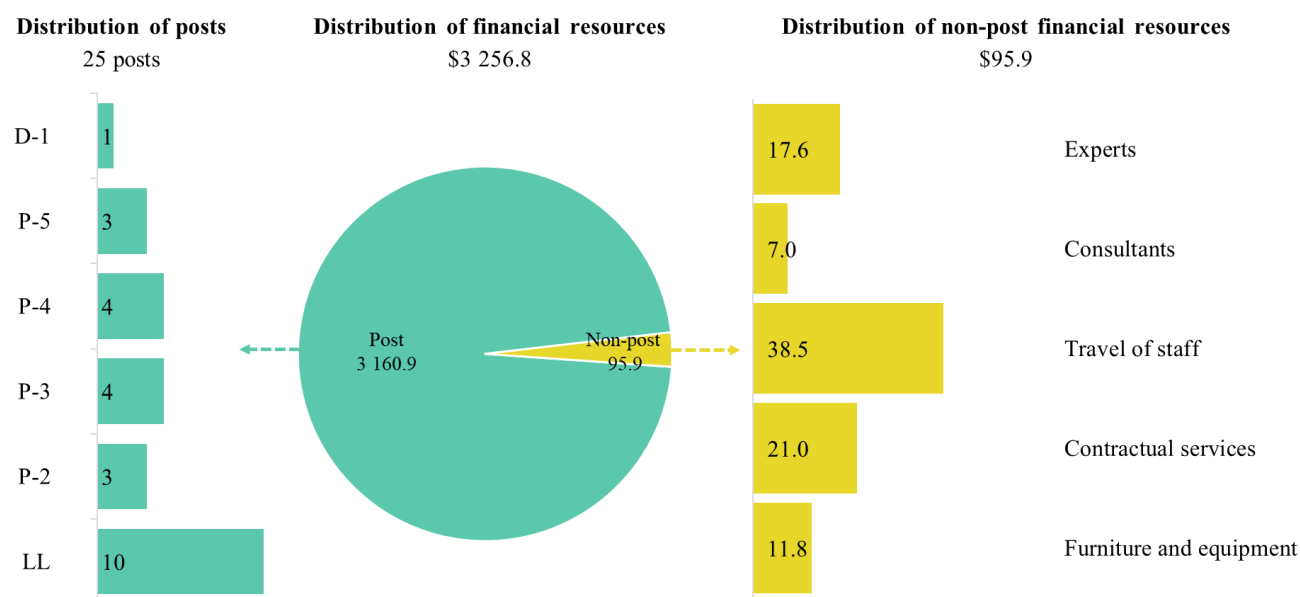
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	2 934.0	3 160.9	—	—	—	—	—	3 160.9
Non-post	92.0	73.1	—	—	22.8	22.8	31.2	95.9
Total	3 026.1	3 234.0	—	—	22.8	22.8	0.7	3 256.8
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		15	—	—	—	—	—	15
General Service and related		10	—	—	—	—	—	10
Total		25	—	—	—	—	—	25

Figure 19.XII

Subprogramme 2: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Subprogramme 3 Transport

19.268 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$3,331,200 and reflect a net decrease of \$35,100 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed decrease of \$35,100 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (d). Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.60 and figure 19.XIII.

Table 19.60

Subprogramme 3: evolution of financial and post resources

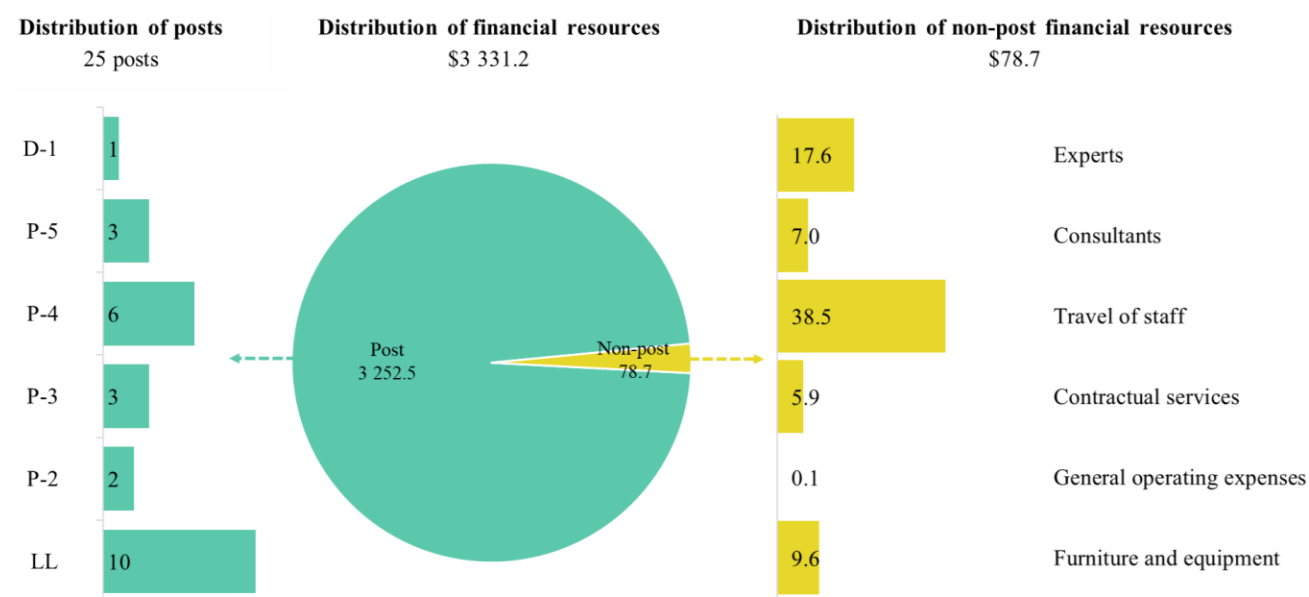
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2021 estimate (before recosting)
	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 212.6	3 252.5	—	—	—	—	—	3 252.5
Non-post	100.4	113.8	—	—	(35.1)	(35.1)	(30.8)	78.7
Total	3 313.0	3 366.3	—	—	(35.1)	(35.1)	(1.0)	3 331.2
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		15	—	—	—	—	—	15
General Service and related		10	—	—	—	—	—	10
Total		25	—	—	—	—	—	25

Figure 19.XIII

Subprogramme 3: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Subprogramme 4 Environment and development

19.269 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$2,937,900 and reflect a net decrease of \$257,700 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed decrease of \$257,700 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (e). Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.61 and figure 19.XIV.

