

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Governing Council  
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**REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ON ITS FOURTH SESSION**

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## I. ORGANIZATION

### A. Opening of the session

1. The fourth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) was held in Chiba, Japan, on 11 and 12 November 2008.
2. Mr. Feng Nailin, Chairperson of the session, welcomed all the participants.
3. In his opening statement, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP expressed deep appreciation to the Council for the invaluable advice and guidance given to SIAP in carrying out its mandate more effectively, particularly in responding to the demands of the current development agenda.
4. The Deputy Executive Secretary expressed his confidence that the Committee on Statistics, which had been re-established in accordance with Commission resolution 64/1 of 30 April 2008, would significantly contribute to an improvement in quality and an increase in the availability of official statistics in support of development, which would help countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Training was one of the most important measures for strengthening capability in the region as well as for disseminating knowledge, strategies and best practices in official statistics.
5. The Deputy Executive Secretary noted that the report of the Director had given a clear assessment of the work done by SIAP. Successful completion of the Tokyo Metropolitan Area (TMA)-based courses, with the help of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the outreach programme, in collaboration with country partner institutions, were acknowledged. He also noted the Institute's continuing efforts to reach more people through the distance-training facilities of JICA with the strong support of the Government of Japan. He urged the Institute to enhance the use of distance-training courses as a way of preparing participants for TMA and outreach training programmes, and also to provide quality training materials through an e-library. The Institute should also leverage its role in capacity-building for countries in the region by training the trainers, thus increasing the multiplier effect of its courses.
6. The Deputy Executive Secretary described the important role of SIAP, and expressed the hope that the observations and guidance of the Governing Council in that area would help SIAP further improve the relevance and quality of its services.
7. The Deputy Executive Secretary noted with satisfaction that most countries had responded to the feedback survey conducted by the Institute in May and June 2008. The survey had found that SIAP training courses were very beneficial for the statistical services of respective Governments and, in particular, that the professionalism and level of motivation of statisticians had improved after the training.
8. The Deputy Executive Secretary expressed his gratitude to the Government of Japan for its valuable and generous host country contributions to SIAP, including the awarding of fellowships for training courses in Japan through JICA. He expressed his deep appreciation to the Office of the Director-General for Policy Planning in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan for the substantial financial support it had provided, as well as for its efficient facilitation and coordination of many activities of the Institute.
9. In view of the proposed results-based strategic plan of SIAP, which included an expanded outreach programme, the Deputy Executive Secretary urged the Government of Japan to consider increasing its contribution or at least maintaining it at the same level during the period 2010-2014, to enable SIAP to implement its strategic training plan for the region successfully.

10. He also expressed gratitude to the numerous countries and entities in the ESCAP region that had provided financial support to the Institute through annual contributions to its institutional budget.

11. The Deputy Executive Secretary stressed that, in order to enable the Institute to operate on a sound and stable financial basis, cash contributions from members and associate members as well as from multilateral agencies remained critical. He urged those countries that had not made any contributions to consider doing so. At the same time, he urged donors to continue supporting the mission and activities of SIAP, and to give serious consideration to a possible increase in their contributions.

12. In concluding, the Deputy Executive Secretary expressed the view that the valuable inputs and recommendations of the Council on the work of SIAP would have an important bearing on future training options for Government statisticians in Asia and the Pacific.

### **B. Attendance**

13. The session was attended by representatives of all nine members of the Governing Council: China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea and Thailand.

14. Representatives of the following countries or areas attended the session as observers: Australia, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Viet Nam and Hong Kong, China.

15. Representatives of the following United Nations Secretariat units, bodies and specialized agencies also participated as observers: Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); International Monetary Fund (IMF); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute of Statistics; and United Nations Statistics Division.

### **C. Election of officers**

16. The Governing Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson: Mr. Feng Nailin (China)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Mutsumi Nakata/Mr. Akihiro Kimoto (Japan)

17. Mr. Mutsumi Nakata, Director General for Policy Planning (Statistical Standards), Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan, made a statement on behalf of the host Government.

