

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

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Governing Council

### **Fifteenth session**

Chiba, Japan, 9 and 10 December 2019

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

### **Matters arising from the fourteenth session of the Governing Council**

## **Matters arising from the fourteenth 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 fourteenth session and thereafter.

#### **Matter arising**

#### **Action taken/current status**

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| <p>1. Expressing concern that the documentation for the fourteenth session of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific was only available seven business days prior to the session, the Council requests that the secretariat strictly observe the six-week documentation rule in the future.</p> | <p>1. Noted. Invitation letter for participation along with annotated provisional agenda of the fifteenth session of the Council were circulated on 18 October 2019. All official documents for the Council session were circulated on 28 October 2019.</p> |
| <p>2. Expressing appreciation for the Institute's achievements in 2018, the Council notes with concern the projected lack of a number of staff members at the beginning of 2019.</p>   | <p>2. Noted.</p>  |
| <p>3. The Council acknowledges the need to modify the work programme and financial plan for 2019, due to the lack of a number of staff members. It also requests that all vacant posts for lecturers be filled as soon as possible. In response to the proposal</p>  | <p>3. Noted.</p> <p>a. All the three courses supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency were delivered according to schedule. Three consultants were employed for one course;</p>  |

<sup>1</sup> E/ESCAP/SIAP/GC/2019/L.1

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

<u>Matter arising</u>	<u>Action taken/current status</u>
made by the Director of the Institute during the session, members of the Council made the following comments:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The representative of Japan requested that all courses supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency take place as planned. If necessary, filling any gaps in expertise through consultancies could be discussed;</li> <li>b. The representative of the Republic of Korea requested that the Institute conduct a course focusing on big data for the Sustainable Development Goals as planned, utilizing the same partnership modalities as in 2018;</li> <li>c. The representative of Malaysia offered to host and support one country course in 2019, utilizing the same partnership modalities as in 2018.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. The training programme on big data was delivered in collaboration with the Republic of Korea as planned and with the same partnership modalities as 2018;</li> <li>c. Two country courses were delivered in collaboration with the Department of Statistics, Malaysia, utilizing same partnership modalities as 2018.</li> </ul>
4. The Council requests the Director to submit a revised programme of work and financial plan for 2019 by mid-December 2018, taking into account the comments made, for its review and endorsement.	4. Draft revised programme of work and financial plan for 2019 was submitted by the Director to members and observers of the Council on 7 December 2018 with a deadline of 14 December 2018 for comments. To adhere to the deadline set by the Council, the letter also stated that in case no comments were received by the deadline, it would be presumed that the revised programme of work and financial plan was endorsed. Comments were received from two countries. A final revised programme of work and financial plan for 2019, incorporating these suggestions, was sent to the members and observers of the Council on 17 December 2018. No further comments were received.
5. The Council requests the secretariat to respect the views of the host Government concerning its financial contribution to the Institute with regard to the Statistician/Lecturer posts, which would be at the P-3 level only. In this regard, the representative of Japan requests the secretariat to submit a cost plan for 2019 by the end of 2018.	<p>5. Respecting the views of the host Government, all the lecturer posts are in the process of being filled at P3 level during 2019. Two newly hired lecturers have commenced their work in April 2019. The third lecturer would join the Institute on 18 November 2019. The fourth lecturer has sought time to join in May 2020.</p> <p>A cost plan for 2019 was submitted to the members of the Council on 27 December 2018.</p>
6. The Council recommends that the crafting of the 2020–2024 strategic plan take the following into consideration: improving course effectiveness; impact of e-learning; supply and demand analysis; use of country expertise; mobilizing necessary resources to meet short-term demands; flexibility in	<p>6. The 2020-2024 Strategic Plan has been crafted taking into account the points made at the fourteenth Governing Council.</p> <p>In addition, these points were communicated to the small working group of the Council entrusted with the task to formulate the first</p>

**Matter arising**

**Action taken/current status**

delivery modalities and mobilization of expertise in highly specialized areas; better targeting and multiplier effect; and delivery through partnerships with national training institutions and other development partners.

draft 2020-2024 Strategic Plan of the Institute.

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| <p>7. The Council agrees to establish a small working group of Council members to write a first draft of the 2020–2024 strategic plan, with a view to further consultation with the Council and possibly the membership of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific, subregional organizations and other important stakeholders.</p> <p>8. The Council endorses the report on the review of the implementation of the strategic plan for 2015–2019 (ESCAP/SIAP/GC/2018/4), noting the need for further analysis of participants' evaluation and countries' demands.</p> <p>9. The Council notes the benefit of sufficient time to review draft recommendations and decisions and requests the secretariat to consider this in developing the schedule for future sessions.</p> <p>10. The Council decides the fifteenth session of the Council will be held in Chiba, Japan, in December 2019.</p> | <p>7. A small working group comprising Philippines, Japan, Russian Federation and Vanuatu was established for preparation of draft 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. However, during elections to the Council in May 2019, Vanuatu did not contest the election and Philippines was not re-elected. Therefore, the Vice Chair of the Council proposed to members on 9 July 2019 that the vacancies on the small working group be filled by Thailand and Bangladesh. The proposal of the Vice Chair of the Council was agreed by members of the Council.</p> <p>8. Based on the notes of the Council, a revised report on the review of the implementation of the strategic plan for 2015-2019 was prepared and is available on the Institute's website<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p>9. Noted. The Secretariat has considered this for future sessions and will, for the fifteenth session of the Council, circulate an electronic copy of draft of the document of recommendations and actions of "Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention", in English only, to participants of the Council session late in the evening of the first day of the Council session for its consideration on the morning of the next day of the session.</p> <p>10. Noted. The fifteenth session of the Council is being held on 9 and 10 December 2019 in Chiba, Japan.</p> |
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**Matters arising after the fourteenth session of the Governing Council**

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| <p>11. In 2015, the Commission decided through resolution 71/1 on "Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda" to review the continued substantive relevance and financial viability of each regional institution every five years. In response to this mandate, the secretariat prepared an</p> | <p>11. An evaluation of the Institute was carried out by an independent evaluator: Mr. Frank Noij, an expert in evaluation. Mr. Jonathan Palmer, a statistics expert, provided technical support to the evaluator in an advisory role. The report of the independent evaluation is placed under document ESCAP/SIAP/GC/2019/3 for consideration of the agenda item 4 (a): 2020-2024 Strategic Plan of the Institute:</p> |
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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.unsiap.or.jp/about/gc14.html>

**Matter arising**

**Action taken/current status**

evaluation plan setting a schedule for the first round of evaluations of regional institutions commencing 2018. The evaluation of SIAP was planned in 2020.<sup>4</sup> Considering the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan of SIAP was to be prepared in 2019, the evaluation of the Institute was brought forward to 2019 so the Council can consider it in formulating the 2020-24 Strategic Plan.

Evaluation of the Institute.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/ESCAP-Evaluation-Plan-2018--2019.pdf>