Table 19.61

Subprogramme 4: evolution of financial and post resources

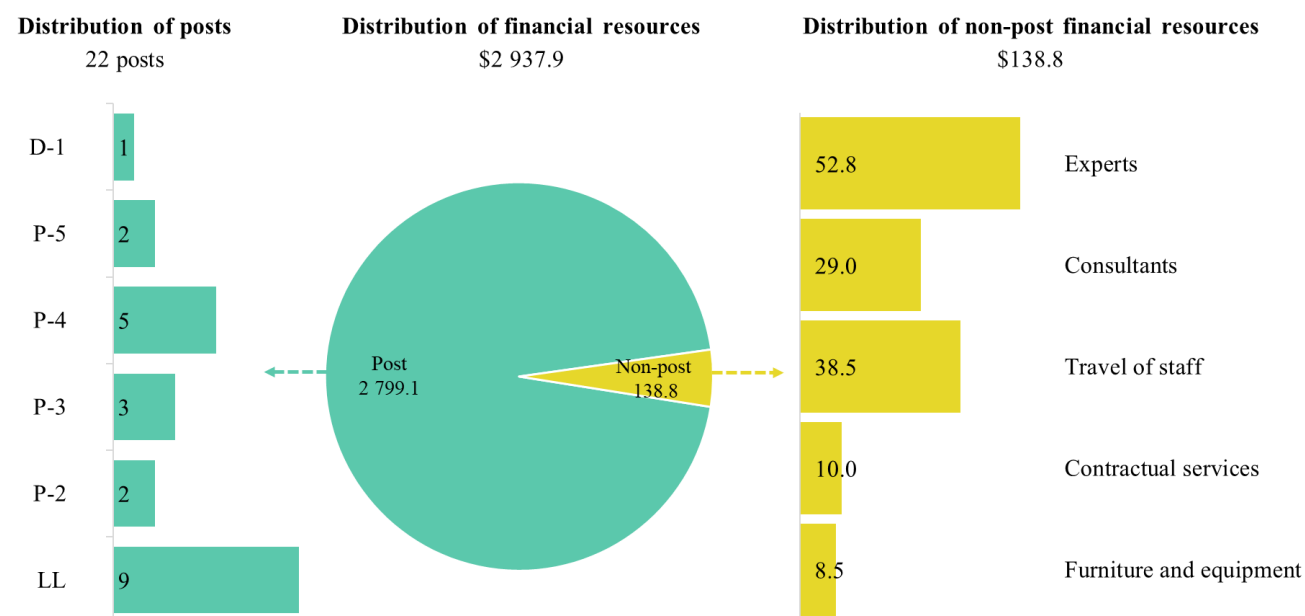
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	2 942.6	2 981.7	—	—	(182.6)	(182.6)	(6.1)	2 799.1
Non-post	256.1	213.9	—	—	(75.1)	(75.1)	(35.1)	138.8
Total	3 198.6	3 195.6	—	—	(257.7)	(257.7)	(8.1)	2 937.9
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		14	—	—	(1)	(1)	(7.1)	13
General Service and related		9	—	—	—	—	—	9
Total		23	—	—	(1)	(1)	(4.3)	22

Figure 19.XIV

Subprogramme 4: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Subprogramme 5

Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

19.270 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$2,796,400 and reflect a net decrease of \$1,800 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed decrease of \$1,800 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (f). Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.62 and figure 19.XV.

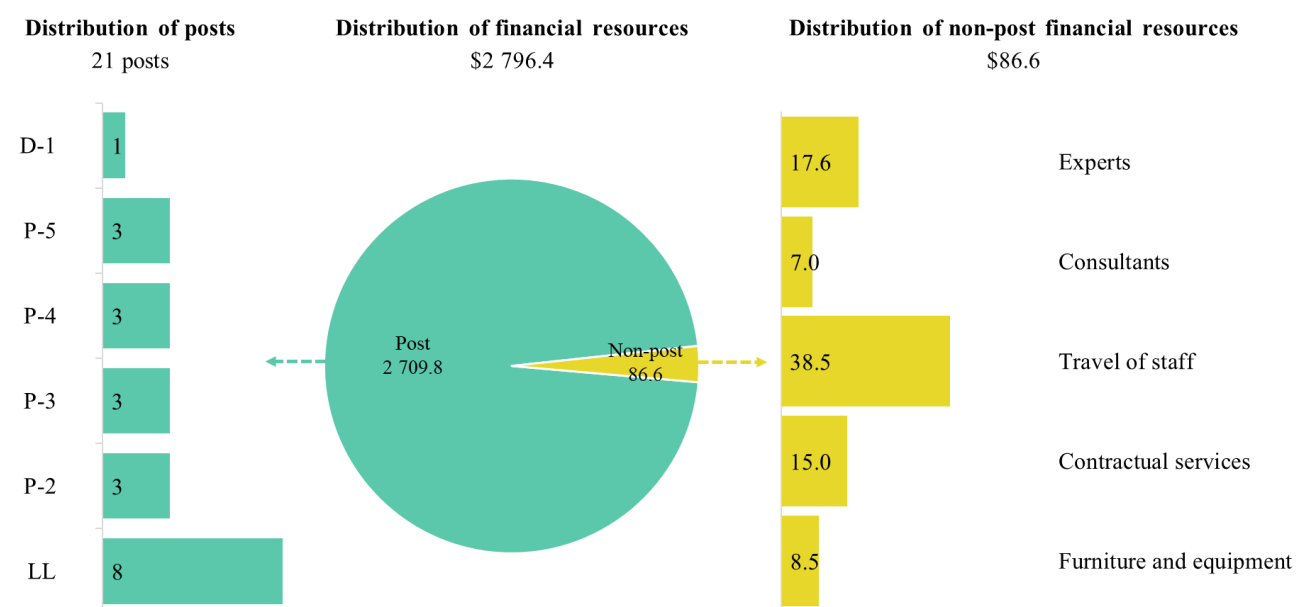
Table 19.62
Subprogramme 5: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2021 estimate (before recosting)
	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	2 658.7	2 709.8	—	—	—	—	—	2 709.8
Non-post	77.4	88.4	—	—	(1.8)	(1.8)	(2.0)	86.6
Total	2 736.1	2 798.2	—	—	(1.8)	(1.8)	(0.1)	2 796.4
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		13	—	—	—	—	—	13
General Service and related		8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Total		21	—	—	—	—	—	21

Figure 19.XV
Subprogramme 5: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Subprogramme 6 Social development

19.271 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$3,993,800 and reflect a net decrease of \$77,500 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed reduction of \$77,500 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (g). Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.63 and figure 19.XVI.