### **D. Agenda**

18. The Governing Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Matters arising from the third session of the Governing Council.
5. Report of the Director of the Institute.
6. Work plan of the Institute for AY 2009.

7. Draft strategic plan of the Institute for AY 2010-AY 2014.
8. Review of the draft annual report of the Governing Council to the Commission.
9. The new conference structure of the Commission and its link to the Governing Council of the Institute.
10. Review of the draft terms of reference for an evaluation of the Institute.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report.

## **II. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE THIRD SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

19. The Governing Council had before it the document entitled "Matters arising from the third session of the Governing Council" (STAT/SIAP/GC(4)/1). The Council noted 17 such matters and the actions that had since been taken by the Institute, including, among other things, training programmes and the assessment of their effectiveness; the enhancement of partnerships and cooperation with other organizations; increases in contributions from members and associate members of ESCAP; and the development of a cost-reduction plan for SIAP.

20. The Council noted that matters related to the work programme of the Institute could more appropriately be reviewed later under the relevant agenda item.

21. In response to the remarks of the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP on the priority of the next phase of Millennium Development Goal assessment in strengthening national statistical systems, it was reported that four country courses on Millennium Development Goal indicators had been organized in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

22. In response to the concern that had been expressed regarding the effectiveness of SIAP training programmes, it was reported that a feedback survey had been conducted in 2008.

23. In response to the comment of the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP regarding increasing the multiplier effect of training and improving the cost-effectiveness of training provided by SIAP, the Council reported that the distance-training experiments had been successful and that an e-library project had been formulated, backed with a financial grant of \$100,000 for implementation.

24. In response to the remark made by the representative of Japan on the cost-reduction programme of the Government of Japan, it was reported that SIAP had initiated several actions to seek assistance from countries and other regional partner institutions. Self-funding participation by countries and increased in-kind contributions were mentioned as being among the means that had been employed. The Institute had continued its collaboration with other international organizations, such as ADB, ECE, IMF, the International Labour Organization (ILO) through its Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the Statistics Division of ESCAP during the year. In addition, in-kind contributions for regional and subregional courses had also been increased by the respective host countries or areas, namely: China; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Philippines; Republic of Korea and Hong Kong, China.

25. The representative of Japan mentioned that his Government would cooperate with SIAP as much as possible; however the financial situation of Japan was worsening and the financial authority had expressed its opinion on the contribution from Japan. In 2009, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications would negotiate with the Japanese financial authority on funding for SIAP, but the Ministry had an impression that the negotiations were going to be difficult. He requested SIAP to increase its efforts to obtain more funds from other members and associate members of ESCAP.

26. Some representatives expressed the importance of the Institute's training for strengthening the national capability in official statistics. In that connection, some representatives took the view that conducting more outreach courses, including regional/subregional and country courses, on a cost-sharing basis with country partner institutions could be a way to overcome the financial difficulties faced by SIAP in meeting the training needs of the countries in the region.

27. The representative of India expressed the country's interest in hosting outreach courses on topics such as sample surveys, survey operations, economic censuses, gender and environmental statistics, and national accounts in its newly established statistical training institute, namely, the National Academy of Statistical Administration.

28. One representative expressed appreciation for the efforts of SIAP and Japan in building the statistical capabilities of the countries in the region, and requested that opportunities be extended to young researchers so as to encourage them to undertake more research work. She requested that SIAP offer training courses on both survey methodology in general, and issues related to conducting censuses and surveys in particular, to officers with diploma qualifications.

29. On the issue of formulating a long-term strategic plan for the Institute, the Council noted that appropriate action had been taken, and decided to discuss it under agenda item 7.

### **III. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

30. The Council had before it the report of the Director of SIAP (STAT/SIAP/GC(4)/2). The Director summarized highlights of the report.

