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Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Management issues**Proposed programme plan for 2026******Note by the secretariat******Summary*

The proposed programme plan for 2026 is submitted to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for its consideration.

In preparing the proposed programme plan, every effort has been made to reflect the priorities of member States and the vision of the secretariat to support member States in achieving a prosperous Asia and the Pacific based on inclusive and sustainable development. Furthermore, the following were taken into consideration: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Pact for the Future, the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, lessons learned from the implementation of past programme plans and the outcomes of a series of evaluations. The proposed programme plan is also aimed at ensuring a balance between the Commission's normative, analytical and capacity-building work and at maximizing its comparative advantages, including through the adoption of multisectoral approaches with a strong focus on issues that are regional in nature. The proposed programme plan builds on partnerships between organizations within and outside of the United Nations system and strengthens linkages between subregions within the Asia-Pacific region for the mutual benefit of all member States.

The present document sets out the overall orientation of the programme of the Commission and the programmes of work for each subprogramme or subprogramme component. Each subprogramme or component framework covers: (a) the objective to which the subprogramme or component contributes; (b) the strategy for achieving the objective; (c) information on programme performance in 2024; (d) the planned results for 2026; and (e) the deliverables for the period 2024–2026.

The Commission may wish to endorse the proposed programme plan for 2026 and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

After it is considered by the Commission, the proposed programme plan for 2026 will be reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. As part of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for 2026, it will subsequently be submitted to the Assembly for approval at its eightieth session.

* ESCAP/81/1.

** The summary of the present document is being circulated in all the working languages of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The text of the proposed programme plan for 2026, which follows the summary, is being issued without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

*** The present document was submitted after the deadline owing to the need for internal review by the Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance.

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Proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024

Overall orientation

Mandates and background

1. As the principal intergovernmental platform of the United Nations in the region, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) supports its members and associate members in pursuing solutions for sustainable development. Its mandates derive from the priorities established in relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
2. ESCAP was established by Council resolution 37 (IV), and Council resolution 1895 (LVII) amended its mandate to include the social dimension of integrated development. Its intergovernmental bodies, which comprise the Commission and its sectoral committees, provide the foundation for ESCAP's support for national Governments and other stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its work is also guided by General Assembly resolutions, including Assembly resolution 74/4, and the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific, endorsed by the Commission in its resolution 73/9, which serve as reference frameworks.
3. In the Pact for the Future (A/RES/79/1), Member States committed to 56 actions in the areas of sustainable development and financing for development, international peace and security, science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation, youth and future generations, and global governance to protect the needs and interests of present and future generations. In honouring the commitment and within its mandate, ESCAP will support its members and associate members in implementing these ambitious and transformative actions to implement the 2030 Agenda and leave no one behind. The support delivered by the Commission to member States is also provided through the regular programme of technical cooperation and Development Account projects.

Strategy and external factors for 2026

4. ESCAP's programme strategy ensures a coherent, balanced and integrated support to member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The strategy leverages the complementarity of ESCAP's three core functions, namely, research and knowledge management, the facilitation of intergovernmental consensus-building and norm-setting, and capacity development services. In accordance with its mandate and in line with its comparative advantages, the strategy addresses the needs and requests of its member States and is implemented by ESCAP's nine subprogrammes at the regional and subregional levels. It takes new and evolving development challenges into account and builds on lessons learned, addresses gaps, avoids duplication and overlap.
5. In implementing its strategy, ESCAP accords priority to supporting countries in special situations, which constitute more than half its member States. In line with the Antigua and Barbados Agenda for small island developing States, the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and the new Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries, which aim to accelerate sustainable development and resilience for countries in special situations, ESCAP will actively engage with all relevant stakeholders to support their implementation at the national, subregional and regional levels and to integrate them into strategic plans and annual work.
6. With few years left until 2030, the scaling up of financing and the reprioritization of scarce capital are needed to bridge the financing gap to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific. To assist its member States in evidence-based macroeconomic policymaking amid fiscal constraints, rising debt vulnerabilities and tight financial conditions, ESCAP will conduct research on public debt sustainability assessments, domestic resource mobilization, affordable financing access and international cooperation on debt resolution, aiming

at increasing investments in sustainable development. In 2026, ESCAP will also focus on translating the intergovernmentally agreed outcomes of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development to the context of the Asia-Pacific region.

7. Trade, investment and innovation are powerful engines for growth and sustainable development and trade has been a key driver of economic dynamism and rising prosperity across Asia and the Pacific. To make trade more competitive, sustainable and inclusive, ESCAP will foster cooperation by assisting member States to accede to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. Recognizing the important role of the private sector in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it will also facilitate knowledge-sharing and regional cooperation on the promotion of enterprise and business innovation, in particular inclusive and socially responsible businesses, women-led enterprises and disability-inclusive businesses. ESCAP further plans to provide technical assistance and capacity-building on foreign direct investment for sustainable development and to elevate the role of business in promoting gender equality and addressing environmental and social considerations.
8. Whereby trade and investment can create employment, raise incomes and help spread technology, knowledge and ideas, inclusive national social protection systems enable every person to access social protection at adequate benefit levels and enjoy an adequate standard of living throughout their lifetime. Guided by the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP will support member States in their efforts to prevent and alleviate poverty and reduce vulnerability. It will strengthen capacities to develop inclusive policies that can address rising poverty, unemployment and widening inequalities in view of multiple socioeconomic and environmental challenges. To advance the rights of persons with disabilities and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ESCAP will assist member States in the effective implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032, as well as the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy.
9. Technology and innovation hold great promise to reduce inequalities and support sustainable development. To harness digital technologies for the achievement of the Goals, ESCAP will support member States’ efforts to implement the Global Digital Compact and the Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific. In the endeavour to promote regional and subregional cooperation on digital connectivity, inclusion and transformation, the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026 can serve as a reference point. ESCAP will provide technical assistance, policy analysis and capacity-building, and facilitate the dissemination of context-specific approaches to developing and implementing digital solutions for sustainable development. It plans to enhance awareness and knowledge-sharing among members and associate members on digital innovation and on enhancing digital trust and inclusion, on leveraging emerging digital opportunities and on mitigating digital risks and challenges
10. Asia and the Pacific has become a hub for science, technology and innovation, including digital technologies, that bring new and innovative solutions to pressing global problems. Geospatial information applications have come to play a more prominent role in the implementation and realization of the 2030 Agenda, with a particular focus on disaster risk reduction. Through the long-standing framework of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, ESCAP brings together space agencies and relevant stakeholders to facilitate the provision of high-resolution satellite imagery and big Earth data analytical tools for consistent natural disaster risk monitoring and reduction, with a focus on countries in special situations. In 2026, ESCAP will strengthen regional and subregional cooperation mechanisms to secure financing for resilience-building and will continue to develop a regional strategy to support the achievement of early warnings for all by 2027 by strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems in Asia and the Pacific in coordination with member States and relevant partners, as applicable.
11. In addressing the environmental challenges of the region, member States recognized themes of common interest in the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional

Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific and through the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution. In supporting the implementation of the declaration, ESCAP will facilitate regional cooperation for sharing best practices and knowledge to support efforts to achieve national goals of low-carbon transition and low-greenhouse-gas emission development strategies and facilitate regional cooperation programmes to protect the ocean, to accelerate the implementation of Commission resolution 76/1, and efforts to combat air pollution through regional dialogue and technical cooperation under the Regional Action Programme, including through capacity-building and technical advisory services.

12. ESCAP is also committed to promoting cooperation among member States in the region to effectively implement energy-related Sustainable Development Goals and to provide a platform for dialogue and knowledge sharing to enhance energy security and connectivity. ESCAP will support member States in implementing the Ministerial Declaration on Building a Secure, Sustainable and Interconnected Energy Future for Asia and the Pacific and will, upon request, develop national roadmaps for the implementation of Goal 7 and assist member States in formulating and implementing their long-term strategies on sustainable energy.
13. Promoting the transition to a sustainable energy system, ESCAP will also support regional cooperation on sustainable, low-emission and energy-efficient modes of transport, and will promote collaboration across various sectors of the economy to address climate change. To this end, the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) serves as a framework to address the negative effects generated by freight transport, including greenhouse gas emissions, and provides the basis upon which ESCAP implements capacity-building projects to strengthen regional and interregional transport connectivity and promote the integration of the environmental aspects of international supply chains and the introduction of digital and intelligent transport systems, including in urban settings.
14. To enhance sustainable urban development, ESCAP will support the localization of the Goals and promote integrated urban planning. It will support member States in strengthening policy and governance, increasing financing and building capacity at the national and local levels, taking into account different national circumstances, and levels of development and in alignment with national priorities and policies. Enhanced coordination and cooperation between local and national authorities at all levels will facilitate the vertical integration of climate-sensitive urban development policies along with the capacity building of cities to manage urban growth and develop local climate actions, deploy smart city technologies, build resilient infrastructure and adopt nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches to minimize the impact of urbanization on the environment.
15. As ESCAP facilitates regional intergovernmental dialogues of international and regional frameworks for cooperation, it will work with member States to promote and work on intergenerational issues and anchor the outcomes of the Second World Summit for Social Development in the context of the Asia and the Pacific region to support the Declaration on Future Generations (Annex II of A/RES/79/1). ESCAP will support member States upon their request and in line with national priorities in the implementation of the outcomes of the fifth review and appraisal of the Madrid Internal Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, in Asia and the Pacific, as well as the recommendations of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women emanating from the review of Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (Beijing +30). It will also ensure that the recommendations of the Asia-Pacific regional review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration will be reflected at the global deliberations.
16. The strategy of ESCAP is anchored in data and evidence-based analysis. Its support to member States to harness the power of data to leave no one behind is driven by its resolution 75/9 on the Implementation of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind and will be further defined by the outcomes of the Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. ESCAP will promote the adoption of new statistical methods to support the modernization of statistical business processes to meet the data needs of Governments and the information needs of modern societies more effectively. It will continue its

support for developing a conceptual framework on data governance and invest in improving data collection, analysis and dissemination, thereby assisting member States in developing strategic foresight to manage policies that incentivize all individuals and the private sector to protect people.

17. By convening the annual Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, ESCAP provides a region-wide multi-stakeholder platform for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, focusing on peer learning and the exchange of practical solutions for achieving sustainable development. It will be convened with member States, United Nations development system entities, other international and regional organizations, the private sector and civil society, as appropriate, to inform the high-level political forum on sustainable development.
18. With regard to cooperation with other entities at the global, regional, national and local levels, ESCAP implements its strategy in collaboration with global, regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies and international organizations, regional and local government associations, civil society networks and the private sector in an open and transparent manner. Building on its longstanding partnerships, ESCAP will collaborate with international, regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate. It will implement joint activities with international development banks and partner with research institutes, associations and other civil society organizations, as appropriate. ESCAP will also proactively engage with its development partners to strategically implement its programme, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as appropriate.
19. With regard to inter-agency coordination and liaison, ESCAP, in close coordination with the other regional commissions, will contribute to global analytical products and will implement joint projects under the Development Account. It also nurtures close ties with the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to provide coordinated support to the countries in special situations in the region. The subregional offices of ESCAP serve as the main point of contact for resident coordinator offices and United Nations country teams and coordinate its contributions to common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. At the regional level, ESCAP will provide secretariat services to the Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific, and its subprogrammes will support issue-based coalitions. ESCAP will continue to co-lead the issue-based coalition on raising ambitions on climate action with the United Nations Environment Programme, where its expertise, geared to help the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 7 and 13 and the implementation of the Paris Agreement, is of specific relevance.
20. With regard to the external factors, the overall plan for 2026 is based on the following planning assumptions:
 - (a) National Governments maintain and strengthen their commitment to the Commission as the principal intergovernmental platform in the region for leveraging regional cooperation to meet transboundary and common challenges;
 - (b) Governments and other stakeholders continue to collaborate with the Commission in undertaking the proposed programme activities with the necessary capacity and resources;
 - (c) Extrabudgetary funding for technical cooperation continues to be available.
21. ESCAP integrates a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as relevant and appropriate. Gender equality and the empowerment of women is a thematic area for subprogramme 6, while advancing the disaggregation of data, including disaggregation by sex, is a focus of subprogramme 7. In the 2026 programme plan, subprogrammes 2, 6, 7 and component 4 of subprogramme 8 specifically contribute results in this regard, while subprogrammes 2,3 and 6 to 9 mainstream gender equality and the empowerment of women in their respective strategies. In 2026, ESCAP will also continue to implement its gender equality policy and implementation plan to further anchor the achievements to date across its programme of work.
22. In line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, ESCAP is committed to mainstreaming disability perspectives and ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all its work through

its implementation of the ESCAP disability inclusion policy and its action plan. Subprogramme 6 and component 1 of subprogramme 8 incorporates disability-specific interventions to protect and empower persons with disabilities and, ultimately, to build disability-inclusive societies.

23. To better support member States to progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, ESCAP will build on its existing capabilities in data, digital, innovation, foresight and behavioural science in line with action 45 (a) of the Pact for the Future. It will continue to nurture a supportive and inclusive environment and leverage its innovation network to generate, test and scale up novel ideas, processes, products or services. It will promote the use of strategic foresight and a more systematic approach to applying future thinking and behavioural science in its research portfolio. In alignment with its data strategy, it will continue to apply data-driven approaches to decision making and shift its expertise, processes and technology to govern and use data from diverse sources to create additional value for member States.

Legislative mandates

24. The list below, which was reviewed in the preparation of the proposed programme budget, provides all mandates entrusted to the programme.