Table 19.63

Subprogramme 6: evolution of financial and post resources

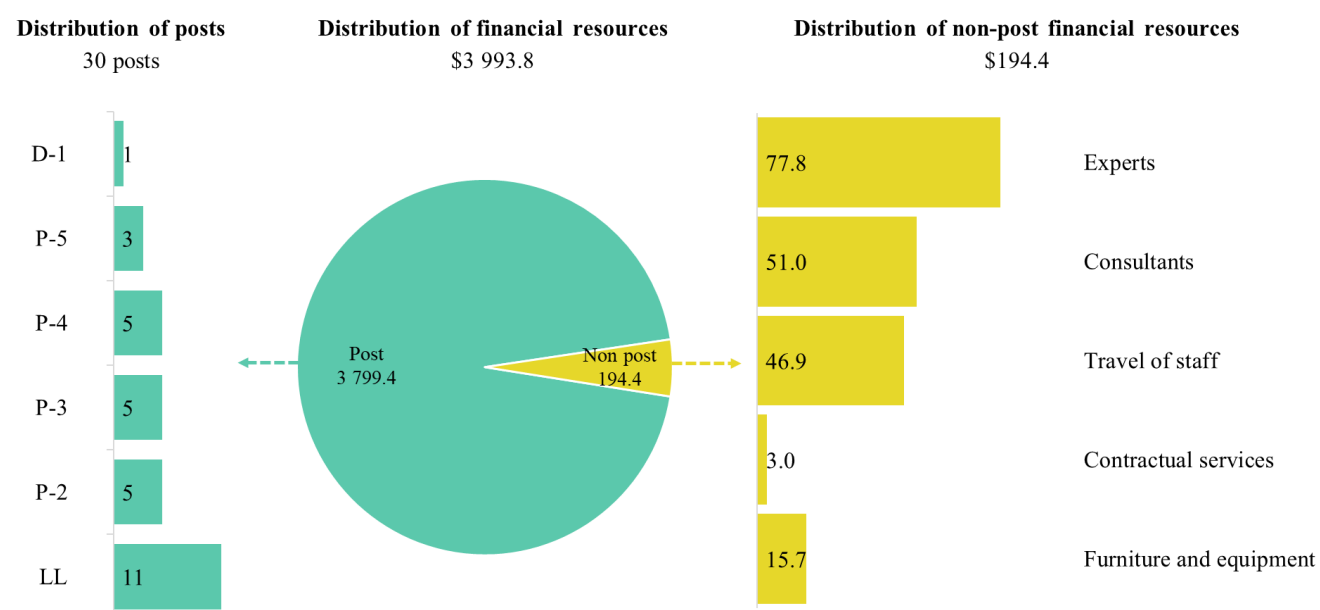
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 538.1	3 799.4	—	—	—	—	—	3 799.4
Non-post	195.0	271.9	—	—	(77.5)	(77.5)	(28.5)	194.4
Total	3 733.1	4 071.3	—	—	(77.5)	(77.5)	(1.9)	3 993.8
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		19	—	—	—	—	—	19
General Service and related		11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Total		30	—	—	—	—	—	30

Figure 19.XVI

Subprogramme 6: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Subprogramme 7 Statistics

19.272 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$3,032,100 and reflect a net decrease of \$31,300 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed reduction of \$31,300 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (h). Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.64 and figure 19.XVII.

Table 19.64

Subprogramme 7: evolution of financial and post resources

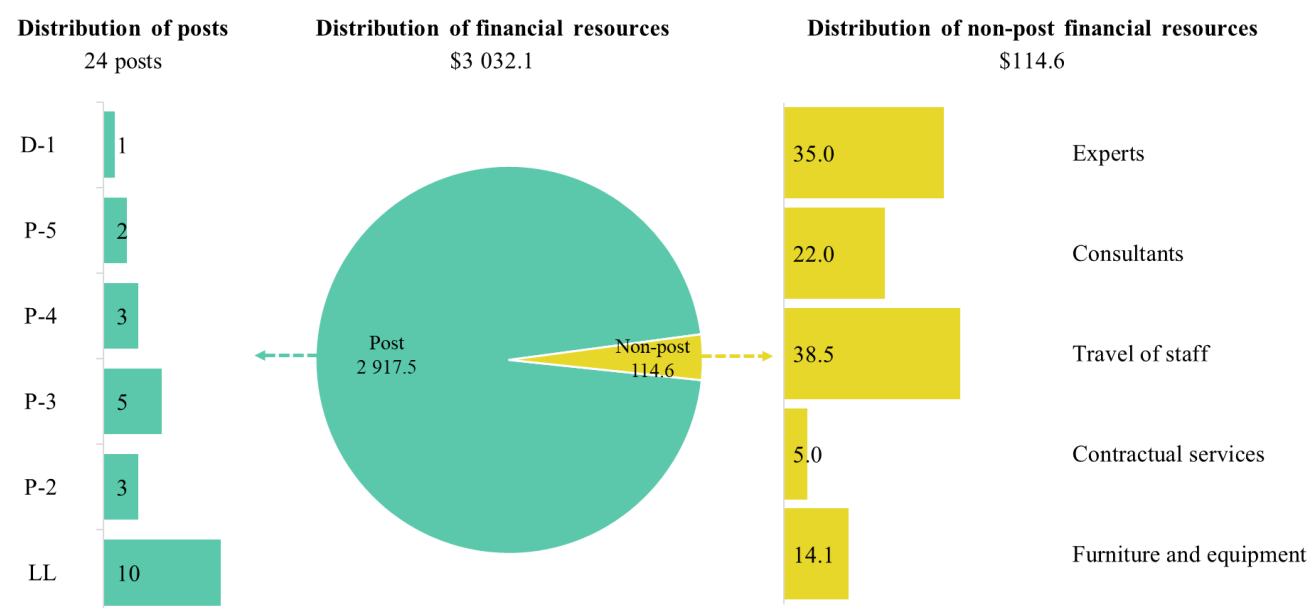
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	2 700.9	2 917.5	—	—	—	—	—	2 917.5
Non-post	73.4	145.9	—	—	(31.3)	(31.3)	(21.5)	114.6
Total	2 774.3	3 063.4	—	—	(31.3)	(31.3)	(1.0)	3 032.1
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		14	—	—	—	—	—	14
General Service and related		10	—	—	—	—	—	10
Total		24	—	—	—	—	—	24

Figure 19.XVII

Subprogramme 7: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Subprogramme 8

Subregional activities for development

- 19.273 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$4,592,400 and reflect a net decrease of \$35,200 compared with the appropriation for 2020.

Component 1

Subregional activities for development in the Pacific

- 19.274 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$1,400,000 and reflect a net decrease of \$18,900 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed reduction of \$18,900 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (i). Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.65 and figure 19.XVIII.