31. During the reporting period, more men than women had participated in SIAP courses. In presenting the trends in gender ratios associated with nominations and selections, the Director of SIAP pointed out the Institute's efforts at promoting gender equality in its selection policies within the limitations imposed by the nominations submitted by the originating countries. One representative commented that the nominations of participants to attend courses was at the discretion of member countries.

32. With regard to the training programmes, the Council was provided with details of the completed TMA-based training courses, outreach courses and distance training (on a trial basis) programmes.

33. The Director informed the Council that the number of participants in TMA-based training courses was decreasing, in particular in the module course. However, there was continuing high demand for the TMA-based training courses, as many countries lacked the basic skills, knowledge and resources for statistical training. She reported that the Institute was planning to conduct a training needs survey sometime in the first quarter of 2009, and requested that countries respond to the survey.

34. The representative of Japan noted that the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications would cooperate with the Institute in strengthening TMA-based courses in order to meet the needs of countries in the region. He also informed the Governing Council that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and JICA were scheduled to review in 2009 whether the three TMA-based courses conducted jointly with JICA, on: (a) modules on fundamental official statistics; (b) application of information and communications technologies to production and dissemination of official statistics; and (c) analysis, interpretation and dissemination of official statistics, should be continued after the Japanese fiscal year 2009. The decision on renewal and continuity of the above-mentioned courses would be based on the results of the survey, and its reflection of the countries' needs. If countries did not provide sufficient evidence of their need for those courses, not only would they lose out on the opportunity to participate in the courses, but some TMA courses could be regarded as being in low demand and consequently could be discontinued. In that connection, the representative suggested that SIAP should make a fundamental review of the needs of members and associate members for the

above-mentioned TMA-based training courses, including requests regarding content and duration, in order to better respond to those needs.

35. Representatives of several countries requested the host Government to explore the possibility of providing national statistical offices with a copy of the survey questionnaire in advance so that countries would be able to reflect their training needs appropriately. In response, the representative of Japan requested that national statistical offices work closely with the agency in their respective countries that partners with JICA, in order to express their training needs for TMA-based courses. He reiterated that the lower demand might lead to some TMA-based courses being discontinued, and requested countries to pay close attention to that matter. The representative of Japan also expressed his willingness to discuss with JICA the possibility of sending a copy of the survey questionnaire to national statistical offices.

36. The representatives of Malaysia and Indonesia emphasized the importance of including more analytical and practical sessions in TMA-based courses and providing the training materials prior to the commencement of the courses.

37. With regard to the effectiveness and coordination of training activities in the region, SIAP, in collaboration with the Statistics Division of ESCAP, had held the Third Workshop on Forging Partnerships in Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific. Several representatives who had participated in the above workshop suggested that SIAP should play an active role in coordinating statistical training activities in the region through the Committee on Statistics.

38. It was reported that the Alumni Website had been created to facilitate networking and communication among former participants of SIAP courses.

39. The representative of ECE emphasized the necessity of providing translated training materials as well as interpretation of lectures when conducting joint statistical training courses with SIAP for participants from countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. One representative expressed gratitude to SIAP and the Government of Japan for training Government officials, and the desire to have access to SIAP training materials which could be translated into the local language for local staff.

40. Several members of the Governing Council, including India, expressed support for the SIAP e-learning initiative. They emphasized that e-learning was a step in the right direction, since more participants could be trained, and that it was useful for large countries, such as India.

41. One representative requested that, if SIAP intended to shift outreach research-based training to an online model, the Institution should then consider bringing all participants together in one place for a short period of time to ensure that participants completed the research work they commenced in their respective countries.

42. With regard to financial matters, the Governing Council was informed that, as of 31 October 2008, a total of \$1,859,774.58 in cash contributions had been received in 2008. The contribution of the Government of Japan continued to constitute the bulk of the overall cash contributions. Despite substantial cutbacks in that country's overall official development assistance, the cash contribution from the Government of Japan in 2008 remained close to the 2007 level.