General Assembly resolutions

61/16	Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council		implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway
66/288	The future we want	74/4	Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly
67/10	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community		
69/15	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	74/306	Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic
69/142	Realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond	74/307	United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19
69/277	Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations	75/290 A	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/305 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030		Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 67/290 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and 70/299 on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)		Economic and Social Council
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development		High-level political forum on sustainable development
70/170	Towards the full realization of an inclusive and accessible United Nations for persons with disabilities	75/290 B	Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries
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	76/258 76/273	Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities to conferences and meetings of the United Nations system
74/3	Political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the	76/296 77/10	Our ocean, our future, our responsibility The situation in Afghanistan

77/12	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations	79/1	Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity
77/21	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	79/9	The Pact for the Future
77/323	Extension of the preparatory period preceding the graduation of Solomon Islands from the least developed country category	79/144 79/149	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation
77/330	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization	79/159 79/170	Oceans and the law of the sea
77/332	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum	79/178	Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities
77/338	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization	79/199	Rights of Indigenous Peoples
78/1	Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly	79/202	The right to development
78/144	Agricultural technology for sustainable development	79/203	Human rights and extreme poverty
78/147	Central Asia facing environmental challenges: fostering regional solidarity for sustainable development and prosperity		Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development
78/160	Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development	79/212 79/218	Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21
78/162	Development cooperation with middle-income countries		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
78/166	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system	79/219	Combating sand and dust storms
78/178	Promoting social integration through social inclusion	79/221	Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
78/195	Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies	79/223 79/225	Follow-up to the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
78/259	International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South		Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)
78/265	Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development	79/226	Women in development
78/285	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/290 A on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and resolution 75/290 B on the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level	79/227 79/228 79/230	Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
78/311	Enhancing International Cooperation on Capacity-building of Artificial Intelligence	79/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
78/317	The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A	79/236	Agriculture development, food security and nutrition
			Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners
			Graduation of Cambodia and Senegal from the least developed country category
			Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034
			South-South cooperation

Economic and Social Council resolutions

37 (IV)	Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East	2023/14	Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
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”		
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields	2023/31	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
2013/19	Conclusion of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development		
2016/11	Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	2023/33	Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations
2018/5	Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all	2024/3	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2020/5	Strengthening coordination of the statistical programmes in the United Nations system		
2021/10	Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all	2024/7	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-sixth session
		2024/18	Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2022–2031
2022/11	A conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to advance sustainable development	2024/14	Science, technology and innovation for development

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

66/1	Incheon Declaration	72/9	Regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
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	73/3	Advancing integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific
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	73/5	Strengthening Asia-Pacific’s support for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14
68/8	Enhancing coordination within the United Nations system and cooperation with regional organizations for promoting regional development	73/9	Regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific
70/11	Implementing the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	74/1	Supporting the smooth transition of the least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific towards a sustainable graduation
71/1	Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda	74/6	Advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific
71/4	Implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	74/10	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
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	78/1	Bangkok Declaration Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: A Common Agenda to Advance Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific
75/3	Advancing partnerships within and across regions for the sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific		
75/4	Strengthening regional cooperation to tackle air pollution challenges in Asia and the Pacific	78/2	A conference structure of the Commission to advance sustainable development
75/9	Implementation of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind	79/1	Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development
		79/3	Supporting the sustainable development of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in Asia and the Pacific
76/1	Strengthening cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	79/4	Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for a better future for all in Asia and the Pacific
76/2	Regional cooperation to address the socioeconomic effects of pandemics and crises in Asia and the Pacific	80/2	Sustainable development in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
77/1	Building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific		

Subprogramme 1

Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

General Assembly resolutions

78/217	Further modalities of the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development	79/197	External debt sustainability and development
78/322	Multidimensional vulnerability index	79/198	Promoting investments for sustainable development
79/196	International financial system and development		

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
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Subprogramme 2

Trade, investment and innovation

General Assembly resolutions

79/195	International trade and development	79/201	Entrepreneurship for sustainable development
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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

68/3	Enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable intraregional trade facilitation	72/3	Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade
70/5	Strengthening regional cooperation and capacity for enhanced trade and investment in support of sustainable development	72/4	Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
70/6	Implementation of the decision of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a	72/12	Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific
			Harnessing science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

75/8 Advancing science, technology and innovation for the implementation of the

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 3 Transport

General Assembly resolutions

69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development	77/286 78/148	World Sustainable Transport Day 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	78/290	Improving global road safety
76/294	Political declaration of the high-level meeting on 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	74/2	Promotion of the regional framework for the planning, design, development and operation of dry ports of international importance
71/7	Adoption of the Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport	74/3	Improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable transport systems
71/8	Strengthening intraregional and interregional connectivity in Asia and the Pacific	78/3	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 4 Environment and development

General Assembly resolutions

71/222	International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028		Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development
71/256	New Urban Agenda	78/272	Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction
74/212	International Day of Clean Air for blue skies		
75/212	United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028	78/327	The modalities of the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
77/158	International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation, 2025		
77/334	Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028	79/208 79/210	Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development Harmony with Nature
78/128	2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable		

Economic and Social Council resolution

2017/24 Human settlements

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

70/12	Strengthening efforts on human settlements and sustainable urban development for the Asia-Pacific region	79/2	Regional cooperation to accelerate climate action on oceans in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development
71/9	Strengthening cooperation on sustainable management of water resources in Asia and the Pacific	79/6	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific
72/2	Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization	79/7	Advancing regional cooperation for sustainable urban development and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific
74/4	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development for Asia and the Pacific, 2017		

Subprogramme 5

Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

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	79/87	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
		79/139	International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development
77/289	Political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	79/194	Information and communications technologies for sustainable development
		79/205	Disaster risk reduction
78/314	United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, (2025–2034)		

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	2024/13	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 and decisions

61/6	Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	72/11	Advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific for implementation of internationally agreed development goals
71/11	Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management	73/7	Enhancing regional cooperation for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in Asia and the Pacific
71/12	Strengthening regional mechanisms for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in Asia and the Pacific	75/5	Implementation of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration of the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
72/7	Regional cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific	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)
72/10	Regional review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines		

75/7	Advancing the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative through regional cooperation	79/9	Implementation of the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific
Decision 78/6	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	79/10	Promoting digital cooperation and inclusion through the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026
79/8	Consideration of the modalities for the establishment of the United Nations special programme for the Aral Sea basin	80/1	Leveraging digital innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

Subprogramme 6 Social development

General Assembly resolutions

49/128	Report of the International Conference on Population and Development	78/179	Policies and programmes involving youth
65/234	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014	78/181	Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas
65/312	Outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding	78/182	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
68/4	Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development	78/211	Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration		
73/326	Format and organizational aspects of the international migration review forums	78/318	Modalities of the “World Social Summit” under the title “the Second World Summit for Social Development”
75/131	United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030)	78/324	Consideration of decision 14/1 of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing Titled “Recommendations regarding the identification of possible gaps in the protection of the human rights of older persons and how best to address them”
76/266	Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum		
77/189	Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities	79/146	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
77/193	Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: gender stereotypes and negative social norms	79/147	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
78/176	Preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family	79/152	Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: the digital environment
		79/217	International migration and development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2016/25	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development		implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
		2022/4	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women
2017/12	Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the	2022/5	Thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

2023/12	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development	2024/6	Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication
2023/15	Fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002		
2024/4	Promoting care and support systems for social development		

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

74 (XXIII)	Regional co-operation in the field of population		Population and Development including the Chair's summary
66/12	Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference	Decision 76/8	Asia-Pacific indicator framework for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and of the commitments contained in the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development
67/5	Full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region		
67/6	Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP		
69/14	Implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing	Decision 77/6	Report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
70/14	Enhancing participation of youth in sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	79/5	Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032
Decision 70/22	Report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference	Decision 79/6	Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
71/13	Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	Decision 80/5	Report on the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference
74/11	Strengthening regional cooperation to tackle inequality in all its forms in Asia and the Pacific	Decision 80/6	Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032
Decision 75/7	Report of the Midterm Review of the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on		

**Subprogramme 7
Statistics**

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	2017/7	Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2011/15	Revision of the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific		
2013/21	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	2022/3	Ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions

246 (XLII)	Statistical services 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
65/2	Regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development in Asia and the Pacific		

67/11	Strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific	71/14	Asian and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade, 2015–2024
67/12	Improvement of civil registration and vital 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
69/15	Implementing the outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	78/4	Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
69/16	A core set of population and social statistics to guide national capacity development in Asia and the Pacific		

Subprogramme 8 Subregional activities for development

General Assembly resolutions

63/260	Development-related activities	78/9	Commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
72/283	Strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in the Central Asian region		

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution

244 (XLI)	The Commission's Activities in the Pacific		
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Subprogramme 9 Energy

General Assembly resolutions

65/151	International Year of Sustainable Energy for All	78/149	The pivotal role of reliable and stable energy connectivity in driving sustainable development
69/225	Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy	79/211	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
77/327	International Day of Clean Energy		

Economic and Social Council resolution

2011/14	Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific	2023/19	United Nations Resource Management System Principles and Requirements
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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; 74/9	Implementation of the outcomes of the 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
		80/3	Ministerial Declaration on Building a Secure, Sustainable and Interconnected Energy Future for Asia and the Pacific

Deliverables

- Table 19.1 lists all cross-cutting deliverables of the programme.

Table 19.1

Cross-cutting deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	9	8	9	9
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	3	3	3	4
2. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	6	5	6	5
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	36	35	36	36
Meetings of:				
3. The Commission	10	10	10	10
4. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	8	7	8	8
5. The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	6	6	6	6
6. The expert groups on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	3	3	3	3
7. The Committee for Programme and Coordination	1	1	1	1
8. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	2	2	2	2
9. The Fifth Committee	2	2	2	2
10. The Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific	4	4	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	2	2	1	1
11. On selected issues pertinent to the sustainable development of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	2	2	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	2	2	2	2
12. Subregional workshops on priorities of the programmes of action for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	1	1	1	1
13. Policy dialogues based on the <i>Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report</i>	1	1	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	5	5	5	5
14. ESCAP theme study	1	1	1	1
15. <i>Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report</i>	1	1	1	1
16. On the implementation of the 2030 Agenda	1	1	1	1
17. <i>Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal</i>	2	2	2	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	4	7	4	4
18. On issues relevant to Asia-Pacific countries in special situations	4	7	4	4
C. Substantive deliverables				
Databases and substantive digital materials: Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goal partnership data portal containing more than 1,000 data sets on the Sustainable Development Goals.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: observance of United Nations international days, including United Nations Day; outreach programmes upon demand for the general public, including for academic organizations, for approximately 300 participants.				
External and media relations: press releases and op-ed articles on the work and activities of ESCAP; newsletter on subregional activities for development, press conferences/press briefings and press interviews for publications and events.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: multimedia promotional content, including videos and educational materials for major publications and events; blog posts for the ESCAP website and content for ESCAP social media accounts.				

Evaluation activities

26. The evaluations completed in 2024 have guided the proposed programme plan for 2026.
 - (a) ESCAP Evaluation of subprogramme 9: Energy
 - (b) Evaluation of ESCAP's performance on integrating a gender perspective into its programmes and projects.
27. In response to the findings of the evaluations referenced above, ESCAP conducted needs assessments with member States to identify priority capacity-building initiatives on access to clean and affordable energy services. ESCAP also strengthened partnerships with governments and national organizations to implement these initiatives at the country level for greater impact and sustainability. Additionally, ESCAP initiated an update to its strategy in gender equality and the empowerment of women. This process includes reinforcing staff capacity and resource allocation to enable enhanced integration of a gender perspective across ESCAP's substantive areas of work.
28. The following evaluations to be conducted by ESCAP are planned for 2026:
 - (a) Evaluation of the Implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022-2026); and
 - (b) ESCAP's approach to leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) to support member States.

Programme of work

Subprogramme 1

Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

Objective

29. 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

30. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will support member States, including countries in special situations, in transforming their economies in a manner that is consistent with the 2030 Agenda, contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8–10, 12 and 17, and promote a development approach that goes beyond the primary focus on economic growth. Specifically, the subprogramme will:
 - (a) Support member States in exploring, adopting and mainstreaming economic development policies and financing strategies aligned with the achievement of the Goals, through methodologies developed through and policy recommendations emerging from knowledge products, technical advisory and capacity-building efforts and the facilitation of knowledge exchange and consensus-building among member States;
 - (b) Undertake research, advisory and capacity-building services on country-level policymaking and regional-level sharing of policy experiences, guided by the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development of the Commission and further supported through the Consultative Group on Financing Strategies for the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (c) Undertake outreach and follow-up of the subprogramme's research and knowledge products through policy dialogues and closer cooperation of members of the Consultative Group, policy think tanks, resident coordinator offices and United Nations country teams to further integrate the subprogramme's research and capacity-building work;

- (d) Provide substantive inputs to global and United Nations system-wide processes and initiatives, in particular on financing for development issues, and to task teams and publications coordinated by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
31. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Evidence-based economic policies and development strategies for strengthened economic resilience, inclusive development and environmental sustainability;
 - (b) The strengthened ability of member States, in particular least developed countries, to mobilize and allocate financial resources for sustainable development, including by mainstreaming sustainable development into public and private financing;
 - (c) Member States employ economic and financial policy levers, with enhanced capacity to promote the transformation of their economies towards resilient, inclusive and sustainable development pathways.

Programme performance in 2024

Regulatory climate risk analysis for supervised financial institutions

32. Risks related to climate change, when not factored into banking policy and supervision, could also pose a risk to financial sector stability. In 2024, the subprogramme provided technical assistance to the Bank of Mongolia, in developing and launching its first climate risk analysis for five systemically important banks in Mongolia's banking sector. This places the Bank of Mongolia to be among the first landlocked developing countries' regulators to incorporate the management of climate risk within their prudential policy framework. Training activities were conducted for both the regulator and the participating banks to ensure necessary capacities are developed in the financial system, which would support sustainability and replicability of the exercise.
33. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.2).