Table 19.65

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

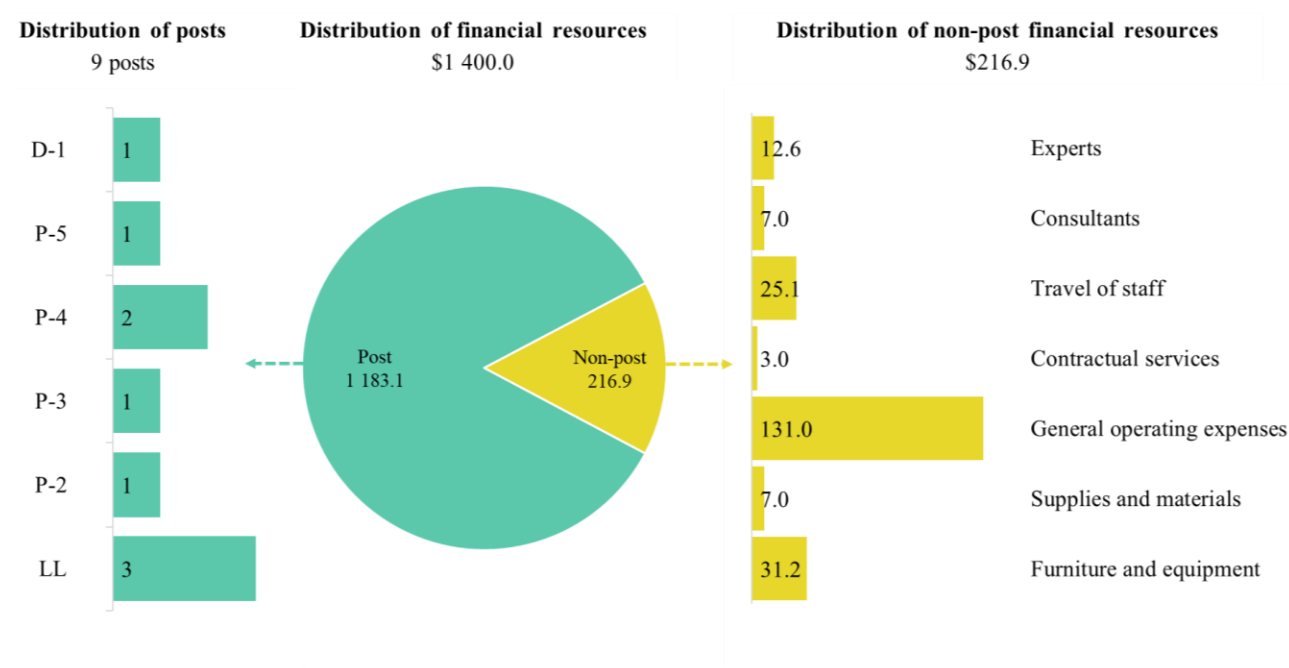
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 064.4	1 183.1	—	—	—	—	—	1 183.1
Non-post	162.8	235.8	—	—	(18.9)	(18.9)	(8.0)	216.9
Total	1 227.2	1 418.9	—	—	(18.9)	(18.9)	(1.3)	1 400.0
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		6	—	—	—	—	—	6
General Service and related		3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Total		9	—	—	—	—	—	9

Figure 19.XVIII

Subprogramme 8, component 1: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

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

19.275 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$1,023,600 and reflect a net decrease of \$5,100 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed reduction of \$5,100 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (j). Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.66 and figure 19.XIX.

Table 19.66

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

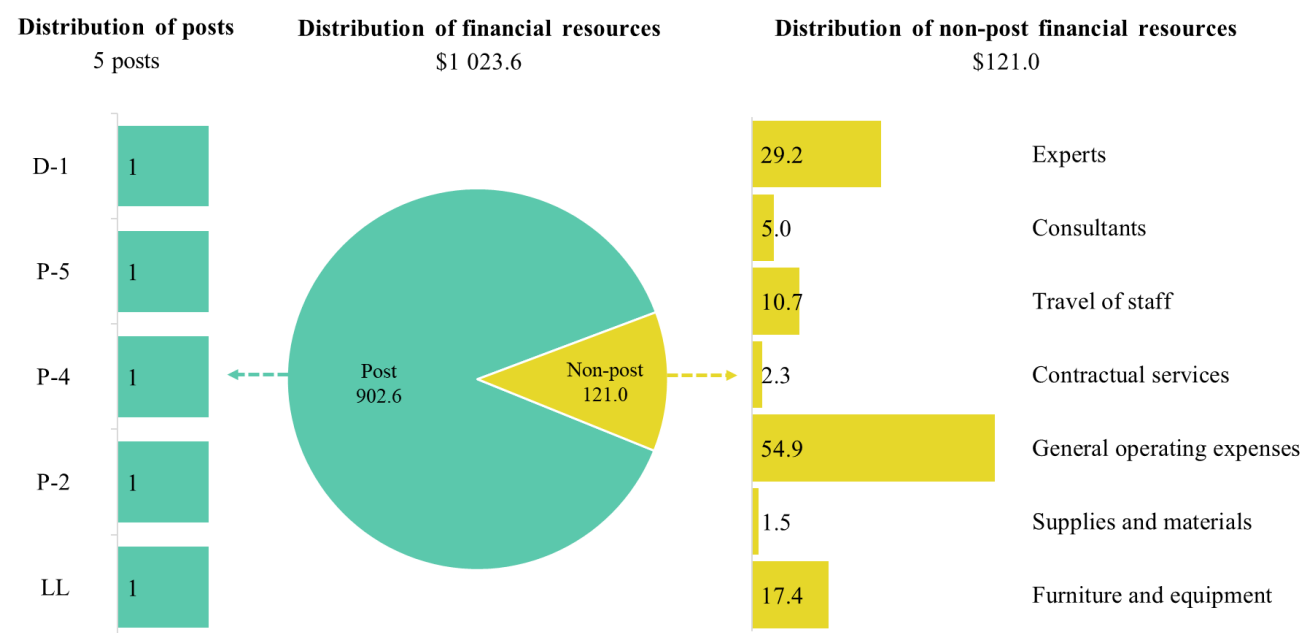
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	927.1	902.6	—	—	—	—	—	902.6
Non-post	113.3	126.1	—	—	(5.1)	(5.1)	(4.0)	121.0
Total	1 040.4	1 028.7	—	—	(5.1)	(5.1)	(0.5)	1 023.6
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		4	—	—	—	—	—	4
General Service and related		1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total		5	—	—	—	—	—	5

Figure 19.XIX

Subprogramme 8, component 2: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


Component 3
Subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia

19.276 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$700,200 and reflect a net decrease of \$5,000 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed reduction of \$5,000 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (k). Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.67 and figure 19.XX.