43. The Director noted that the Government of Japan provided an in-kind contribution in the form of administrative and infrastructural support through the Office of the Director-General for Policy Planning (Statistical Standards), Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, as well as fellowships for the TMA-based courses through JICA. JICA had also collaborated with SIAP and had provided in-kind support in launching a series of trial distance-training courses. In-kind contributions for the training courses provided by the host Government covering the period from 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 totalled \$1,090,770.

44. It was noted that both Malaysia and Mongolia had pledged to increase their contributions to SIAP, and that Papua New Guinea had resumed its contribution to the SIAP institutional budget.

45. In addition, several United Nations and international agencies, namely, ADB, ESCAP, ILO, IMF, ECE, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the United Nations Statistics Division had provided the Institute with support through resource persons and funding to cover the travel costs of participants, SIAP faculty members and others to SIAP training programmes.

46. The Governing Council placed on record its deep appreciation of the contributions of the following:

(a) The host Government of Japan, for its continuing and generous support, both in cash and in kind, and for the provision of JICA fellowships for TMA-based courses;

(b) The contributing members and associate members in the region, for their continuing cash contributions, through which they demonstrated their support for the work of the Institute;

(c) Country partner institutions and national statistical offices, for hosting and providing organizational support for regional, subregional and country courses;

(d) Other agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations, particularly, ESCAP, ECE, ILO (Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, United Nations Development Programme, ADB, and IMF for collaborating with SIAP in the implementation of its training activities.

47. Representatives of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey commented on the importance of receiving official letters from SIAP every year requesting payment of cash contributions. The official letters could then be presented for consideration to the authorities who determine the Government budget.

48. The representative of the Republic of Korea provided information on the new training facility of its Statistical Training Institute and offered to host more outreach courses.

#### **IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2009**

49. The Governing Council had before it the document entitled "Programme of work of the Institute for the academic year 2009" (STAT/SIAP/GC(4)/3).

50. The Director informed the Council that the TMA-based courses and the regional/subregional courses in the proposed work programme had been endorsed in earlier sessions: the ninth Governing Board session, in 2003, and the third Governing Council session, in 2007. The country courses had been conceived primarily in response to the expressed needs of the countries in the region through the survey conducted by SIAP in 2008.

51. The Council was also informed that the TMA-based courses were to be finalized on the basis of the relevant and applicable laws and regulations of the Government of Japan and in accordance with the Institute's annual budgetary appropriations for the Japanese fiscal year 2009. Likewise, the outreach programme courses would be finalized in accordance with the annual budgetary appropriations of SIAP for the Japanese fiscal year 2009 and those of collaborating organizations.

52. Some representatives requested the Institute to provide their officials with more training on analysis and interpretation in order to build analytical capacity in official statistics.

53. Several delegates mentioned the need for organizing training courses on population, agriculture and economic censuses, since the 2010 round of population and agriculture censuses

would be commencing soon. One representative highlighted the importance of conducting training beyond planning and processing of data, including such areas as population projections and demographic analysis.

54. One representative expressed the need to strengthen statistical capacity in Pacific island countries through the SIAP training programme.

55. Concerns on e-learning were raised by one representative, who commented that e-learning was an effective way of transferring knowledge, but not a solution for training in official statistics. The representative of the United Nations Statistics Division made a cautionary statement regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of such training by referring to the experiences of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The representative of the UNESCO Institute of Statistics suggested that the supervision activities needed to be supplemented under the e-learning programme.

56. One representative suggested prioritizing activities in the programme of work for the academic year 2009 if SIAP faced a situation of insufficient financial resources. She also stressed the importance of TMA-based courses, distance learning and regional/subregional courses.

57. The Governing Council endorsed the programme of work for 2009 in general, and requested the incorporation of comments made by members.