Table 19.2
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)
—	—	Considerations related to climate risks incorporated into the Bank of Mongolia's operations and supervisory activities for the Mongolian financial system

Planned results for 2026

Result 1: engagement of member States for evidence-based and forward-looking macroeconomic policymaking aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

34. The subprogramme's work contributed to the engagement of relevant ministries from Bhutan, Cambodia, Maldives and Pakistan on the organization of substantive macroeconomic policy dialogues, which met the planned target.
35. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.3).

Table 19.3
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
National policy dialogues on substantive macroeconomic policy involved policymakers as participants	Relevant ministries of three member States (Cambodia, Mongolia and Sri Lanka) engaged on the organization of substantive macroeconomic policy dialogues on rethinking public debt	Relevant ministries of four member States (Bhutan, Cambodia, Maldives and Pakistan) engaged on the organization of substantive macroeconomic policy dialogues	Relevant ministries of three or more member States engage on the organization of substantive macroeconomic policy dialogues	Relevant ministries and pertinent policy institutions of three or more member States engage on the organization of substantive macroeconomic policy dialogues

Result 2: improved policymaking for macroeconomic and financing for development issues

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

36. The subprogramme's work contributed to 86 per cent of policymakers acknowledging strengthened policy awareness on emerging macroeconomic and financing for development issues and 68 per cent acknowledging the intention to apply newly acquired policy ideas in actual policymaking and implementation, which met the planned target.
37. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.4).

Table 19.4
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
Member States benefited from updates on policy research through the Consultative Group on Financing Strategies for the Sustainable Development Goals	Policymakers engaged in interactive discussions with experts through policy dialogues on flagship publications	86 per cent of policymakers surveyed acknowledged strengthened policy awareness on emerging macroeconomic and financing for development issues 68 per cent acknowledged intention to apply newly acquired policy ideas in actual policymaking and implementation	At least 65 per cent of policymakers engaged acknowledge strengthened policy awareness on emerging macroeconomic and financing for development issues	At least 75 per cent of policymakers engaged acknowledge strengthened policy awareness on emerging macroeconomic and financing for development issues

Result 3: member States introduce new policy initiatives and reforms to accelerate financing for sustainable development

Proposed programme plan for 2026

38. The subprogramme has been building capacities of member States and has supported the enacting of policy actions to accelerate financing for the Goals. This has included supporting capital markets regulators in accelerating the use of sustainable capital market instruments and ministries of finance and economy in developing and implementing policies to finance sustainable development.

Lessons learned and planned change

39. The lesson for the subprogramme was that building longer-term partnerships with government counterparts would result in better understanding of their capacity building and analytical needs. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will seek more consistent engagement with partners, and provide targeted technical assistance with national governments for more impactful policy actions.
40. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.5).

Table 19.5
Performance measure

<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (actual)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>	<i>2026 (planned)</i>
Bangladesh, Bhutan and Cambodia initiated policy changes to strengthen financing for sustainable development	Bhutan, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka initiated policy changes to strengthen financing for sustainable development	<p>Bhutan developed its Sustainability Bond Framework.</p> <p>Cambodia issued new green bonds, began drafting a National Sustainable Finance Roadmap and creating a Sustainable Finance Task Force.</p> <p>Sri Lanka undertook a validation on its Green Bond Framework.</p>	New initiatives or reforms by three member States to strengthen financing for sustainable development	New initiatives or reforms by three member States that support acceleration of financing for sustainable development

Deliverables

41. Table 19.6 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.6

Subprogramme 1: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	4	2
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	1	1	1	2
2. The Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development	–	–	3	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	11	14	13	11
Meetings of:				
3. The Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development	–	–	6	–
4. Subregional policy roundtable on issues related to financing for sustainable development	1	3	1	1
5. Expert groups on financing for development	4	4	–	4
6. Expert groups on the <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific</i>	4	4	4	4
7. The Consultative Group on Financing Strategies for the Sustainable Development Goals	2	3	2	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	2	1	1
8. On selected economic policy and financing for development issues	1	2	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	4	5	4	4
9. Policy-focused discussions based on research outlined in the <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific</i> and <i>Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific</i>	4	5	4	4
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	2	1
10. <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific</i>	1	1	1	1
11. <i>Financing for Development Series</i>	–	–	1	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	10	16	10	14
12. Knowledge products on economic issues and policies tailored to countries' specific circumstances	4	10	4	4
13. Working paper series on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	2	2	2	2
14. Policy briefs on macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development	4	4	4	4
15. Economic update for the Asia-Pacific region	–	–	–	4
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advocacy event on financing for development at the Economic and Social Council; Asia-Pacific; side events at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: presentations, videos, brochures and infographics on the <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific</i> and the <i>Financing for Development Series</i>				

Subprogramme 2

Trade, investment and innovation

Objective

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 inclusive and sustainable development and regional integration in Asia and the Pacific.

Strategy

43. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
 - (a) Support member States in formulating and implementing policies and measures to promote and facilitate trade, investment, innovation and enterprise development in support of inclusive and sustainable development, with a specific focus on the needs of countries in special situations, including countries on the cusp of graduation from least developed country status;
 - (b) Build the capacity of member States, in cooperation with global and regional partners, such as the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization, to negotiate and implement trade agreements aligned with the 2030 Agenda and to design and implement trade and investment facilitation policies and measures, including through the adoption of paperless trade systems;
 - (c) Provide capacity-building in close cooperation with the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, including workshops, training activities and policy advice; develop knowledge products on sustainable foreign direct investment (FDI), innovation, technology cooperation and transfer, innovative and emerging technologies, climate technologies, responsible and inclusive business, social enterprise, impact investment and innovative finance for women's entrepreneurship;
 - (d) Support member States in the areas of trade facilitation and support trade digitization, such as paperless and contactless trade, as appropriate, in particular to maintain trade flows of critical goods in times of global and regional crises;
 - (e) Support member States in formulating policies for sustainable FDI, infrastructure financing and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, with a key focus on private sector engagement through the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, and on developing initiatives through sharing best sustainability practices and promoting innovative financial and digital tools to support policy exchanges and women entrepreneurs with a view to reducing vulnerabilities;
 - (f) Support regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing platforms and expand expert networks in the areas of trade, investment, technology, innovation and inclusive and sustainable business, including through public-private partnerships, for knowledge transfer and peer learning.
44. These workstreams will support member States in making progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5-9, 11, 13 and 17.
45. The above-mentioned work is expected to result:
 - (a) Reduced trade costs and increased participation and competitiveness of companies, especially micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, in international trade;
 - (b) The adoption by member States of more effective rules and procedures governing trade, leading to more efficient trade outcomes aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (c) The adoption by member States of policies and measures aimed at achieving more inclusive and sustainable outcomes of private sector activities, including public-private partnerships;

- (d) The integration of inclusive and sustainable practices into technology and innovation policies in the region;
- (e) The increased resilience of supply chains by enabling continued trade activities and using technology and innovation to mitigate the impact of crises.

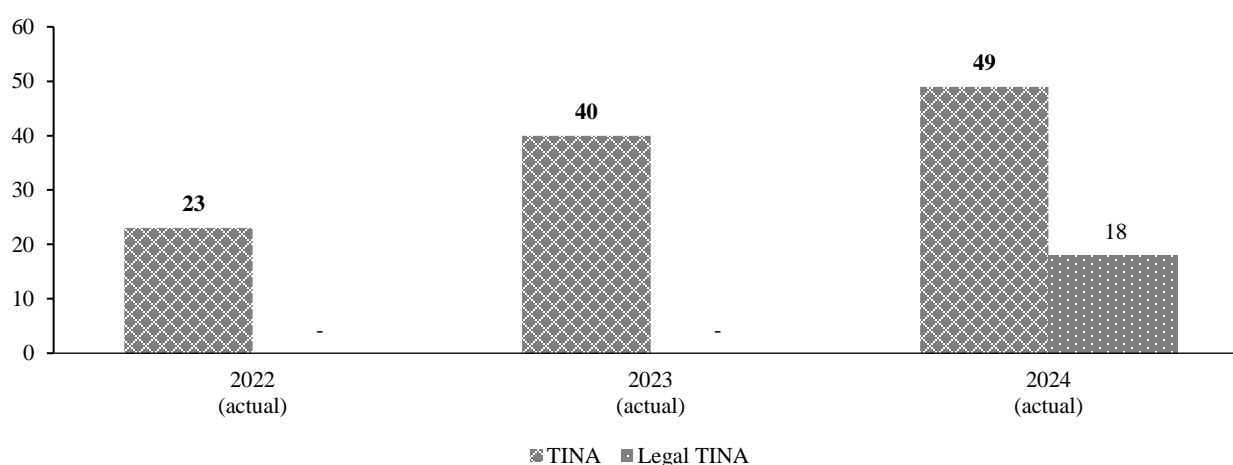
Programme performance in 2024

Increased access to legal drafting assistance for trade agreement negotiators

- 46. Trade among preferential trade agreements partners accounts for about half of all Asia-Pacific trade. By end of 2023, 135 preferential trade agreements that involve at least one Asia-Pacific country included sustainable development provisions, covering labour protection, human rights, environment, and small and medium-sized enterprises. However, many developing countries face capacity challenges and engaging international experts can be expensive.
- 47. To support its member States, particularly countries in special situations, in preparing to conduct trade negotiations, the subprogramme extended its Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Advisor (TINA) platform in 2024 to include a text interpreter powered by innovative and emerging technology. TINA helps member States negotiate trade agreements by offering comprehensive data and tailored analyses for feasibility studies and impact assessments thereby reducing the need for costly external advice. It also supports the 2030 Agenda by promoting trade liberalization in areas like environmental goods and plastic substitutes, and providing guidelines on sustainable development provisions, empowering countries to advance their trade and development goals efficiently. Since the launch of the extension, ESCAP has conducted 16 in-country, subregional and regional trainings in eight countries on the use of Legal TINA, the extension of the original TINA.
- 48. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.I).

Figure 19.I

Performance measure: number of electronic certificates issued to trade agreement negotiators from Asia-Pacific economies on the use of the trade intelligence and negotiation advisor (TINA) (cumulative)



Planned results for 2026

Result 1: enhanced policy measures to promote inclusive business for sustainable development

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

49. The subprogramme's work contributed to the development of six additional policy measures by ASEAN, India and Sri Lanka to promote inclusive business, which met the planned target.
50. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.7).

Table 19.7

Performance measure

2022 (actual)		2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
Member States (Cambodia, Philippines and Viet Nam) implemented measures to promote inclusive businesses		Viet Nam implemented an inclusive business accreditation system 10 member States endorsed a plan of action for the promotion of inclusive business in ASEAN (2023–2027), and issued a declaration on promoting inclusive business models in ASEAN	Six additional policy measures developed by ASEAN, India and Sri Lanka to promote inclusive business	2 key policy measures designed to support the implementation of a plan of action for the promotion of inclusive business in Southeast Asia (2023–2027): - an inclusive business accreditation system for Southeast Asia and - a framework to monitor and evaluate the progress of the plan of action	2 additional key policy measures to support the promotion of inclusive business in Asia and the Pacific

Result 2: more sustainable and efficient trade processes through increased digital and sustainable trade facilitation measures

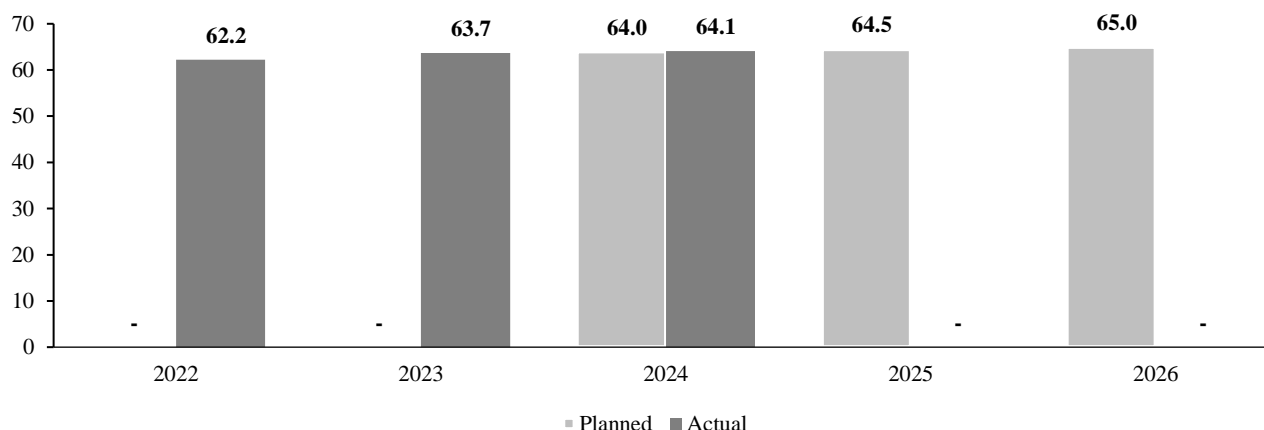
Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

51. The subprogramme's work contributed to an increase in the implementation rate of digital and sustainable trade facilitation measures in Asia and the Pacific to 64.1 per cent, which met the planned target.
52. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.II).