Table 19.67

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

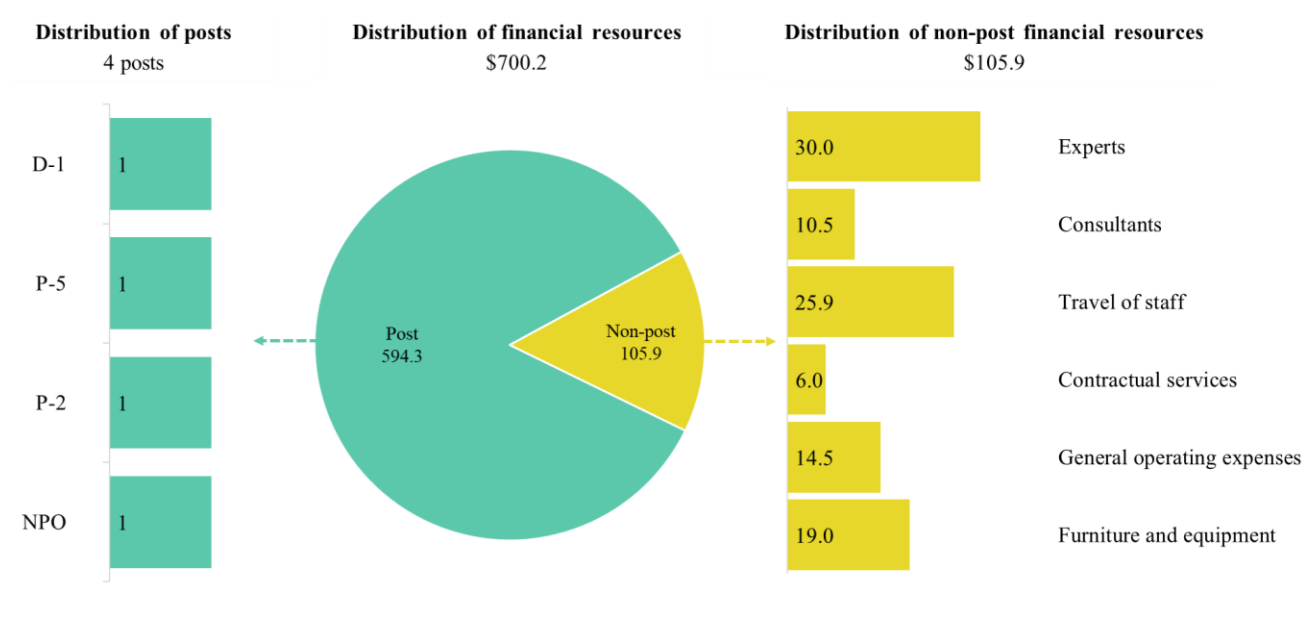
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2021 estimate (before recosting)
	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	389.3	594.3	—	—	—	—	—	594.3
Non-post	81.9	110.9	—	—	(5.0)	(5.0)	(4.5)	105.9
Total	471.3	705.2	—	—	(5.0)	(5.0)	(0.7)	700.2
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		3	—	—	—	—	—	3
General Service and related		1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total		4	—	—	—	—	—	4

Figure 19.XX

Subprogramme 8, component 3: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


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

19.277 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$1,219,400 and reflect a net decrease of \$18,400 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed reduction of \$18,400 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (l). Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.68 and figure 19.XXI.

Table 19.68

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

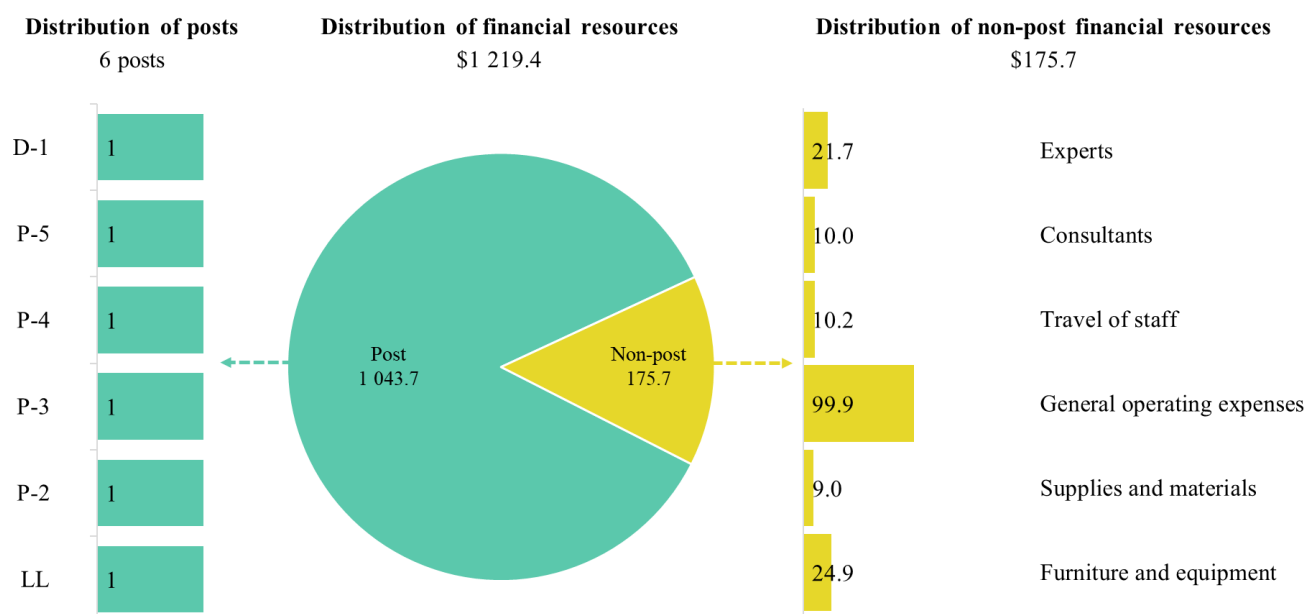
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	855.6	1 043.7	—	—	—	—	—	1 043.7
Non-post	123.7	194.1	—	—	(18.4)	(18.4)	(9.5)	175.7
Total	979.3	1 237.8	—	—	(18.4)	(18.4)	(1.5)	1 219.4
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		5	—	—	—	—	—	5
General Service and related		1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total		6	—	—	—	—	—	6

Figure 19.XXI

Subprogramme 8, component 4: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

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

19.278 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$249,200 and reflect a net increase of \$12,200 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed increase of \$12,200 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (m). Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.69 and figure 19.XXII.

Table 19.69

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

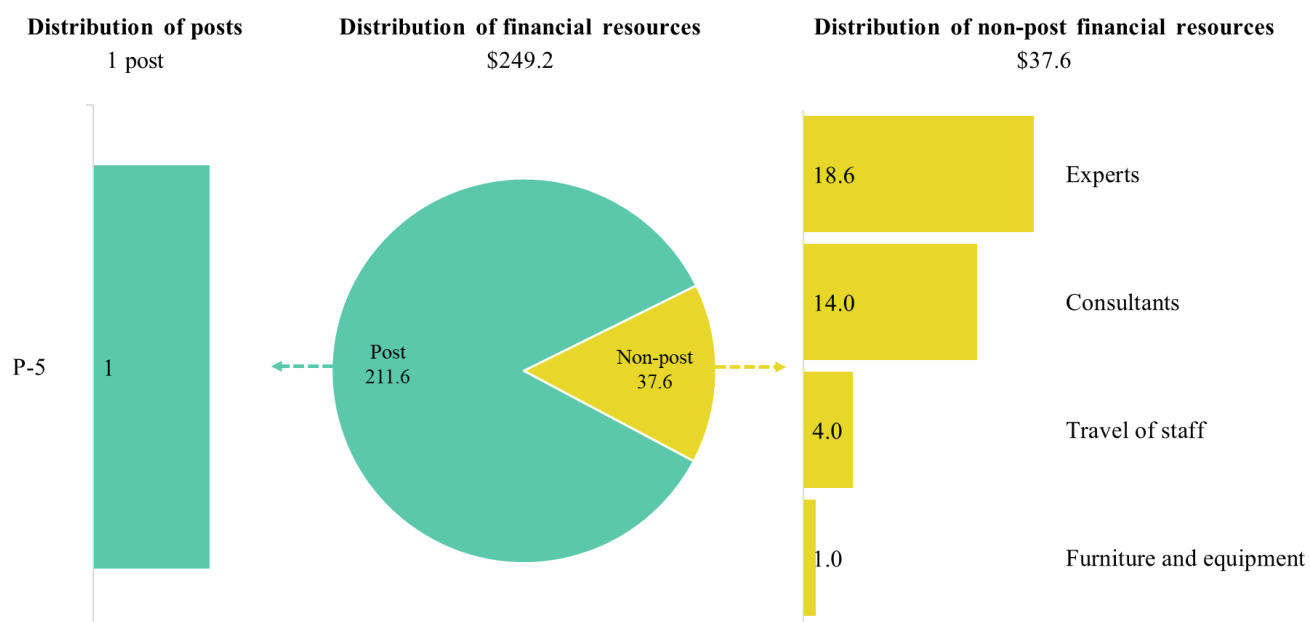
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2021 estimate (before recosting)
	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	398.1	211.6	—	—	—	—	—	211.6
Non-post	20.3	25.4	—	—	12.2	12.2	47.6	37.6
Total	418.4	237.0	—	—	12.2	12.2	5.1	249.2
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		1	—	—	—	—	—	1
General Service and related		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		1	—	—	—	—	—	1