#### **V. DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE INSTITUTE FOR THE ACADEMIC YEARS 2010-2014**

58. The Governing Council had before it the document entitled "Draft strategic plan of the Institute for the academic years 2010-2014" (STAT/SIAP/GC(4)/4).

59. The Council recognized the importance of the focus areas of the Institute, such as: (a) monitoring and evaluation of progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals; (b) developing integrated economic statistics; and (c) applying information management and related information and communications technology in national statistical systems.

60. The Council noted that the Institute would achieve its outcome through: (a) partnership and cooperation with other organizations at all levels: regional, subregional and country levels; (b) provision of distance trainings and e-learning, which would complement the ongoing face-to-face trainings; and (c) training of trainers.

61. The Council was provided with rough estimates of required financial resources.

62. The Council was informed that the Institute was preparing a detailed implementation plan describing the Institute's actions, available resources, timelines, and methods for ensuring accountability. The final draft of a proposed implementation plan would be presented to the Council at its next session, in 2009.

63. One representative suggested for consideration that the changing environment, as well as problems and needs that might arise in the future, should be incorporated into the strategic plan; the representative of the United Nations Statistics Division concurred.

64. One representative commented that the outreach programme was valuable. Host countries could also benefit from the organization of such courses, which was a useful process for learning to identify issues and training needs in the statistical areas concerned.

65. In regard to content, one representative suggested including new areas, for example emerging issues such as climate change, disaster statistics, non-monetary poverty indicators, information and communications technology networking and data-sharing, and use of administrative data.

66. The Governing Council recognized the serious problem of financial support to SIAP and deliberated on the strategies for increasing cash contributions, as well as other methods to increase the financial resources available to the Institute.

67. The representative of Japan emphasized that it was essential for SIAP to ensure a stable operating structure, including the maintenance of its professional staff on a full-time basis, as well as to expand and review the programmes. It would require sufficient cash contributions to sustain the institutional framework of SIAP, including human-resource related expenses. It was anticipated that the expenses would increase greatly, due to rising United Nations salaries and allowances, and a major increase in cash contributions was needed to sustain the current framework. However, maintaining the current financial status of SIAP could lead to the excess of expenses over income. It could become necessary to reduce the SIAP work programme considerably. Such a reduction could affect capacity-building in countries of the region, causing an impact on policymaking with regard to economic, social and environmental issues, including the Millennium Development Goals. To prevent such a situation, each country should make efforts to support SIAP as much as possible, as there was increasing demand for SIAP training programmes. A significant increase in cash contributions to SIAP should be realized by the members and associate members, and fresh cash contributions should come from countries which had made no cash contributions to date. If an increase in such contributions was not forthcoming, staff reductions at SIAP would be inevitable. The representative of Japan reiterated that revenue had fallen short of the level projected in the SIAP budget, and, furthermore, the possibility should be taken into consideration that actual cash contributions would be less than the amount anticipated in the cost estimates for the academic years 2010-2014. In preparation for such cases, SIAP should consider its cost reduction for regional/subregional courses by requiring that members and associate members self-fund participants. The Institute should also consider cost reduction for country courses.

68. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP shared the experience he had had with the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology in recommending minimum contributions to be made by member countries. The Governing Council of the Centre, at its first meeting in February 2006, had advised that more countries should be encouraged to contribute to the Centre at the levels agreed on at the Governing Board session in 1997.

69. Substantive discussions took place on whether to shift the voluntary cash contribution approach to threshold/minimum-ceiling requirements. The representative of Japan stated that such a decision would be up to each individual country; however, Japan welcomed a minimum-ceiling approach. One representative commented that countries were not ready to provide minimum-base contributions; instead, an approach that raised awareness, interest and ownership should be pursued.

70. Other methods of securing financial resources that were discussed by the Council included: (a) developing collaborative arrangements with multilateral, regional and subregional organizations to deliver training programmes; (b) having countries provide financial support by sponsoring their officials to participate in training activities of SIAP; (c) utilizing funds from the country offices of international organizations to support joint training activities in those countries.