Figure 19.II

Performance measure: implementation rate of digital and sustainable trade facilitation measures in Asia and the Pacific (annual)

(Percentage)



Result 3: investment promotion agencies pledge commitment to advance gender equality through foreign direct investment

Proposed programme plan for 2026

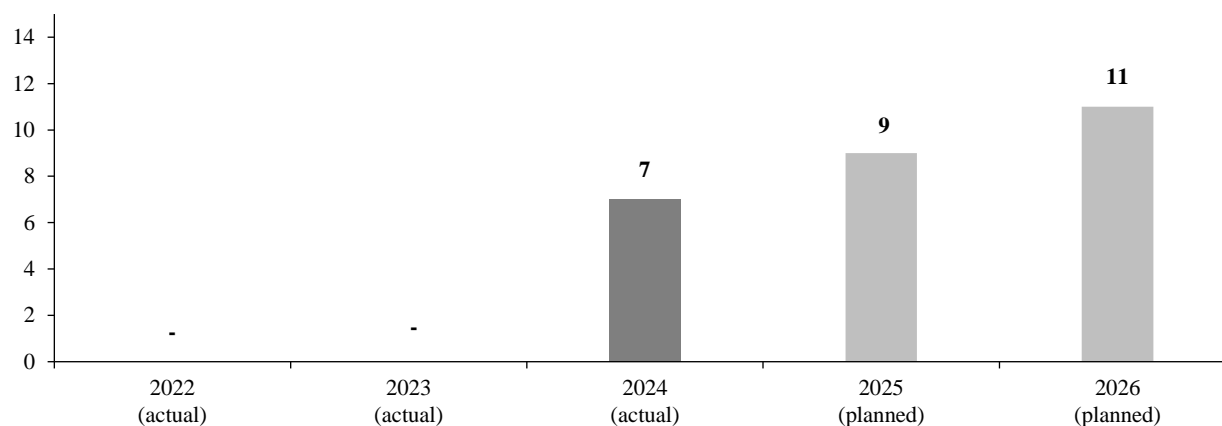
53. In line with recommendation 4 of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation (ESCAP/CTIEBI(1)/8), the subprogramme has been working to leverage foreign direct investment as a tool for promoting gender equality in Asia and the Pacific. Recognizing the underutilized potential of foreign direct investment in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5, the subprogramme has launched the "Pledge Amongst Investment Promotion Agencies, Economic Development Boards, and Ministries of Investment to Advance Gender Equity in Foreign Direct Investment" to secure commitment from agencies directly responsible for attracting FDI to their countries.

Lessons learned and planned change

54. The lesson for the subprogramme was that it could expand its outreach activities to engage more investment promotion agencies in undertaking investment promotion in a gender-sensitive manner in Asia and the Pacific. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme plans to provide targeted support to potential signatories, including awareness-raising sessions, capacity-building workshops, and one-on-one consultations to address concerns and highlight the benefits of the pledge, to increase the outreach and impact of the pledge.
55. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.III).

Figure 19.III

Performance measure: number of investment promotion agencies that have formally signed onto the pledge (cumulative)



Deliverables

56. Table 19.8 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.8

Subprogramme 2: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	12	10	17	11
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	1	1	1	1
2. The Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation	–	–	6	–
3. The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	3	2	2	2
4. The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement Standing Committee	4	–	4	4
5. The Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific and the Standing Committee of the Framework Agreement	4	7	4	4
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	28	17	34	38
Meetings of:				
6. The Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation	–	–	6	–
7. The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	4	3	4	4
8. The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement Standing Committee	8	–	8	8
9. The Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific	4	5	2	4
10. The Standing Committee of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific	–	–	2	6
11. The expert groups on trade, investment and innovation	8	6	8	12
12. The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network Executive Council	2	2	2	2

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
13. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Trade	2	1	2	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	6	13	6	6
14. On the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network	1	–	–	1
15. On trade policy and economic partnership	1	3	1	1
16. On trade facilitation and paperless trade	–	–	1	1
17. On innovation, enterprise and investment	1	9	1	1
18. On new and emerging technologies	3	1	3	2
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	–	–	–	4
19. On technology innovation and scale-up of new and emerging technologies	–	–	–	2
20. On enabling policies and linkages including technology and financing mechanisms	–	–	–	1
21. On cross-border cooperation and networking for technology cooperation	–	–	–	1
Publications (number of publications)	3	3	3	3
22. <i>Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report</i>	–	–	1	–
23. Studies in Trade, Investment and Innovation Series	2	2	2	2
24. <i>Science, Technology and Innovation in Asia and the Pacific</i>	1	1	–	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	10	10	10	10
22. Trade, Investment and Innovation Working Paper Series	2	2	2	2
23. Policy briefs on trade, investment, and innovation	3	3	3	3
24. Reports on trade facilitation and paperless trade implementation	1	1	1	1
25. <i>Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor</i>	4	4	4	4
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services on trade, investment, innovation, inclusive and sustainable business; consultation on technology cooperation and transfer, and emerging and frontier technologies; advisory support for the task forces of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network; knowledge management platform on technology transfer; regional knowledge networks linking researchers, policymakers and practitioners in trade, investment, innovation and inclusive and sustainable business, 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; side events on trade, investment and innovation at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: e-training module on technology transfer; online courses and databases on trade, investment and innovation; the comprehensive trade cost database; the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Agreements Database; the online Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Adviser; trade performance indicators on non-tariff measures.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: country fact sheets, multimedia materials and briefings on trade, investment, innovation and inclusive and sustainable business, newsletter and information products on technology cooperation and transfer.				

Subprogramme 3 Transport

Objective

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

Strategy

58. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
 - (a) 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 relevant working groups, including on operational issues and issues of particular relevance to landlocked developing countries;
 - (b) Provide technical assistance and conduct related research and analysis on land and maritime transport, with due consideration for the specific needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, focusing on enhanced operational connectivity through promoting knowledge products and best practices, including efficient operational arrangements and harmonized legal frameworks for multimodal transport, and facilitate systematic regional and, as appropriate, interregional dialogue to foster regional and interregional connectivity;
 - (c) Facilitate the exchange of good practices on the utilization of new and emerging technologies, and support the wider deployment of smart transport systems through the development of a regional road map and by raising awareness through knowledge products and capacity development;
 - (d) Undertake policy advocacy and capacity-building in the areas of sustainable urban transport and low greenhouse gas emissions and logistics, including by promoting and facilitating an accelerated transition to affordable, safe, low-emission, clean and energy-efficient transport and environmentally friendly supply chains;
 - (e) Provide technical assistance in the areas of road safety and inclusive transport and mobility, including through a regional plan of action for road safety and regional guidelines addressing accessibility, to support reductions in poverty and inequality and promote inclusive transport for people with different travel requirements, including but not limited to women, children, older persons, low-income transport users, rural inhabitants and persons with disabilities.
59. These workstreams will support member States in making progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 7, 9, 11–13 and 17 and the objectives of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026).
60. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
 - (a) A more sustainable, efficient and resilient transport infrastructure along the regional transport networks (Asian highways, trans-Asian railways and dry ports) and at maritime ports to support freight and, where appropriate, passenger operations that are affordable, safe, accessible and environmentally friendly;
 - (b) Enhanced regional land, maritime and interregional transport connectivity to preserve regional and interregional transport linkages and foster regional cooperation to support interregional and intraregional trade and people connectivity;
 - (c) The formulation and implementation of sustainable transport and mobility policy initiatives in member countries, including the planning and development of urban public transport systems, measures and mechanisms to promote the use of low-greenhouse-gas-emission transport and smart mobility approaches, and measures to improve transport safety and promote inclusive transport in the region.

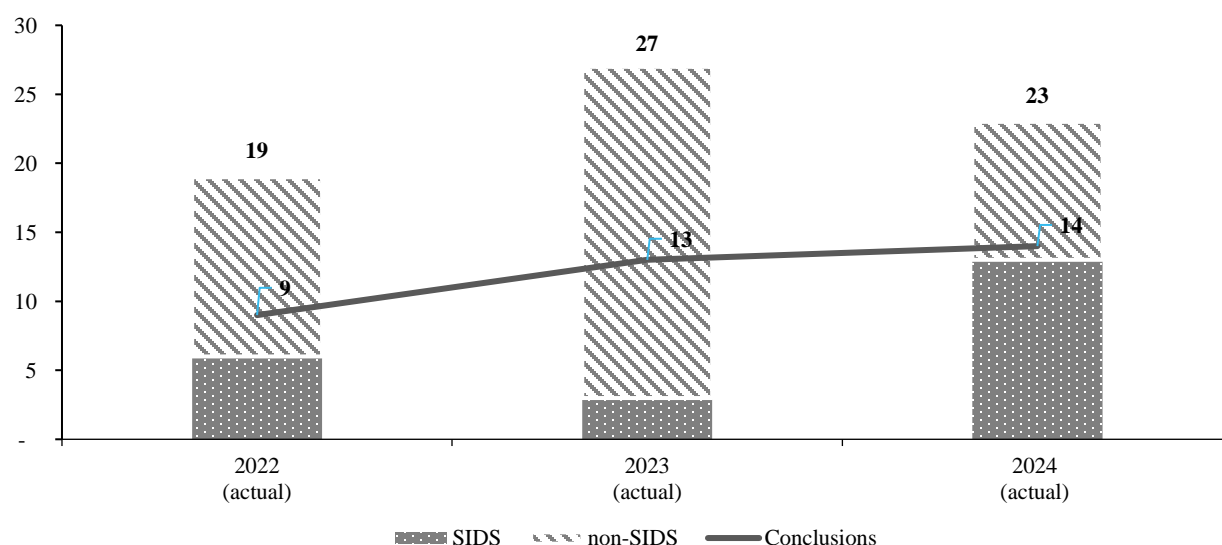
Programme performance in 2024

Sustainable and resilient port development to support sustainable maritime connectivity in the Pacific

61. Maritime and interregional transport connectivity is one of the seven thematic areas of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022-2026). As shipping plays a central role in enabling international trade, the subprogramme has been promoting sustainable and resilient port development to connect small island developing States to the global economy.
62. In addressing the transport challenges of Pacific small island developing States and facilitating their access to global and regional supply chains, the subprogramme has been providing advisory services and offering capacity-building programmes. It has been issuing knowledge products and policy tools offering best practices on sustainable and resilient port operations, including an analysis of the state of maritime connectivity and resilient ports in South-East Asia and small island developing States in the Pacific. Since 2022, the subprogramme has been organizing systematic regional dialogues on sustainable and resilient maritime connectivity and port development. In 2024, the dialogue was organized in Fiji which enabled the increased participation of representatives from small island developing States and allowed for more specific conclusions geared towards improving the maritime connectivity in the Pacific.
63. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.IV).

Figure 19.IV

Performance measure: number of participating countries and substantive conclusions reached at the regional dialogues on sustainable maritime connectivity (annual)



Planned results for 2026

Result 1: enhanced policies for safe and inclusive transport and mobility

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

64. The subprogramme's work contributed to Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam formulating national measures to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50 per cent between 2021 and 2030, which exceeded the planned target of three additional member States.
65. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.9).

Table 19.9

Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
The Regional Plan of Action for Asia and the Pacific for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030 was welcomed by the Committee on Transport ESCAP member States contributed to the development of regional guidelines on enhancing social inclusion and innovations in urban transport systems in Asia-Pacific cities	Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Lao People's Democratic Republic formulated national road safety policies and initiatives to improve road safety	Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam formulated national measures to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50 per cent between 2021 and 2030	Three additional member States, including a least developed country, formulate national measures to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50 per cent between 2021 and 2030	Two member States in the Pacific formulate national policies to improve the social inclusion of their transport systems.

Result 2: increased efficiency and resilience of transport connectivity and logistics networks in Asia and the Pacific

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

66. The subprogramme's work contributed to three member States sharing advance information on their intention to amend the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway routes involving international border crossing, which met the planned target.
67. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.10).

Table 19.10

Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
Member States proposed amendments	Member States adopted amendments	Three member States shared	Member States consider the	Member States update policy

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
to the coverage of the eight Asian Highway routes and eight Trans-Asian Railway routes	to 5 Asian Highway routes and 2 Trans-Asian Railway routes	advance information on their intention to amend the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway routes involving international border crossings	proposed amendments to the configuration of transport networks	initiatives to increase resilience and efficiency of Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway routes

Result 3: accelerated transition to low-emission transport

Proposed programme plan for 2026

68. In response to ESCAP resolution 79/1, the subprogramme initiated a regional cooperation mechanism on low-emission and energy-efficient transport and conducted a series of subregional consultation and capacity building workshops, with over 30 member States, to mobilize transport ministries and key stakeholders to engage in policy processes and to reduce emissions of the transport sector.

Lessons learned and planned change

69. The lesson for the subprogramme was that it could further support the transition to low-emission transport by scaling up regional collaboration and advancing the discussions on several common priority areas and emerging demands. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will leverage voluntary initiatives and case studies to promote learning and knowledge exchange among member States, and support them in developing additional national policy frameworks for the transition to electric mobility and implementing pilot electric bus routes.
70. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.11).

Table 19.11
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
-	-	20 member States joined the Asia Pacific Initiative on Electric Mobility	Four member States establish national vertical coordination mechanisms to accelerate their transition to electric mobility.	At least two member States establish pilot electric bus lines. Member States consider the implementation of the regional action plan on low-emission transport at the Ministerial Conference on Transport

Deliverables

71. Table 19.12 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.12

Subprogramme 3: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	4	6	1	4
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	1	1	1	1
2. The Committee on Transport	3	5	–	–
3. Ministerial Conference on Transport	–	–	–	3
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	22	20	28	26
Meetings of:				
4. The Committee on Transport	6	6	–	–
5. Ministerial Conference on Transport	–	–	–	10
6. The Working Group on the Asian Highway Network	–	–	4	–
7. The Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway Network	–	–	4	–
8. The Working Group on dry ports	–	–	4	–
9. 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 groups on transport connectivity and logistics	8	6	8	4
11. Expert groups on mobility	4	4	4	8
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	8	14	8	8
10. On transport connectivity and logistics	4	7	4	4
11. On mobility	4	7	4	4
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	–	–	1	–
12. On transport connectivity and logistics	–	–	1	–
Publications (number of publications)	3	3	2	2
13. On transport developments in Asia and the Pacific	2	2	1	1
14. <i>Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific</i>	1	1	1	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	2	2	3	3
15. On transport connectivity and logistics	1	1	2	1
16. On mobility	1	1	1	2
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: side events on transport at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: Asian Highway database, the Trans-Asian Railway Network and the network of dry ports.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: infographics on road safety for regional and global access.				

Subprogramme 4 Environment and development

Objective

72. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to enhance the environmental sustainability of development in a holistic and integrated manner and to improve human well-being in urban and rural environments through building the capacity of member States to strengthen integrated environmental policies and sustainable management of natural resources, realize inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban development, and reduce pollution and waste.