Figure 19.XXII

Subprogramme 8, component 5: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


**Subprogramme 9
Energy**

19.279 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$1,821,500 and reflect a net increase of \$9,700 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed increase of \$9,700 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (n). Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.70 and figure 19.XXIII.

Table 19.70

Subprogramme 9: evolution of financial and post resources

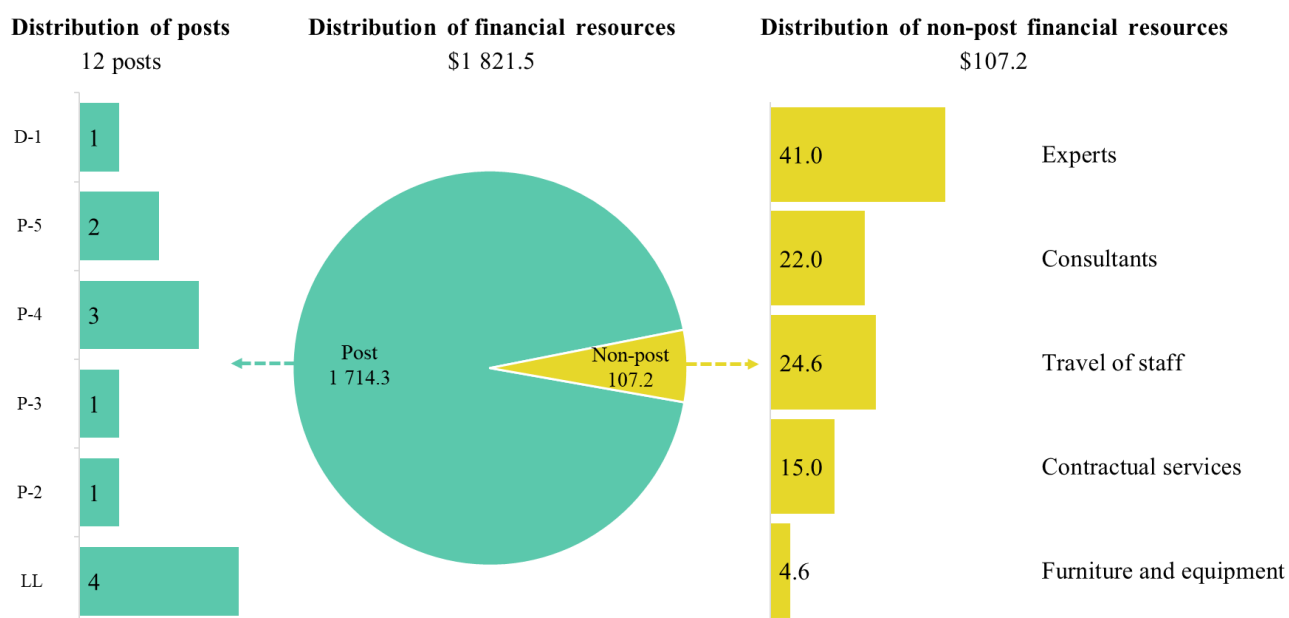
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2021 estimate (before recosting)
	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 360.7	1 714.3	—	—	—	—	—	1 714.3
Non-post	45.5	97.5	—	—	9.7	9.7	10.1	107.2
Total	1 406.2	1 811.8	—	—	9.7	9.7	0.5	1 821.5
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		8	—	—	—	—	—	8
General Service and related		4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Total		12	—	—	—	—	—	12

Figure 19.XXIII

Subprogramme 9: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


Programme support

- 19.280 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.
- 19.281 The Strategy and Programme Management Division, under the overall supervision of the Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Support, will accord 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; and support aimed at fostering greater collaboration across subprogrammes, enhanced technical cooperation and capacity development planning and strengthened collaboration with development partners.
- 19.282 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 executing its programmes through its operational arms, namely:
- (a) The Office of the Chief, which is responsible for:
 - (i) Bringing about continuous improvement through management reform, including leading the pilot environment management system in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme to implement efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of ESCAP, reduce waste and change mindsets;
 - (ii) Umoja implementation;

- (iii) Business transformation and accountability;
 - (iv) Cost-effective and sustainable management and maintenance of all building facilities;
 - (v) Procurement and supply chain services;
 - (vi) Ongoing execution of the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project;
- (b) The Human Resources Management Section, which is responsible for:
 - (i) Providing support in 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;
 - (ii) Providing occupational health services, including leadership in promoting and maintaining organizational responses to potential pandemics;
- (c) The Financial Resources Management Section, which is responsible for:
 - (i) Providing strategic advice on the effective utilization of resources within financial rules and regulations;
 - (ii) Management of financial risk and organizational resilience;
 - (iii) Strengthening the management of post and non-post resources by conducting thorough approval processes for all accounts and ensuring the accuracy of payments, payroll and financial reporting;
- (d) The Information Management, Communications and Technology Section, which 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;
- (e) The Commercial and General Services Section, which is responsible for:
 - (i) Providing and coordinating integrated events management services, including the operation and management of the United Nations Conference Centre for meetings and events under the ESCAP programme of work;
 - (ii) Integrated travel and transportation services, host country relation services and other general support services.

19.283 The Communications and Knowledge Management Section will provide communications, knowledge management and information 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 conduct 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.

19.284 The Conference and Documentation Services Section will provide editorial, interpretation, translation and text-processing services in the four working languages of ESCAP, including the processing of documentation and reproduction services, while ensuring multilingual communication

in support of the delivery of the ESCAP mandate to promote and facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region.

- 19.285 The proposed regular budget resources for 2021 amount to \$21,325,800 and reflect a net increase of \$199,000 compared with the appropriation for 2020. The proposed increase of \$199,000 is explained in paragraph 19.251 (a) and (o). Additional details on the distribution of proposed resources for 2021 are reflected in table 19.71 and figure 19.XXIV.