71. Representatives of several countries reiterated that countries needed to raise their awareness of ownership, which would increase contributions both in cash and in kind.

72. The Council stressed the need to continue to appeal to countries to increase their cash contributions.

73. The Governing Council endorsed the strategic plan for 2010-2014 in general and requested that the suggestions be taken into account and a revised version shared with the Governing Council members. The revised version would be submitted as an information document at the first session of the Committee on Statistics.

## **VI. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL TO THE COMMISSION**

74. The meeting had before it the document on the draft annual report of SIAP to the Commission (STAT/SIAP/GC(4)/5). The members were informed that the report was in draft form and had been prepared in a format specified by ESCAP for all regional institutions. The Governing Council was also informed that financial statements would be included in the report.

75. The Governing Council requested that a revised draft with updated information, incorporating the decisions and recommendations at its fourth session, be prepared.

76. The Governing Council requested that SIAP should submit the revised draft to members for comments prior to submission to the Commission.

## **VII. THE NEW CONFERENCE STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS LINK TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE INSTITUTE**

77. The members of the Governing Council were informed by the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP on the new conference structure of ESCAP, which the Commission had defined in its resolution 64/1 of 30 April 2008. The new structure of the Commission consisted of eight Committees, including the Committee on Statistics, which would meet biannually. The outcome of the sessions of all the Committees, including the Committee on Statistics, as contained in their reports, would be submitted to the Commission for its consideration. The organizational structure of ESCAP headquarters had also been adjusted under the programme of work to enhance the subsidiary structure of the Commission.

78. The Deputy Executive Secretary noted that the Statistics subprogramme of ESCAP was a joint responsibility of the Statistics Division of ESCAP and SIAP. The preparation of the work programme would be guided by the discussions at the annual sessions of the Commission and the Governing Council as well as at the biennial session of the Committee on Statistics. The work programme of SIAP had been integrated into the strategic framework of ESCAP under the relevant components of the Statistics subprogramme since 2006.

79. The Deputy Executive Secretary explained further that guidance on the functions of the Institute was provided by its Governing Council and by the Commission in accordance with Commission resolution 64/1. The Committee on Statistics would provide the secretariat and its regional institutions with guidance in reviewing the proposed strategic framework and the programme of work for the 2010-2011 biennium. The Committee on Statistics did not have a mandate to review the long-term strategy of SIAP as presented in the strategic plan for the academic years 2010-2014. The draft strategic plan would be provided to the Committee as an information paper and the outcome of the Governing Council would be reported to the Committee informally.

80. He also stated that the Statistics Division and SIAP each had a distinct role to play in promoting national statistical capacity-building in the region. The Statistics Division focused on technical cooperation, targeting areas with emerging international standards and methodologies, while SIAP provided and facilitated statistical training in the practical applications of the international standards and methodologies, focusing on areas where those standards were already established or well developed. Through coordination and collaboration, the programmes of the Statistics Division of ESCAP and SIAP could lead to great achievements. The roles of the Statistics Division and SIAP had been outlined in a document for the Committee on Statistics entitled "ESCAP strategy for technical cooperation in statistics development" (E/ESCAP/CST/3).

**VIII. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN EVALUATION OF THE INSTITUTE**

81. The Governing Council had before it the draft terms of reference for an evaluation of SIAP (STAT/SIAP/GC(4)/6).
82. The Governing Council endorsed the terms of reference of evaluation.
83. The Governing Council urged the Director to submit the final evaluation report, including her response to its recommendations, to the Governing Council at its 2009 session.
84. One representative commented on the time constraint, expressed reservations about a single evaluator conducting the evaluation and suggested a group be assigned to the task.

**IX. OTHER MATTERS**

85. The fifth session of the Governing Council was tentatively scheduled to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday of the third week of November 2009. The venue would be decided at a later date.

**X. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

86. The Governing Council adopted the report on its fourth session on 12 November 2008.

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