Strategy

73. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Support member States, as appropriate within the existing mandate, to promote cooperation at all levels on enabling climate-sensitive urban development as per national priorities and circumstances and continue to support the actions of members and associate members, upon request and within available resources, in the development of ambitious climate action policies and plans for mitigation and adaptation aligned with the Paris Agreement and the decisions adopted by the Commission and the Committee on Environment and Development,
 - (b) Promote regional cooperation on air quality management, including through the operationalization of the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution and the commemoration of the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, to provide opportunities for partnership-building, dialogues and the exchange of best practices, complemented by technical support to member States on the assessment of air quality, standards and data, in collaboration with relevant United Nations and international organizations;
 - (c) Build the capacity of national, subnational and local officials to strengthen sustainable urban planning processes; provide technical and policy support for the voluntary local review and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals; facilitate the adoption of urban resilience and local climate strategies, the application of people-centred smart city systems and the financing of climate-resilient urban infrastructure; and increase awareness of sustainable and inclusive urban solutions, including nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches to reduce the environmental impacts from urbanization;
 - (d) Strengthen subregional dialogue on institutionalizing participatory approaches in environmental matters, including through sharing good practices, and developing common approaches, and South-South cooperation;
 - (e) Support regional cooperation to protect ocean and marine ecosystems for sustainable development, including by coordinating the regional implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and by, inter alia, providing participatory, multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms to support region-wide initiatives and global processes;
 - (f) Strengthen the adoption of sustainable agricultural technologies and practices in the region in support of food security; resilience of rural communities; and air quality management through the activities of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization.
74. The above-mentioned strategy will help support member States in their progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2, 3, 6, 11–15 and 17.
75. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Enhanced action by member States to address climate change through accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement including through sustainable, low-emission and climate-resilient development;
- (b) Enhanced action by member States to improve air quality with the support of collaborative actions developed in line with the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution;
- (c) Increased sustainability and resilience of communities and a reduction of the negative impacts of urbanization;
- (d) Strengthened subregional cooperation frameworks on participatory approaches in environmental matters;
- (e) Strengthened regional and multistakeholder partnerships on conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and marine resources, and synergy between the Sustainable Development Goals 13 and 14.

Programme performance in 2024

Digitized access to new tools, mechanisms and instruments to facilitate the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals

76. In its resolution 79/7, the Commission encouraged members and associate members to work together to develop initiatives aimed at achieving the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11, at the national, subnational and local levels. In supporting member States to implement the resolution in 2024, the subprogramme worked with national, regional and local governments and their associations, businesses, community-based organizations and other local actors to collect best practices and exchange knowledge on localization, conduct voluntary local reviews and identify local climate action. It also developed the Asia-Pacific SDG Localization Platform, an online toolbox, containing a range of practical and adaptable mechanisms and instruments that support the development, implementation, monitoring and review of appropriate Sustainable Development Goal actions. The subprogramme also supported the Government of Malaysia in piloting and producing its first Goal 11 national roadmap.
77. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.13).

Table 19.13

Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)
Two cities utilized ESCAP guidelines to support the development their voluntary local reviews	Member States exchanged experiences and best practices at the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum and agreed on a High-Level communique on cooperation and priorities to localize the Goals	18 stakeholders in the Asia Pacific Localization Partnership for Sustainable Cities contributed to the development and content of a new online localization platform Malaysia pilots and produces its first national roadmap on SDG 11

Planned results for 2026

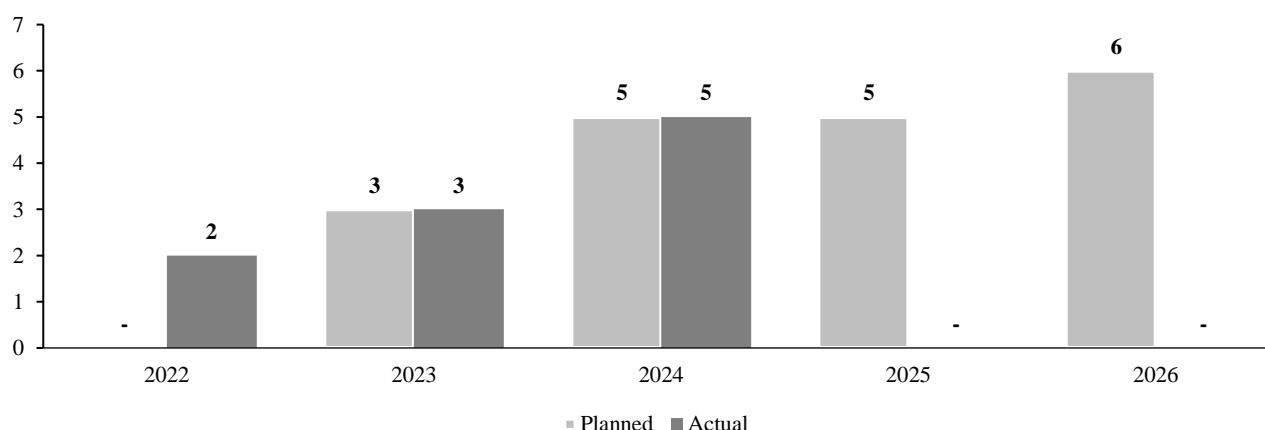
Result 1: local governments localize the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to national climate strategies

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

78. The subprogramme's work contributed to five cities (Chandragiri, Surigao City, West Java, Suva, Udon Thani) developing voluntary local reviews and/or Sustainable Development Goal localization plans, which met the planned target.
79. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.V).

Figure 19.V

Performance measure: number of cities developing voluntary local reviews and/or Sustainable Development Goal localization plans with the direct support of the Commission (annual)



Result 2: member States in Asia and the Pacific increase cooperation to advance participatory approaches on environmental matters

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

80. The subprogramme's work contributed to the development of a draft subregional declaration by member States to promote participatory approaches on environmental matters, which met the planned target.
81. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.14).

Table 19.14

Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
Member States agreed on institutional arrangements to strengthen participatory approaches	Member States enhanced subregional cooperation to promote participatory approaches	Member States developed a draft subregional declaration to promote participatory approaches	Member States take steps to institutionalize modalities for participation	Member States adopt an instrument to institutionalize modalities for participatory approaches

Result 3: increased regional cooperation on ocean-based climate actions, including through ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions

Proposed programme plan for 2026

82. In responding to ESCAP resolutions 76/1, 79/2 and 79/6, the subprogramme strengthened regional multistakeholder processes including the Asia-Pacific Day of the Ocean and identified key areas for national capacity building and regional cooperation including through the regional dialogue on ocean-based climate actions.

Lessons learned and planned change

83. The lesson for the subprogramme was that strengthening regional cooperation could enhance the role of ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions, in particular through conserving marine ecosystems that support climate mitigation and adaptation and by placing people at the centre of these efforts. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will increase access to capacity-building opportunities, enhance regional networking among experts and member States, develop practical guidance for governments and other stakeholders, strengthen technical cooperation, and ensure that regional perspectives contribute to the outcomes of the Third United Nations Ocean Conference. The subprogramme will also promote private sector engagement and partnership development at regional and national levels.
84. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.15).

Table 19.15
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
-	-	Member States identified options and modalities for strengthening regional cooperation on conserving marine ecosystems	Member States contribute to regional actions, networking and regional and global dialogue on conserving marine ecosystems	Member States agree on regional actions to follow up on the outcomes of the Third UN Ocean Conference, including on carbon dioxide sequestration and storage

Deliverables

85. Table 19.16 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.16
Subprogramme 4: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	2	5	1	2
Report for:				

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
1. The Commission	1	1	1	1
2. The Committee on Environment and Development	1	4	–	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	28	18	17	32
Meetings of:				
3. The Committee on Environment and Development	5	5	–	5
4. The Technical Expert Group on Environment and Development	–	3	–	4
5. The Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization	2	2	2	2
6. The Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery	5	5	5	5
7. The policy forum of the Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth	6	–	–	6
8. Expert groups for the implementation of internationally agreed agendas related to the environment and development	2	1	2	2
9. Expert groups on sustainable and resilient cities in the Asia-Pacific region	8	2	8	8
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	8	10	8	10
10. On the sustainable management of natural resources	1	2	1	1
11. On sustainable urban development	2	1	2	2
12. On sustainable agricultural mechanization	2	2	2	2
13. On sustainable economic growth	1	1	1	1
14. To support countries in Asia-Pacific to meet commitments to the Paris Agreement	–	–	–	1
15. On air pollution	1	3	1	2
16. On participatory approaches to environmental matters	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	5	6	10	5
17. On the integrated management of straw residue	1	2	1	1
18. On strengthening human resources for sustainable agricultural mechanization	1	1	1	1
19. On promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization through South-South cooperation	2	2	2	2
20. Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean	1	1	1	1
21. Asia-Pacific Climate Week	–	–	5	–
Publications (number of publications)	1	–	1	1
22. On environment and development	1	–	1	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	4	5	4	5
23. On the environment and development	1	2	1	2
24. On agricultural machinery	3	3	3	3
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services on environment and development; side events on environment and development at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: 16 e-learning courses on the environment and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: information material on agricultural mechanization; the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, World Cities Day, World Environment Day and World Habitat Day.				

Subprogramme 5

Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management

Objective

86. The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen regional cooperation on information and communications technology (ICT), space technology applications and disaster risk reduction and management for resilient and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific through the sharing of information and best practices.

Strategy

87. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will support member States in making progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 4, 5, 9–11, 13–15 and 17 by developing norms for secure and inclusive digital connectivity, geospatial data-sharing and disaster risk reduction and resilience-building, supported by policy analysis and evidence-based research. Specifically, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Build capacity, especially of countries in special situations, in the above-mentioned areas, anchored in regional cooperation mechanisms that promote technical cooperation through the South-South and North-South modalities and are 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;
 - (b) Promote regional policy dialogue, knowledge exchange and cooperation on transboundary challenges related to connectivity and disaster risks, including those related to major development challenges such as climate change;
 - (c) Under the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026, carry out studies on the digital divide, assess policy and regulatory frameworks and provide policy recommendations for inclusive digital transformation, supplemented by advocacy, networking and partnerships in support of regionally agreed frameworks;
 - (d) Guided by the Jakarta 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), assist member States in harnessing recent advances in space technology applications and geospatial data, 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, as appropriate and upon their request;
 - (e) Augment and leverage subregional and regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction, adaptation and climate-resilient pathways for action, including through the implementation of the activities of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network and the ESCAP multi-donor trust fund for tsunamis, disaster and climate preparedness, and disaster information management services provided by the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, including the activities under the Regional Plan of Action on Sand and Dust Storms in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (f) Further build the resilience of human and institutional capacity, in particular by providing assistance in the facilitation of inclusive use of digital solutions, such as the use of actionable disaster risk analytics and geospatial data applications and the provision of targeted solutions for the special needs of countries that face a high disaster risk.
88. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) The bridging of the digital divide, and the appropriate and secure use of digital solutions for transformation;
- (b) Countries of the region applying a transformative adaptation approach to combat climate change in order to leave no one behind;
- (c) Enhanced applications by member States of integrated geospatial information to support transformative adaptation and accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Programme performance in 2024

Regional consensus on digital inclusion and transformation

- 89. Asia and the Pacific is a hub for digital innovations with the potential to accelerate digital inclusion and transformation for sustainable development. The subprogramme co-organised with the Government of Kazakhstan and with support of partners including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the International Telecommunication Union, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation which consolidated regional consensus on digital inclusion and transformation for regional cooperation. The subprogramme collaborated with partners including the United Nations Climate Technology Centre and Network and shared good practices on climate change mitigation through the *Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Report 2024: Digital Innovation for Smarter Climate Action*. Furthermore, the subprogramme supported regional policy dialogue on infrastructure connectivity, digital technologies and applications, and digital data, through the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative; facilitated negotiations between three Pacific member States to improve Internet traffic management; and provided advisory services to the Government of Indonesia on digital transformation index.
- 90. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.17).

Table 19.17

Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)
The Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation endorsed the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026.	The Commission adopted resolution 79/10 deciding to convene a ministerial conference on digital inclusion and transformation.	Member States adopted the Astana Ministerial Declaration. Fiji, Samoa, and New Zealand established the Pacific Islands Internet Exchange Incorporated to improve internet speed and costs.

Planned results for 2026

Result 1: strengthened national and subregional frameworks on disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

- 91. The subprogramme's work contributed to two additional subregional organizations (Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure) adopting disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation frameworks and supported the Early Warnings for All initiative, which met the planned target.
- 92. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.18).

Table 19.18

Performance measure

<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (actual)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>	<i>2026 (planned)</i>
Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand translated the action plans into national strategies	ASEAN and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Group of 20 adopted disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation frameworks in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction and supported the Early Warnings for All initiative	The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure adopted disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation frameworks and supported the Early Warnings for All initiative	Three countries adopt national frameworks to make progress towards the Early Warnings for All initiative by 2027	Two additional countries adopt national frameworks to make progress towards the Early Warnings for All initiative by 2027

Result 2: increased adoption of digitally driven innovations to enable transformative adaptation to climate change

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

93. In coordination with the Resident Coordinators Office, the subprogramme's work contributed to Bhutan and Nepal making progress in achieving transformative adaptation in agriculture and the energy sector, which met the planned target.
94. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.19).

