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

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Governing Council

**Seventeenth session**

Online, 2 and 3 December 2021

Item 2 of the provisional agenda<sup>1</sup>

**Matters arising from the sixteenth session of the Governing Council**

**Matters arising from the sixteenth session of the  
Governing Council<sup>2</sup>**

**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 sixteenth session and thereafter.

| <u>Matter arising</u>   | <u>Action taken/current status</u>  |
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| 1. The Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific notes the actions taken by the Institute to implement recommendations including those made during the fifteenth session.   | 1. Noted.   |
| 2. The Council, having reviewed the Institute's progress as well as its administrative and financial status, acknowledges the significant achievements made possible by the adoption of e-learning and webinars as alternative modalities during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic when international travel was not possible, beginning in April 2020. | 2. Noted.   |
| 3. Having reviewed the draft resource mobilization strategy of the Institute, the Council:  | 3. In line with (g), the draft resource mobilization strategy was further developed and shared with members of the Governing Council. It was provided for information only, considering all figures are indicative and subject to change as |
| (a) Welcomes the focus on partnerships and  |   |

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<sup>1</sup> E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC/2021/L.1d

<sup>2</sup> Issued without formal editing

## **Matter arising**

supports partnerships with the private sector, especially regarding new technologies, new technical skills and access to new data sources;

- (b) Recommends that the Institute strengthen partnerships with custodian agencies of the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to build capacity, address data gaps and increase the resource base;
- (c) Recommends that the Institute strive to diversify its resource base, given the difficulty of increasing voluntary cash contributions from member States due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resource limitations;
- (d) Notes the importance and efficiency of e-learning as a training modality and recommends that e-learning also be reflected in the draft resource mobilization strategy;
- (e) Recommends the consideration of non-reimbursable loans as a means of reinforcing human resources at the Institute;
- (f) Notes that further investigation will be required to determine how the budgetary framework of the United Nations, especially in light of the reforms of the United Nations development system, including programme support costs and cost recovery rates, will work in the context of the draft resource mobilization strategy;
- (g) Recommends that the draft strategy be further developed in greater detail for consideration by the Council at its seventeenth session.

## **Action taken/current status**

the situation on the ground evolves.

As for (a), (b) and (c), the revised resource mobilization strategy notes the possibility of support by private sector entities by inviting experts with special knowledge related to data, statistics or communications in the private sector to statistical training as resource persons, and by exposing training participants to private sector-managed platforms such as MS Teams and Zoom.

The revised resource mobilization strategy underlines the need to strengthen partnerships, especially with existing or new training institutes and with UN agencies and other development partners.

Considering the pandemic, needs for web-based training will continue, at least, in the blended style with possibility of face-to-face training during 2022-2024 as well, the resource mobilization strategy states the need to mobilize expertise through partnerships is greater than the need to mobilize financial resources. Thus, the revised resource mobilization strategy is a partnership mobilization strategy rather than a fund-raising strategy.

As for (d), the revised resource mobilization strategy emphasizes that, under strong needs for statistical training, the pandemic has changed the picture and demonstrated how much can be done through e-learning, other virtual means and delivery by partners including international organizations, regional organizations, research institutes, universities and private sectors for the best knowledge and skills to be delivered in training with remote support from the Institute for web-based training. It also notes that virtual training should continue after the pandemic, and that it can be closer to in person training via interactive functions such as chat-box, breakout rooms, polls, Padlet and discussion forum. Furthermore, virtual modalities can contribute to shortening resource gaps.

As for (e), the Institute will seek out possibilities for recruiting non-reimbursable loans from member States.

As for (f), The secretariat investigated and confirms that the United Nations Secretariat including the Institute follows a policy whereby the standard programme support cost rate: 13% (which was approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations through

## **Matter arising**

## **Action taken/current status**

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| <p>4. The Council calls on members and associate members to continuously provide voluntary cash contributions as well as in-kind contributions for the activities of the Institute, and notes the offer of in-kind contributions from several member States, such as facilities and human resources for the Institute's training programmes.</p> <p>5. The Council, having reviewed the work programme and financial plan of the Institute for the year 2021, endorses the programme and plan except for the hiring of three consultants for the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy, which is to be developed in further detail for consideration by the Council at its seventeenth session, in 2021.</p> <p>6. The Council, while noting that face-to-face training courses are to resume once the travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic are lifted, requests that the e-learning training modality continue, that more resources be devoted to it and that more of the Institute's training materials and resources be made accessible to users, and requests the Institute to provide training services on machine learning, data integration, data matching and other topics related to big data.</p> <p>7. The Council decides that its seventeenth session will be held in Bangkok on 13 and 14 December 2021.</p> | <p>resolution 35/217<sup>3</sup>) remains in force.</p> <p>4. Noted.</p> <p>5. Noted.</p> <p>6. Travel restrictions continued in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All training programmes have been delivered in virtual mode. The Institute organized 25 training courses as of 30 September in 2021. The number of courses was the largest in the 51 years' history of the Institute. Topics included data visualization and the use of big data for gender statistics for the Pacific. The training course on machine learning will also be delivered in 2021 and will be a regular feature thereafter.</p> <p>The Institute has stored e-learning materials in the Learning Management System (LMS) except for those which co-organizers of the training store in their own website. LMS provides access to training programmes according to whether they are facilitated learning or self-paced learning. Facilitated learning has facility of discussion box where participants of a course can interact amongst themselves and ask specific questions to facilitator. Training materials used in facilitated learning are placed in self-learning for public use.</p> <p>7. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the session needed to be held online (virtual mode). To accommodate the changed circumstances for the meeting, the secretariat proposed to members of the Governing Council to revise dates for the session as 2 and 3 December 2021, and received no negative response.</p> |
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<sup>3</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/35/217>

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