
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Governing Council

Sixteenth session

Chiba, Japan, 30 November and 1 December 2020

Item 2 of the provisional agenda¹

Matters arising from the fifteenth session of the Governing Council

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Note by the secretariat

The present document provides a summary of actions that have been or are being taken by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) to implement recommendations made by the Governing Council at its fifteenth session and thereafter.

Matter arising

Action taken/current status

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| 1. Having reviewed the progress achieved by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific as well as its administrative and financial status, the Governing Council acknowledges the significant achievements of the Institute, especially in light of the staffing situation in 2019. The Council appreciates the support from members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), training institutions and partners for the activities of the Institute. | 1. Noted. |
| 2. The Council calls on members and associate members of ESCAP to continue to provide and gradually increase voluntary cash contributions as well as in-kind contributions to support the activities of the Institute. | 2. The projected voluntary contributions for 2020-2024 were indicated in the budget framework of the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. A request seeking contribution from member states was issued on 20 February 2020 by the Secretary of the Economic and Social |

¹ E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC/2020/L.1d

² Issued without formal editing

Matter arising

Action taken/current status

- Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
3. Having reviewed the evaluation report presented by the independent evaluator and taken note of the recommendations therein, and bearing in mind that the independent evaluation of the Institute was conducted for the formulation of the 2020–2024 strategic plan, the Council:
 - (a) Broadly accepts the recommendations made in the independent evaluation report;
 - (b) Notes with concern that the qualitative nature of the independent evaluation may not have adequately considered the situation of all countries in the region, and requests ESCAP and the Institute to be more inclusive in the scope and coverage of their activities in the future;
 - (c) Raises concerns about the human resource scenarios and recommends that ESCAP not interpret those scenarios as implying a certain human resource profile for the Institute;
 - (d) Notes the intention of ESCAP to discuss a human- and financial-resource-mobilization strategy with member States for consideration by the Council in 2020.
 4. Having reviewed the draft 2020–2024 strategic plan and expressed support for the broad strategic direction of improving targeting and the multiplier effect, the Council notes that the strategic plan is focused on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and adequately addresses the following areas: training on big data, data analytics and applications; organization- and management-related training for the senior-level managers in the national statistical systems; improving e-learning training programmes; and the importance of face-to-face training, including blended training and long-term training provided with the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.
 5. The Council welcomes the willingness of countries and international organizations to cooperate in the delivery of training in the region and subregions.
3. (a) The recommendations made in the independent evaluation report were taken into account in the formulation of the draft 2020-2024 Strategic Plan which was approved by the Governing Council in the fifteenth session.
(b) ESCAP and the Institute have noted the concern and will be more inclusive in scope and coverage of the Institute’s activities in the future. The Institute has been delivering only e-learning programmes since March 2020 due to COVID-19. These programmes are equally accessible to all participants in the region. Sub-region wise number of participants who have taken these courses is given in the Director’s report in item 3 of the provisional agenda of this session.
(c) The concern raised regarding human resources profile of the Institute has been duly noted by ESCAP and has been addressed. All the posts of the Institute have been filled as recommended by the Governing Council in its fourteenth session.
(d) The draft resource mobilization strategy which addresses both human and financial-resource-mobilization strategy has been prepared and is included as item 4 of provisional agenda of this session for the consideration by the Council.
 4. The draft 2020-2024 Strategic Plan of the Institute presented in the fifteenth session of the Governing Council was prepared keeping in view the advice of the Governing Council and therefore was supported by the Council in the fifteenth session.
 5. Noted. One of the Goals of the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan is improved coverage and quality of statistical training through enhanced partnership and innovation which is being implemented even during the COVID-19 by development of the training programmes in

Matter arising

Action taken/current status

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| <p>6. The Council agrees to a short targeted consultation with the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific and subregional organizations (through electronic communication only).</p> <p>7. The Council endorses the draft 2020–2024 strategic plan subject to minor changes, if required.</p> <p>8. The Council welcomes the proposal on the celebration of the Institute’s fiftieth anniversary and expresses interest in contributing to the celebrations.</p> | <p>close collaboration with UN Women, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Statistics Korea (UNODC-KOSTAT) Centre of Excellence, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) of Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Statistics Division of ESCAP, PARIS21 and Moscow Higher School of Economics in the National Research University. These training programmes are being delivered with the support of National Statistical Offices in the region.</p> <p>6. As agreed by the Council, a short targeted consultation was done on the draft 2020-2024 Strategic Plan with the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific on 10 December 2019 during the fifth meeting of the Network. The consultation with three subregional organizations—Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) was done through email dated on 25 December 2019. The revised version of the draft 2020-2024 Strategic Plan was prepared taking into account various suggestions made by the Network and above mentioned sub-regional organizations. Revised draft 2020-2024 was circulated to members of the Council seeking their comments on 31 January 2020 with a request to approve the document by 14 February 2020. Since no comments were received from any member till the stipulated time, the final version of the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan of the Institute was circulated to the members of the Council and was also circulated to the heads of National Statistical Offices in the region on 20 February 2020.</p> <p>7. The 2020-2024 Strategic Plan was finalized on 20 February 2020 after minor changes.</p> <p>8. Under the COVID-19 situation, the Institute’s fiftieth anniversary was held virtually. It was included in the opening of the session of the seventh session of the Committee on Statistics, on 26 August 2020. Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP congratulated the Institute on its fiftieth anniversary and launched a fiftieth anniversary publication which gives the history of the Institute including the contribution the Institute made in the past fifty years and its future perspective. Congratulatory speech from Ms.</p> |
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Matter arising

Action taken/current status

Takaichi Sanae, Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan was streamed in a video. Mr. Yoshikai Shojiro, Director General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan also joined the celebration and delivered congratulatory remarks.

Prior to this celebratory event, the following two activities were undertaken:

(i) The Institute developed a video to showcase the achievements of the Institute and its future course which was streamed on the first day of Asia Pacific Statistics Week organized by Statistics Division of ESCAP from 15 to 18 June 2020.

(ii) A webinar session to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Institute was held virtually on 24 August 2020 on the topic ‘50 years of Statistical Capacity Building by UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP): Perspectives from Alumni Chief Statisticians’.

The video and the recording of both the events are available on the special 50th year anniversary web page created on the website of the Institute.

9. Having reviewed the document, the Council endorses the work programme and financial plan of the Institute for the year 2020.

9. Under the COVID-19 situation, all planned face-to-face events were canceled, postponed or turned to be virtual events from March 2020. To meet the need for statistical training, the Institute organized and delivered ten virtual training courses by e-learning and webinars as of 30 September 2020. Details of the activities undertaken during the year are presented in item 3 of provisional agenda: Report of the Director of the Institute.

10. The Council agrees that its sixteenth session will be held in Chiba, Japan, on 30 November and 1 December 2020.

10. The sixteenth session of the Council is being held on 30 November and 1 December 2020 from Chiba, Japan but remotely due to COVID-19 pandemic which has put restriction on travel across countries.