Table 19.19

Performance measure

<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (actual)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>	<i>2026 (planned)</i>
All ESCAP subregions gained access to downscaled climate scenario data through the ESCAP Risk and Resilience Portal	Member States accessed an updated version of disaster risk data analytics	Bhutan and Nepal made progress in achieving transformative adaptation in agriculture and the energy sector	Two additional countries make progress in achieving transformative adaptation in agriculture or the energy sector	Member States gain access to a database of climate change adaptation best practices to enhance adaptation planning at national and regional levels

Result 3: scaled up geospatial applications by countries in special situations for achieving the 2030 Agenda

Proposed programme plan for 2026

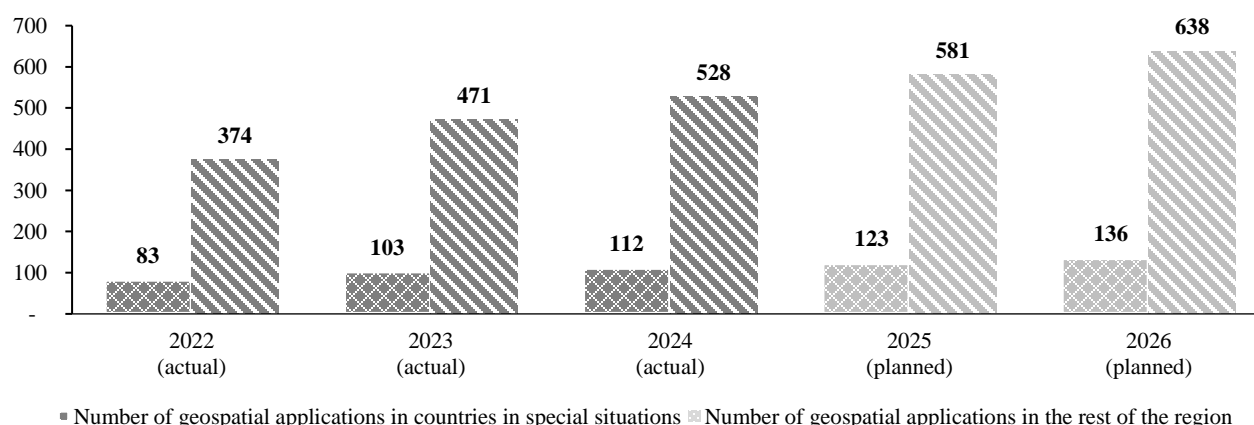
95. Countries have adopted policy and institutional reforms to strengthen space science, technology and its applications including through the integration of geospatial data and solutions into sustainable development policies and practices, although at different speed and depth across the region.

Lessons learned and planned change

96. The lesson for the subprogramme was that digitally driven innovations developed by ESCAP to automate flood hotspot mapping or to forecast the impacts of hazards could simplify processes, making them more available, accessible, affordable and actionable. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will build the capacity of countries, with particular focus on countries in special situations to leverage new technological developments and other digital innovations. With the financial and technical support from ESCAP members and through South-South modality, the subprogramme plans to promote good geospatial practices via a compendium, database and dashboard of geospatial practices, implement capacity building and technical support initiatives, and implement field projects to help countries in special situations build their capacities to analyze and apply geospatial data.
97. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.VI).

Figure 19.VI

Performance measure: number of geospatial applications in Asia and the Pacific (cumulative)



Deliverables

98. Table 19.20 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.20

Subprogramme 5: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	5	5	4	4
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	2	2	2	2
2. The Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction	–	–	2	–
3. The Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	3	–	–	2
4. Reports for the Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation	–	3	–	–

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	32	28	28	30
Meetings of:				
5. The Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation	6	—	—	5
6. The Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction	—	—	6	—
7. The Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation	—	5	—	—
8. The fifth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	—	—	—	4
9. The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	1	1	1	1
10. The Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	1	—	1	2
11. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development	4	2	4	2
12. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones	4	4	4	4
13. The Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development	4	4	4	4
14. The ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee	4	6	4	4
15. Expert groups on space applications	4	4	—	2
16. The Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee	4	2	—	2
17. Expert groups on disaster risk reduction	—	—	4	—
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	9	15	7	8
18. Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management	1	1	1	1
19. On disaster risk reduction	1	3	1	1
20. On promoting ICT connectivity	2	4	2	2
21. On space technology applications	4	6	2	3
22. Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (numbers of days)	14	33	—	14
23. On strengthen ICT Human capacity for inclusive and sustainable development	14	33	—	14
Publications (number of publications)	2	2	2	2
24. On disaster information management	—	—	1	—
25. Compendium on geospatial practices for sustainable development	1	1	—	1
26. On digital transformation for sustainable development	1	1	1	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	8	5	6	7
27. Policy briefs and guidelines on disaster information management	3	—	2	3
28. On disaster risk reduction	2	2	1	1
29. Policy briefs and working papers on ICT, including infrastructure connectivity	2	2	2	2
30. Policy brief on geospatial information applications	1	1	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services for working groups on disaster risk reduction and resilience, including the Issue-Based Coalition on Building Resilience; advice to the task forces of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network; advice for committees and consultations with organizations on issues related to disaster risk reduction, space applications and ICT;				

Category and subcategory

2024 2024 2025 2026
planned actual planned planned

briefing notes on digital development for senior government officials from ICT-related ministries and agencies; and advice on data governance for risk-informed development.

Databases and substantive digital materials: ESCAP Risk and Resilience Portal; digital materials on space technology applications for regional and global access; geospatial practices database and dashboard with 50 new data entries and 10 institutional users; digital material for the development and management of disaster information databases and spatial data infrastructure; two new e-learning courses of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and guidance on impact-based forecasting and early warning.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: content for the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development Virtual Academy, multimedia training content on disaster information management.

Subprogramme 6 Social development

Objective

99. 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

100. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will bring together Governments on critical issues related to social development in the region and inform these intergovernmental processes through analysis and by drawing upon the complementary strengths of ESCAP through its regional convening power and the capacity of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to support national implementation to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Support Governments in the continued implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration by strengthening 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;
 - (b) Facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development through the framework that was endorsed at the sixth session of the Committee on Social Development;
 - (c) Provide support to member States in identifying the population groups that are at the highest risk of being left behind through its Leave No One Behind methodology, analytical reports and capacity-building;
 - (d) In line with the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific, consolidate national progress and experiences related to extending social protection coverage in periodic progress reports; develop a regional platform for member States to share good practices; and provide new and innovative analytical tools and products, as well as capacity-development tools and training sessions to Governments;
 - (e) Conduct research and analysis and provide capacity-building support to member States on building disability-inclusive societies, guided by 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 Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032, and support other subprogrammes in mainstreaming disability inclusion;
- (f) Follow up on the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific regional review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by supporting Governments in accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;
 - (g) Provide technical assistance in developing policies in the context of economic empowerment and entrepreneurship for women and support other subprogrammes in mainstreaming a gender perspective;
 - (h) Provide knowledge products, seminars and technical advice on addressing women's unpaid care burden and designing strategies and policy initiatives to improve the care economy.
101. The above-mentioned work will help support member States in their progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 17.
102. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) The development of regional frameworks for social development;
 - (b) The development of responsive policies and programmes in the domain of population dynamics and social development;
 - (c) Enhanced skills and knowledge to enable countries to design and implement inclusive social protection policies, including to address the impact of rapid demographic transitions and climate change;
 - (d) Improved national policies and strategies to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, including through measures to improve the care economy and reduce women's unpaid care burden;
 - (e) Improved national policies and programmes in support of disability-inclusive development.

Programme performance in 2024

Regional consensus on priorities and strategies for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in Asia and the Pacific

103. In 2024, the subprogramme led the regional review of progress made and challenges that remain in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which culminated in the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review in November 2024, in collaboration with UN-Women. In the years leading up to the Ministerial Conference, the subprogramme supported member States in capacity development for assessing progress in critical areas of concern and building consensus on regional priorities for policy development to address emerging challenges in the context of critical transitions, through regional policy dialogue and sub-regional forums and workshops. Over 40 member States responded to the Beijing+30 survey and participated in the Ministerial Conference.
104. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.21).

Table 19.21
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)
Member States assessed progress and identified priorities for accelerating gender equality, in particular, to address issues related to climate change, environment	Member States assessed progress and identified priorities for accelerating gender equality, in particular, on emerging issues	Member States reached consensus on regional priorities and strategies to address emerging issues and accelerate the implementation of the Beijing

<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (actual)</i>
management and disaster risk reduction	related to digital and technological transformation.	Declaration and Platform for Action.

Planned results for 2026

Result 1: advancement of data and guidance for inclusive and evidence-based policy design and implementation to reduce inequality of opportunity and leave no one behind

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

105. The subprogramme's work contributed to Armenia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Palau, which represent 44 per cent of ESCAP member States that committed to voluntary national reviews in 2024, generating their own data and evidence using the Leaving No One Behind Platform to inform inclusive policymaking, which exceeded the planned target of 20 per cent.
106. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.22).

Table 19.22
Performance measure

<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (actual)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>	<i>2026 (planned)</i>
Five ESCAP member States (Mongolia, Philippines, Tonga, Turkmenistan and Tuvalu) conducted national training sessions to enhance understanding and use of the Leaving No One Behind platform	Cambodia, Fiji, Maldives and Mongolia generated their own data and evidence to inform inclusive policies using the Leaving No One Behind platform	Armenia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Palau, which represent 44 per cent of ESCAP member States that committed to voluntary national reviews in 2024, generated their own data and evidence using the Leaving No One Behind platform to inform inclusive policymaking	Six ESCAP member States that produce policy documents in 2025 use data and evidence generated by the Leaving No One Behind platform to inform inclusive policies	Six ESCAP member States that produce policy documents in 2026 use data and evidence generated by the Leaving No One Behind platform to inform inclusive policies

Result 2: member States develop policy measures on valuing and investing in the care economy

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

107. The subprogramme's work contributed to adoption by the Philippines of an ordinance on valuing and investing in care economy at subnational level; and to Indonesia and Lao PDR convening national consultations on the care economy, which exceeded the planned target of one member State developing a policy initiative on the care economy.
108. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.23).

Table 19.23
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
Cambodia and the Philippines developed strategies on new care economy policy initiatives	Cambodia, China and the Philippines convened national consultations on the care economy	The Philippines adopted an ordinance on valuing and investing in care economy at subnational level Indonesia and Lao PDR convened national consultations on the care economy	Two member States adopt policy measures on the care economy	Two member States strengthen their policy measures on care economy.

Result 3: strengthened national capacity to develop inclusive population ageing policies

Proposed programme plan for 2026

109. The subprogramme has built capacity in 15 Asia-Pacific countries in recent years on mainstreaming policies on ageing, enhancing preparation for demographic shifts and the future of work, intergenerational relations and promoting digital literacy among older persons.

Lessons learned and planned change

110. The lesson for the subprogramme was that the processes and initiatives at the global level, would benefit from regional level deliberations to understand their implications and regional and localised specificities. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will focus on bottom-up approaches and inter-ministerial meetings with government population ageing focal points in preparation for the Fifth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.
111. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.24).

Table 19.24
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
ESCAP member States adopted recommendations for action at regional and national levels, to address the economic and social impacts of population ageing, especially on older women	Bhutan, Malaysia and Thailand addressed population ageing and in policy frameworks and action plans	20 per cent of ESCAP member States used an ESCAP online repository of good practices for drafting new population ageing policies, laws, programme and guidelines	Government population ageing focal points identify gaps and priorities concerning formulating policies on population ageing	Member States initiate the development of inclusive policies by participating in ESCAP-led initiatives

Deliverables

112. Table 19.25 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.25

Subprogramme 6: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	5	7	3	4
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	1	1	1	1
2. The Committee on Social Development	2	4	–	3
3. The regional review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30)	2	2	–	–
4. The Asia-Pacific regional review of implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	–	–	2	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	26	26	24	23
Meetings of:				
5. The Committee on Social Development	6	6	–	5
6. The regional review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30)	6	6	–	–
7. 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. The Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032	–	–	4	4
9. Asia-Pacific regional review of implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	–	–	6	–
10. Expert groups on social inclusion	4	4	4	4
11. Expert groups on social policies	4	2	4	4
12. Expert groups on population	4	4	4	4
13. Expert group on the Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific	–	3	–	–
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	3	12	3	4
14. On gender equality	1	2	–	1
15. On population and development	–	6	1	1
16. On disability inclusion	2	4	1	1
17. On social development	–	–	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	3	3	1	2
18. On disability inclusion	–	–	1	–
19. On gender equality	1	1	–	1
20. <i>Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific</i>	1	1	–	1
21. <i>Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2024</i>	1	1	–	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	10	11	11	11
22. On gender equality	–	–	1	1
23. On disability inclusion	1	1	1	1
24. Policy brief on population and development	1	1	1	1
25. Working paper on population and development	1	1	1	1
26. Working papers on inequality	2	3	2	2

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
27. Policy brief on population data	1	1	1	1
28. On social development	4	4	4	4

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services for working groups on issues related to social development; side events on social development at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

Databases and substantive digital materials: online databases and resource facilities on social development for regional and global access.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: International Women's Day; International Day of Older Persons; International Day of Persons with Disabilities; International Day of Care and Support.

Subprogramme 7 Statistics

Objective

113. 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

114. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Support statistical development in the region, regional cooperation and the formulation of regional positions to advance official statistics in line with existing commitments, including "Advancing official statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a collective vision and framework for action by the Asia-Pacific statistical community", the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind and the Ministerial Declaration on Building a More Resilient Future with Inclusive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics;
 - (b) Provide technical assistance, training and capacity-building support, in collaboration with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific:
 - (i) To enhance national statistical capacities to produce, disseminate and communicate statistical products and services, including but not limited to gender-sensitive and sex-disaggregated data and statistics, with an emphasis on those countries left further behind, such as the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;
 - (ii) To modernize national statistical systems and empower national statistical offices in the region to benefit from the data sources generated by the various components of national data ecosystems, including administrative data and big data produced and owned by other governmental agencies and the private sector;
 - (c) Provide statistical products and services, such as the *Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report* and the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Gateway, that make regional data and official statistics accessible to assess progress in the Asia-Pacific region towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (d) Develop and support the production of knowledge products in the form of research papers, working papers, statistics briefs and blogs to raise awareness of and share knowledge and experience relating to official statistics;

- (e) 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 other things, advancing the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind, data governance and gender mainstreaming in cooperation with member States and development partners, which will constitute the foundation for enhanced statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (f) Expand its work to transform national statistical systems so that they are resilient to future shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic, including through virtual platforms and innovations in statistical production processes, which promote cooperation and consensus-building.
115. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) The improved availability, accessibility and use of quality data and official statistics in support of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (b) The improved capacity of national statistical systems to review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
 - (c) Increased use of statistics in evidence-based decision making across the Asia-Pacific region.