Table 19.71

Programme support: evolution of financial and post resources

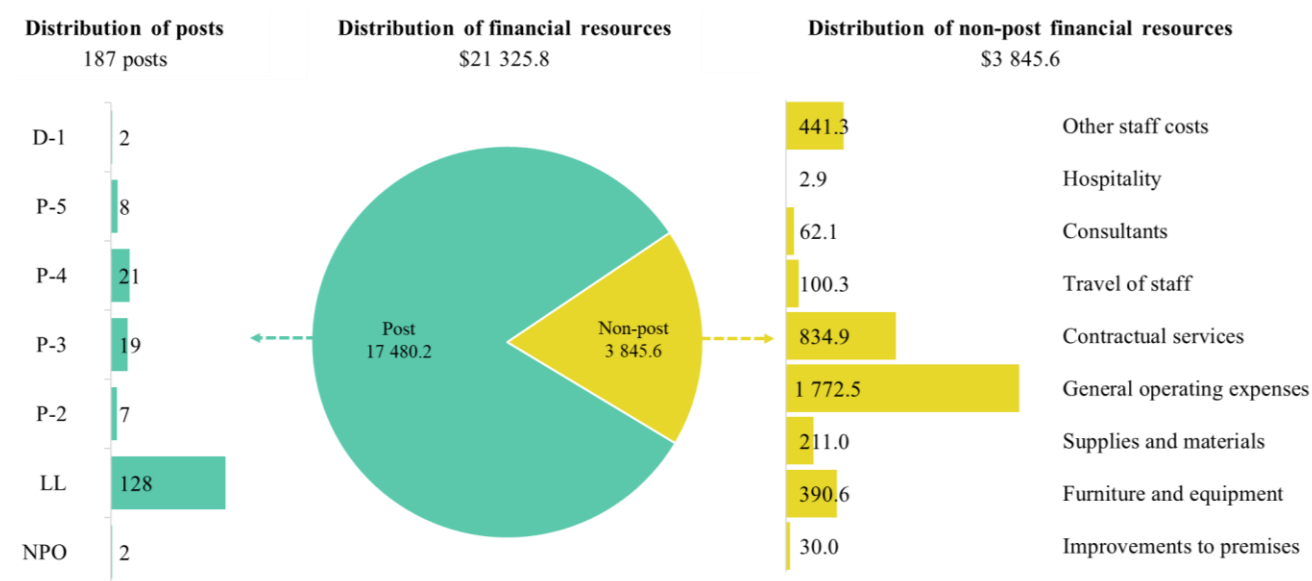
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2019 expenditure	2020 appropriation	Changes					2021 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	16 257.1	16 424.2	–	–	1 056.0	1 056.0	6.4	17 480.2
Non-post	4 530.1	4 702.6	(907.2)	–	50.2	(857.0)	(18.2)	3 845.6
Total	20 787.2	21 126.8	(907.2)	–	1 106.2	199.0	0.9	21 325.8
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		52	–	–	5	5	9.6	57
General Service and related		126	–	–	4	4	3.2	130
Total		178	–	–	9	9	5.1	187

Figure 19.XXIV

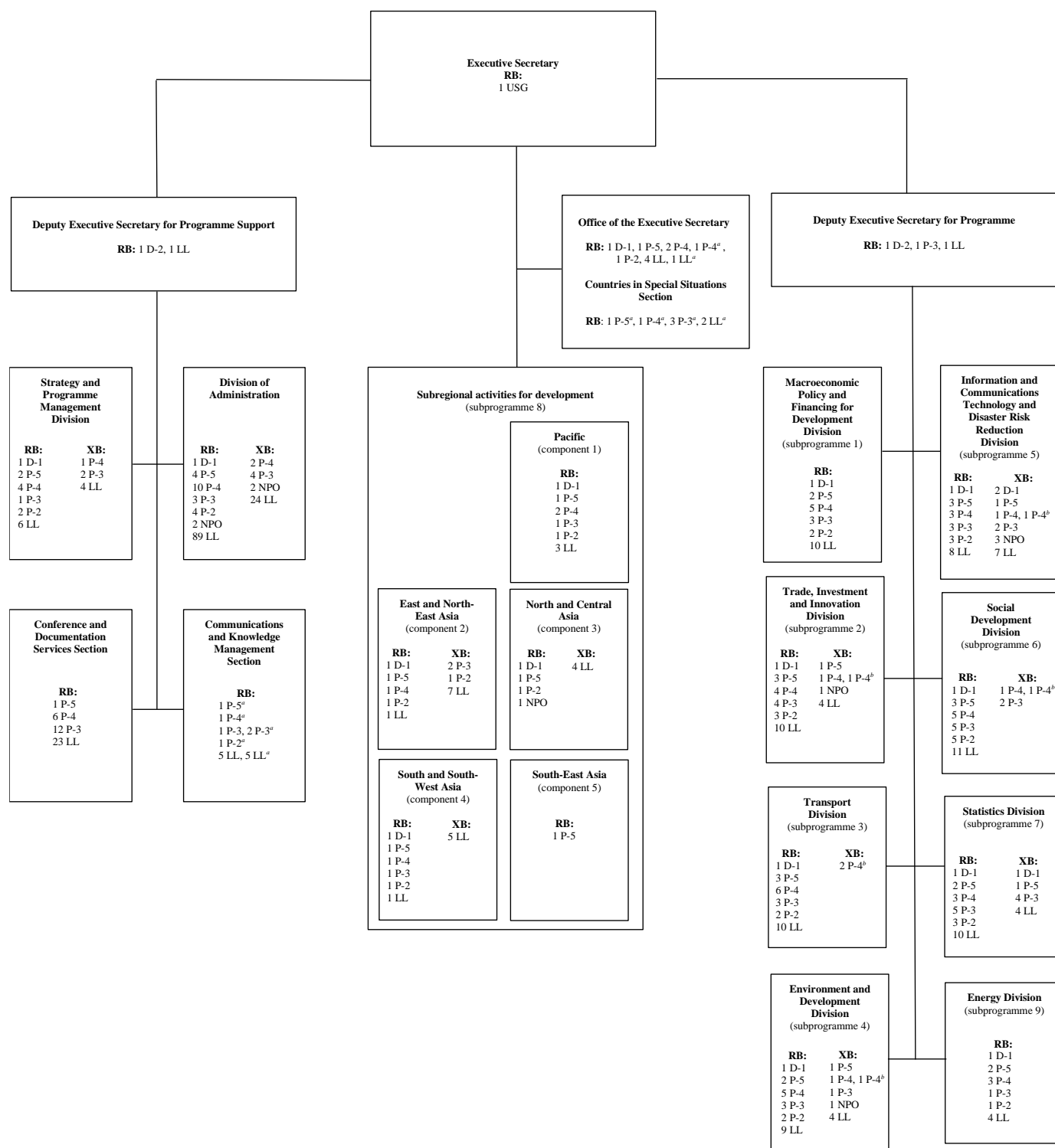
Programme support: distribution of proposed resources for 2021 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Annex I

Organizational structure and post distribution for 2021



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

^a Redeployment.