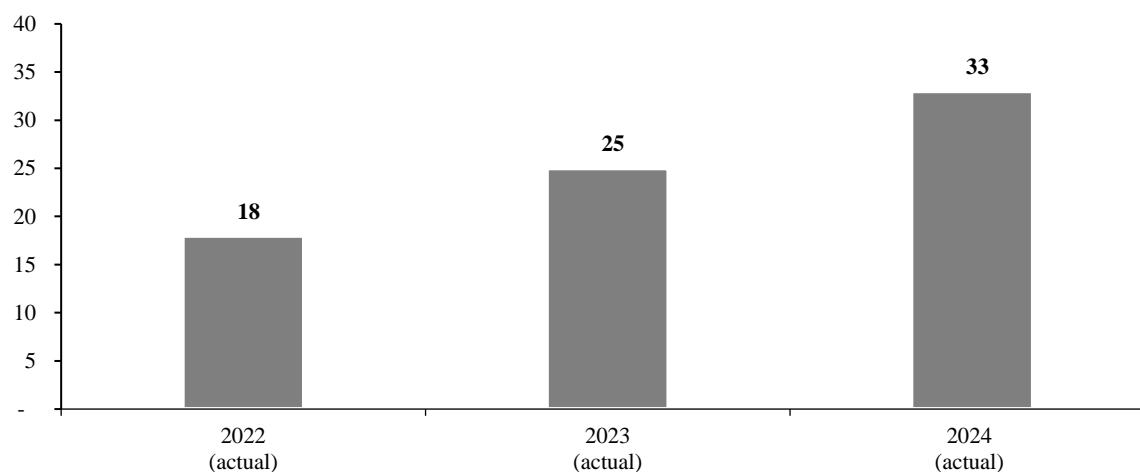
Programme performance in 2024

Innovative methods to improve the quality of official statistics

116. Following a decision by the ESCAP Committee on Statistics at its seventh session to feature big data for official statistics with a focus on sharing country experiences, the subprogramme initiated a specialized training programme to enhance the use of innovative methods for the compilation of consumer price indices. Experts from 33 countries participated in this programme and were trained in coding, web scraping techniques for price statistics, machine learning and small area estimation. Participants acquired Python programming skills and learned its application by scraping various websites and completing various assessment exercises. This skills development was supported by mentors from the UN Regional Hub for Big Data and Data Science fostering peer learning among the participants from the global south and the discussion of practical application within different country-contexts.
117. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.VII).

Figure 19.VII

Performance measure: number of countries with experts equipped to utilize big data and data science for official statistics (annual)



Planned results for 2026

Result 1: national statistical systems advance the mainstreaming of a gender perspective

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

118. The subprogramme's work contributed to three national statistical systems (Fiji, Indonesia and the Philippines) applying gender mainstreaming in their statistical work, which exceeded the planned target of two.
119. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.26).

Table 19.26

Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
Government statisticians from 35 countries attended training courses on how to integrate a gender perspective in statistics	Cambodia and Mongolia undertook steps towards gender mainstreaming in their statistical work	Fiji, Indonesia, and Philippines applied gender mainstreaming in their statistical work.	Three national statistical systems apply gender mainstreaming in their statistical work	Two additional national statistical systems apply gender mainstreaming in their statistical work

Result 2: improved data governance by national statistical offices across Asia and the Pacific

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

120. The subprogramme's work contributed to twenty member States providing input for a compendium of country data governance practices, enabling member States to share experiences to address data governance challenges, which exceeded the planned target of ten member States.

121. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.27).

Table 19.27

Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
The ESCAP Committee on Statistics, at its eighth session, decided to feature data governance in its future work, with an emphasis on sharing country experiences and facilitating the provision of technical assistance	ESCAP, at its seventy-ninth session, endorsed the revised focus of the Committee on Statistics	Twenty member States contributed to a compendium of country data governance practices, enabling member States to share experiences to address data governance challenges	Five member States take steps to address data governance challenges and contribute to a compendium of country data governance practices	Six member States take steps to address data governance challenges and contribute to a compendium of country data governance practices

Result 3: establishment of national Sustainable Development Goal platforms to monitor progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

Proposed programme plan for 2026

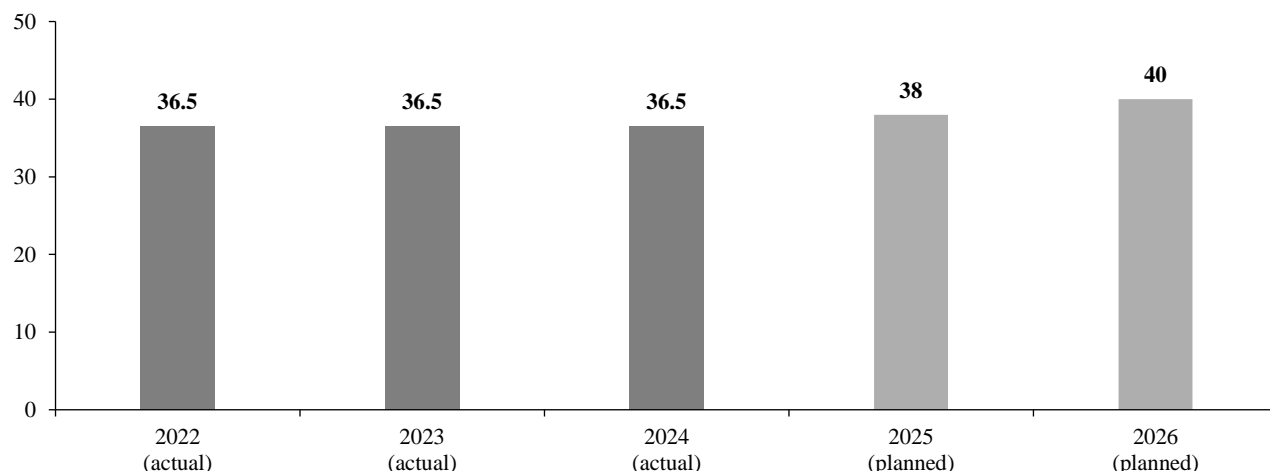
122. The ESCAP Committee on Statistics at its seventh session reinforced the need for enhancing the consistency of global and national Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) data and providing technical support to countries to establish their data structure and national reporting platforms. The subprogramme launched the national SDG tracker to assist member States in producing national progress assessments.

Lessons learned and planned change

123. The lesson for the subprogramme was that open-source solutions such as Open SDG and the .Stat Suite platform could offer sustainable, scalable ways for member States to build their internal capacity for SDG reporting. These tools are adaptable and shareable among countries thus facilitating broader collaboration. In applying the lesson and to secure longer-term success of these open-source solutions, the subprogramme will increase its efforts to make the tools more user-friendly and accessible. It also plans to strengthen the technical skills of staff of national statistics offices to ensure the systems and tools can be maintained and sustained in the future.
124. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.VIII).

Figure 19.VIII

Performance measure: Asia and the Pacific countries with an official country-operated, dedicated online portal which can be used for reporting Sustainable Development Goal progress (percentage)



Deliverables

125. Table 19.28 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.28

Subprogramme 7: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	2	5	2	2
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	1	1	1	1
2. The Committee on Statistics	1	4	–	1
3. The Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	–	–	1	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	24	30	22	19
Meetings of:				
4. The Committee on Statistics	6	6	–	5
5. The Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	3	3	3	3
6. The Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	–	3	6	–
7. Expert groups on the use of non-traditional and complementary data sources in official statistics	3	3	2	2
8. The Regional Steering Group for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	6	6	6	6
9. Expert groups on strengthening national statistical systems for enhanced quality and trust in official statistics	3	6	3	3
10. The technical working group on disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific	2	2	2	–
11. The Steering Group for the Regional Programme for the Improvement of Economic Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	1	1	–	–
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	4	7	4	3
12. On statistics	4	7	4	3

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	13	228	10	125
13. On statistics	10	16	8	10
14. On gender equality-related statistics and issues	3	3	2	–
15. On official statistics and management issues	–	81	–	15
16. On population statistics	–	29	–	25
17. On economic statistics	–	29	–	25
18. On environment and disaster statistics	–	41	–	25
19. On methodology and statistical process	–	29	–	25
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	1	1
20. <i>Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report</i>	1	1	1	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	2	2	2	2
21. On a variety of official statistics topics	2	2	2	2

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory support for subregional networks on official social, economic and environmental statistics; side events on statistics at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

Databases and substantive digital materials: ESCAP statistical database accessible at the regional and global levels.

Subprogramme 8 Subregional activities for development

Component 1 Subregional activities for development in the Pacific

Objective

126. 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, which include building resilience against natural disasters and climate change to reduce vulnerabilities and to improve socioeconomic conditions.

Strategy

127. To contribute to the objective, the component will be guided by the new global programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States and the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. In particular, it will:
- (a) Provide subregional and in-country capacity development support in identifying and valuing ecosystem goods and services for the sustainable management of resources in cooperation with subprogrammes 4 and 7;
 - (b) Provide technical assistance to member States and create knowledge-exchange opportunities between member States and civil society to develop nationally appropriate indicator frameworks and promote women's economic empowerment, social protection and disability policies, in cooperation with subprogramme 6;
 - (c) Provide technical assistance and advisory services with regard to addressing the socioeconomic challenges of the subregion and devising appropriate recovery responses through national frameworks for Sustainable Development Goal financing, national planning, sector policies

and strategies and regional cooperation on transboundary issues, in line with the outcomes of relevant assessments;

- (d) Organize annual meetings and facilitate dialogues on sustainable development, including a subregional forum on sustainable development, among government officials, civil society, experts and other stakeholders, and on the sharing of information on subregional implementation efforts;
- (e) Promote coordination with and collaboration among subregional intergovernmental organizations and member States for an effective representation of subregional perspectives at regional and global consultations, and provide implementation support for the Commission's subprogrammes relating to the subregion's priorities;
- (f) Support the advancement of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent containing the streamlined Pacific Road Map for Sustainable Development and serve as the focal point for the Commission's engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, including through substantive assistance in the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in particular with regard to the transboundary dimensions of sustainable development, and assist country-level programming by providing subregional perspectives and access to regional networks and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation;
- (g) Strengthen coordination with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and other agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific to deliver the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent in line with the 2030 Agenda.

128. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Improved data availability for evidence-based policymaking on climate-resilient, sustainable development;
- (b) Strengthened capacity of member States to implement and monitor the 2030 Agenda and subregional agendas while ensuring that no one is left behind and that development activities address socioeconomic conditions and reach people in vulnerable situations;
- (c) Stronger subregional cooperation to address transboundary issues;
- (d) Advanced inclusive economic development in the Pacific subregion.

Programme performance in 2024

Legislative reforms to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- 129. Kiribati, a State party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, launched its first National Disability Policy and Action Plan in 2018 and implemented initiatives to enhance the lives of persons with disabilities, including institutional reforms promoting disability-inclusive development. In 2024, the component jointly with subprogramme 6, and in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Pacific Disability Forum, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human rights, supported the Government in undertaking a review of Kiribati's legislation for compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It organized a workshop with stakeholders from relevant line Ministries and non-governmental organizations to strengthen awareness on the convention through socialization and application of its principles, enhance understanding of compliance gaps in national laws, and build capacity for future reporting.
- 130. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.29).

Table 19.29
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)
-	-	Kiribati completed a comprehensive legislative review for compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Planned results for 2026

Result 1: advancing implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent for Pacific small island developing States

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

131. The component's work contributed to the endorsement of the high-level summary of the 2024 prioritized regional collective action that includes reference to the development of the Pacific Regional Climate Mobility Framework as part of the 2050 Strategy of the Blue Pacific Continent by the Pacific Island Forum Leaders, which met the planned target.
132. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.30).

Table 19.30
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
Pacific Islands Forum Leaders endorsed the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent	Pacific small island developing States developed and adopted a regional framework/plan for three of the thematic areas of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, including a regional framework on the Pacific Road Map for Economic Development (PRED)	Pacific Island Forum Leaders endorsed the high-level summary of the 2024 prioritized regional collective action that includes reference to the development of the Pacific Regional Climate Mobility Framework as part of the 2050 Strategy of the Blue Pacific Continent	Pacific small island developing States agree on modalities for assessing progress in the thematic areas	At least one country implements activities aligned with the regional framework/plan

Result 2: pathways to mainstream the new global programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States into national development strategies

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

133. The component's work contributed to the reflection of Pacific members and associate members' priorities in the outcome document of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which met the planned target.

134. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.31).

Table 19.31
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
–	Pacific members and associate members agreed on subregional challenges and priorities	Pacific members and associate members' priorities reflected in the outcome document of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States	Three countries identify pathways to mainstream the new global programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States	Two additional countries identify pathways to mainstream the new global programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States

Result 3: increased effectiveness in the production and use of core indicators for national, regional and global reporting

Proposed programme plan for 2026

135. At the Sixth Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, participants emphasized the need for guidance in developing a set of indicators that could be used to produce high-quality and timely statistics to report on various regional and global frameworks, and meet their own national reporting requirements. In partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and subprogramme 7, the component issued indicator guidelines to meet this demand.