^b 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

Board of Auditors

[A/74/5 \(Vol. I\)](#)

The Board recommends that the Administration further refine the non-compliance categories and differentiate tolerance levels for non-compliance based on the nature of the travel and the traveller. The Administration should also guide the traveller to respond to travel management company requests promptly to ensure better compliance with the advance ticketing policy (para. 351).

ESCAP considers that the recommendation has been implemented and will request closure by the Board. ESCAP continued to make efforts to improve the compliance rate for advance purchase bookings. Starting in 2019, in addition to the compliance rating that is submitted to senior management, the Commercial and General Services Section also provided information on potential savings to be gained per office/division/unit in ESCAP if the internal key performance indicator established for advance purchase is achieved. The distribution of the report was extended to certifying officers and Travel/ Administrative Assistants.

Office of Internal Oversight Services

Report 2019/072; assignment No. AG2019/740/01

The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) recommended that ESCAP take steps to highlight the key results of capacity development projects with measurable and quantifiable outcomes to enhance donor confidence and facilitate more effective partnerships with stakeholders (recommendation 2).

The recommendation has been implemented. ESCAP highlighted selected results and success stories of key capacity development projects through the preparation of the report entitled “Technical cooperation highlights 2018–2019”.

OIOS recommended that ESCAP 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).

ESCAP accepted the recommendation and will institute an assessment on the need to use consultants. The implementation of the recommendation is in progress; the target date for implementation is June 2020.

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

[A/74/7](#)

The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly encourage the regional commissions to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination among themselves and with the resident coordinator system and that it request the Secretary-General to include an update on any related activities and achievements in his next budget submission (para. V.59).

The recommendation is under implementation. The United Nations development system reforms, including phase II of the regional reforms and the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, offer opportunities for renewed and strengthened endeavours for United Nations system organizations to work together. ESCAP is strengthening its collaboration with resident coordinators and United Nations country teams and is actively working with several of such teams, for example in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Thailand. In addition, the regional commissions collaborate

Brief description of the recommendation

The Advisory Committee welcomes the Commission's initiative to digitize its library and documentation systems, as well as the approach taken to increase the electronic distribution of its publications while ensuring the availability of alternatives in areas with limited Internet access. The Committee also welcomes the progress made in expanding outreach and increasing the dissemination of ECLAC publications. The Committee is of the view that an analysis should be conducted to determine whether the ECLAC systems and strategies can be replicated or reused at other regional commissions and in United Nations departments and offices and trusts that an update on the matter will be provided in the next budget submission (para. V.76).

Action taken to implement the recommendation

through various mechanisms. The executive secretaries have periodic meetings during which they discuss coordinated contributions to global forums on issues such as financing for development or the high-level political forum on sustainable development. One of the executive secretaries chairs these meetings and represents regional commissions in strategic meetings, if needed. The regional commissions chair the meeting on a rotating basis and the Regional Commissions New York Office supports them in this process. The subprogrammes also collaborate extensively with their counterparts in other regional commissions, through the implementation of interregional Development Account projects or the management of common trust funds, such as, in the case of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and ESCAP, the trust fund for the Forum for East-Asia-Latin American Cooperation. Examples of common projects include: projects to promote equality and the New Urban Agenda, with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, with the Economic Commission for Europe; and a new Sustainable Development Goal Gateway, with the Economic Commission for Africa.

The recommendation is under implementation. The ESCAP Library is working with the ECLAC Library bilaterally and through the Steering Committee for Libraries of the United Nations to learn about best practices with a view to implementing similar strategies and systems at ESCAP, including developing a publications repository and modernizing its integrated library system. This effort will be supported by the creation of the Communications and Knowledge Management Section, as proposed in the 2021 budget, which will strengthen the capacity of ESCAP for cooperation, outreach and the dissemination of publications.

Annex III

Summary of proposed changes in established and temporary posts, by component and subprogramme

	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Reason for change</i>
Executive direction and management	1	P-5	Redeployment of 1 Chief of Section, Economic Affairs Officer from subprogramme 1	To create a new section on countries in special situations in executive direction and management. These redeployments have been proposed to improve coordination and break down silos through the movement of deliverables that involve the whole secretariat and have a cross-cutting nature and to strengthen organization-wide coordination in these areas
	1	P-4	Redeployment of 1 Economic Affairs Officer from subprogramme 1	
	3	P-3	Redeployment of 3 Economic Affairs Officers from subprogramme 1	
	2	LL	Redeployment of 1 Research Assistant and 1 Staff Assistant from subprogramme 1	
	1	P-4	Redeployment of 1 Sustainable Development Officer from subprogramme 4	To facilitate the organization of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
	(1)	P-5	Redeployment of 1 Chief of Section, Public Information Officer to programme support	To be combined with six Library posts to create a new Communications and Knowledge Management Section in programme support. These redeployments have been proposed to improve coordination and break down silos through the strengthening of organization-wide coordination in these areas
	(1)	P-4	Redeployment of 1 External Relations Officer to programme support	
	(1)	P-3	Redeployment of 1 Public Information Officer to programme support	
	(1)	P-3	Redeployment of 1 Information Systems Officer to programme support	
	(1)	P-2	Redeployment of 1 Associate Information Officer to programme support	
	(5)	LL	Redeployment of 3 Public Information Assistants, 1 Staff Assistant and 1 Website Assistant to programme support	
	1	LL	Redeployment of 1 Staff Assistant from programme support	To provide required administrative support
Subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	(1)	P-5	Redeployment of 1 Chief of Section, Economic Affairs Officer to executive direction and management	To create a new section on countries in special situations in executive direction and management. These redeployments have been proposed to improve coordination and break down silos through the movement of deliverables that involve the whole secretariat and have a cross-cutting nature and to strengthen organization-wide coordination in these areas
	(1)	P-4	Redeployment of 1 Economic Affairs Officer to executive direction and management	
	(3)	P-3	Redeployment of 3 Economic Affairs Officers to executive direction and management	

Section 19 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Reason for change</i>
	(2)	LL	Redeployment of 1 Research Assistant and 1 Staff Assistant to executive direction and management	
Subprogramme 4, Environment and development	(1)	P-4	Redeployment of 1 Sustainable Development Officer to executive direction and management	To facilitate the organization of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
Programme support	1	P-5	Redeployment of 1 Chief of Section, Public Information Officer from executive direction and management	To be combined with six Library posts to create a new Communications and Knowledge Management Section in programme support. These redeployments have been proposed to improve coordination and break down silos through the strengthening of organization-wide coordination in these areas
	1	P-4	Redeployment of 1 External Relations Officer from executive direction and management	
	1	P-3	Redeployment of 1 Public Information Officer from executive direction and management	
	1	P-3	Redeployment of 1 Information Systems Officer from executive direction and management	
	1	P-2	Redeployment of 1 Associate Information Officer from executive direction and management	
	5	LL	Redeployment of 3 Public Information Assistants, 1 Staff Assistant and 1 Website Assistant from executive direction and management	
	(1)	LL	Redeployment of 1 Staff Assistant to executive direction and management	To provide required administrative support