Lesson learned and planned change

136. The lesson for the component was that it could coordinate a subregional approach to assess the challenges of Pacific member States in executing the various monitoring and reporting requirements. In applying the lesson, the component will assist countries to establish consensus on indicator sets across the various frameworks and to collect and process data to measure and monitor the indicators.
137. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.32).

Table 19.32
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
-	Pacific member States formulated a framework for aligning of agendas to simplify reporting	Experts discussed solutions to align Pacific country reporting against global, regional and national frameworks	At least three member States align and enhance monitoring of national, regional, and global agendas	At least three additional member States align and enhance monitoring of national, regional, and global agendas.

Deliverables

138. Table 19.33 lists all deliverables of the component.

Table 19.33

Component 1: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2024 actual</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>	<i>2026 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	–	1	–
1. Report for the Commission	1	–	1	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	8	5	8	8
Meetings of:				
2. Expert groups on policy and programme options to address emerging sustainable development issues in the Pacific	4	1	4	4
3. The Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	4	4	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	2	4	2	2
4. On institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in the Pacific	1	–	1	1
5. On economic and social development	1	4	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	2	2	2	2
6. On sustainable development and building resilience in the Pacific	2	2	2	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	1	1	1
7. On regional cooperation and sustainable development in the Pacific	1	1	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: expert advice to member States in the subregion to strengthen regional cooperation and integration for sustainable development and to build resilience against natural disasters and climate change to reduce vulnerabilities and improve socioeconomic conditions.				

Component 2

Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia

Objective

139. The objective, to which component 2 of the subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen regional cooperation for sustainable development, in line with the subregional priorities of East and North-East Asia, which includes sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies.

Strategy

140. To contribute to the objective, the component will:
- (a) Facilitate multisectoral dialogues and promote knowledge-sharing among member States on sustainable development, environmental sustainability, trade, transport, energy and ICT connectivity, as well as on emerging technologies and their deployment in priority sectors, through regional and subregional platforms, including the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership and the North-East Asia Regional Power Interconnection and Cooperation Forum;
 - (b) Identify and promote innovative approaches to facilitate cross-border connectivity, where applicable, such as contactless cross-border trade and transport solutions, and cross-border data

exchanges between railway and customs authorities, with a particular focus on Mongolia as the only landlocked developing country in North-East Asia;

- (c) Develop knowledge products and foster peer-to-peer exchanges on inclusive science, technology and innovation policies and programmes with a focus on people in vulnerable situations, including on ageing societies, disaster resilience and gender equality in the technology industry;
- (d) Support the implementation of a road map for sustainable power connectivity and promote intergovernmental processes for sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation in East and North-East Asia, as relevant;
- (e) Build the capacity of member States on the above-mentioned focus areas and promote coordination with and collaboration among subregional intergovernmental organizations and member States for an effective representation of subregional perspectives at regional and global consultations, as appropriate;
- (f) Provide implementation support for the Commission's subprogrammes relating to the subregion's priorities and serve as the focal point for the Commission's engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, including through substantive assistance with regard to preparing common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in particular with regard to the transboundary dimensions of sustainable development, and assist country-level programming by providing subregional perspectives and access to regional networks and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation.

141. These workstreams will help member States make progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5, 7, 9–11, 13–15 and 17.

142. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Policy coherence and coordination of connectivity initiatives among member States, for example, with regard to trade and transport facilitation;
- (b) Coordinated actions among stakeholders and Governments to counter common environmental challenges, including air pollution, and to promote low greenhouse gas emissions;
- (c) Improved use of science, technology and innovation in building inclusive and resilient societies in the subregion, including resilience to natural hazards;
- (d) More effective formulation and implementation of policies and strategies consistent with the 2030 Agenda, including through the North-East Asia Multi-stakeholder Forums on the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (e) Enhanced collaboration among Governments, the United Nations, subregional organizations and other stakeholders to address priority challenges in the subregion, as appropriate.

Programme performance in 2024

Strengthened transboundary cooperation for effective conservation

143. North-East Asia contains some crucial habitats of critically endangered species. For the effective conservation of feline species and migratory birds and their habitats in support of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the component supported ecological connectivity between countries' shared borders and along the flyways of migratory birds. Guided by member States, the component has promoted subregional cooperation on biodiversity and nature conservation. A workshop on nature conservation and biodiversity for transboundary cooperation, organized in August 2024, served as a platform to connect different stakeholders and countries and to reiterate the importance of cross-border protected areas, ecological corridors and effective habitat management in North-East Asia. It also produced a set of recommendations for the consideration of

member States at the Senior Officials Meeting of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation.

144. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.34).

Table 19.34

Performance measure

<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (actual)</i>
-	Commending the progress on transboundary cooperation for biodiversity and nature conservation, member States highlighted the need to strengthen linkages from local to regional and global strategies and action plans in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (NEASPEC/SOM (26)/9)	Member States requested to reflect the recommendations from the workshop on nature conservation and biodiversity for transboundary cooperation in the Strategic Plan 2026-2030

Planned results for 2026

Result 1: strengthened collaboration for monitoring and addressing air pollution in East and North-East Asia

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

145. The component's work contributed to member States collaborating towards addressing air pollution through the first policy dialogue of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership, by supporting discussions on the strategic directions for the Science and Policy Committee of the Partnership and at the Symposium 2024 on Climate Change and Air Quality Management, which met the planned target.
146. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.35).

Table 19.35

Performance measure

<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (actual)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>	<i>2026 (planned)</i>
Member States approved the plan to publish a policy analysis report on air pollution in 2023 and organize two policy dialogues by 2024	Member States collaborated in addressing air pollution through the engagement of their experts in the collaborative initiatives of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership	Member States collaborated in addressing air pollution at the first policy dialogue of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership, by supporting discussions on the strategic directions for the Science and Policy Committee of the Partnership and	The North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership workplan for 2026–2030 reflects strengthened collaboration for monitoring and addressing air pollution in East and North-East Asia	Members of the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership implement the workplan for 2026–2030

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
		at the Symposium 2024 on Climate Change and Air Quality Management		

Result 2: efficient management of cross-border railway transport and transit

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

147. The component's work contributed to Mongolia strengthening its readiness to undertake paperless transit and transport operations through enhanced capacity of railway and customs authorities on cross-border electronic information exchange, which met the planned target.
148. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.36).

Table 19.36

Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
Mongolia and the Republic of Korea acceded to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific	The Russian Federation acceded to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific Member States adopted guiding principles on electronic information exchange among railways and control authorities	Railway and customs authorities built capacity on cross-border electronic information exchange to strengthen Mongolia's readiness to undertake paperless transit and transport operations	National officials increasingly adopt electronic information exchange for more efficient cross-border railway transport and transit in North-East Asia	Member States adopt a plan for electronic information for more efficient cross-border railway transport and transit in North-East Asia

Result 3: strengthened cross-border collaboration on addressing desertification and land degradation in East and North-East Asia

Proposed programme plan for 2026

149. Sand and dust storms negatively affect soil, air and water quality beyond country borders. To mitigate the effects of desertification and land degradation on people, their livelihood and the environment, the component has supported member States in developing a subregional approach for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation and prepared a background paper on trends in desertification and land degradation.

Lessons learned and planned change

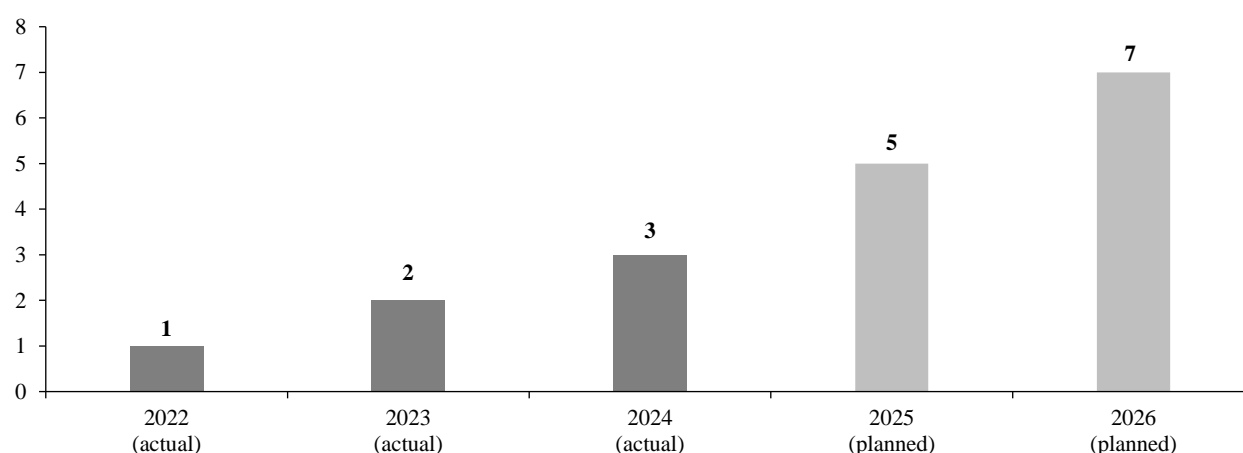
150. The lesson for the component was that it could use its expertise in research and technical cooperation to contribute to enhancing the understanding of the main causes, drivers and impacts of

desertification and land degradation in North-East Asia. In applying the lesson, the component will analyse key factors for assessing, monitoring and managing the risks of desertification and land degradation. The component plans a capacity-building workshop on policy options and a subregional forum to promote knowledge sharing and facilitate collaboration, in support of the 17th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 2026.

151. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.VIX).

Figure 19.VIX

Performance measure: number of cross-border activities undertaken by member States on desertification and land degradation under the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (cumulative)



Deliverables

152. Table 19.37 lists all deliverables of the component.

Table 19.37

Component 2: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	–	1	–
1. Report for the Commission	1	–	1	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	9	8	9	9
Meetings of:				
2. Expert groups on policy and programme options to address emerging economic and social development issues in East and North-East Asia	2	1	2	2
3. Senior officials of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation	3	3	3	3
4. The North-East Asian Multi-stakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals	4	4	4	4

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	4	5	4	4
5. On institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in East and North-East Asia	3	4	3	3
6. North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	2	3	2	2
7. On transport and energy connectivity	1	1	1	1
8. On science, technology and innovation for low-carbon and low-emissions and resilient cities and on North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation-related events	1	2	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	–	1
9. On digital literacy among older persons in North-East Asia	1	1	–	–
10. On emerging sustainable development issues in North-East Asia	–	–	–	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	2	1	1
11. On technology and social issues	1	1	1	–
12. On emerging sustainable development issues in North-East Asia	–	1	–	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: expert advice to member States of the subregion on sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies; side events at the Commission session.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: newsletters, infographics and side activities on major events on sustainable connectivity, environmental sustainability and innovation for inclusive and resilient societies.				

Component 3

Subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia

Objective

153. 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

154. To contribute to the objective, the component will:
- (a) Provide secretariat support to and coordinate the thematic working groups of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia to ensure that priorities emanating from the decisions and recommendations of the Governing Council and the Economic Forums of the Special Programme regarding trade facilitation, innovation and technology, transport, energy and digital connectivity, innovative financing and investment tools, environmental sustainability and gender equality are incorporated into their workplans;
 - (b) Coordinate high-level dialogues and working meetings to support landlocked developing countries in the implementation of their priorities;
 - (c) Support member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by providing policy advice and technical assistance on subregional connectivity, helping member States make progress towards achieving Goals 7 and 9;

- (d) Organize annual meetings and facilitate dialogues on sustainable development, including a subregional forum on sustainable development, among government officials, civil society, experts and other stakeholders, and on the exchange of information on subregional achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, helping member States to review the progress;
- (e) Support voluntary national review processes at the request of member States, including the voluntary national review twinning programme, and build capacity for sustainable and resilient development;
- (f) Cooperate with subregional intergovernmental organizations and institutions such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Eurasian Development Bank for an effective implementation of subregional priorities;
- (g) Provide implementation support for the Commission's subprogrammes relating to the subregion's priorities and serve as the focal point for the Commission's engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, including through substantive assistance in preparing common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in particular with regard to the transboundary dimensions of sustainable development, and assist country-level programming by providing subregional perspectives and access to regional networks and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation.

155. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Enhanced application by member States of, evidence-based solutions for, and strengthened subregional cooperation on, programmes to improve trade and transport facilitation as well as energy and digital connectivity;
- (b) The adoption of policy options for economic transformation in the subregion;
- (c) Increased knowledge-sharing in cooperation with intergovernmental organizations and bodies;

Programme performance in 2024

Towards digital transformation of land and multimodal transport in the subregion and beyond

- 156. Seven out of the nine countries of the Central Asia subregion are landlocked developing countries. One of the challenges they face in achieving sustainable development is their limited ability to overcome structural impediments, such as high transport costs to world markets associated with a lack of access to the sea. The component, in collaboration with subprogramme 3, conducted a subregional-level study that took stock of existing policies and tools on the digital transformation of railway and multimodal transport operations in North and Central Asia and, on that basis, formulated policy recommendations for building sustainable and efficient multimodal transport systems in the digital era, and conducted a capacity development programme for digital transformation of land and multimodal transport for transport authorities and industry stakeholders in the subregion. It also co-organized expert group meetings to develop recommendations focusing on the development of interregional transport corridors and multimodal transport, as well as the access of Central Asian landlocked developing countries to seaports in Asia, and the promotion of digital transformation of railway transport through international cooperation.
- 157. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.38).

Table 19.38
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)
Uzbekistan developed a concept on the thematic scope of the regional centre for the development of transport and communication interconnection	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan signed the Agreement on strengthening the interconnectedness of land transport in Central Asia	Transport authorities and industry stakeholders of the countries of North and Central Asia are able to plan and implement practical measures to strengthen digital transformation of land and multimodal transport

Planned results for 2026

Result 1: landlocked developing countries advance the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the new programme of action beyond 2024

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

158. The subprogramme's work contributed to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan reporting progress towards reaching the targets of the Vienna Programme of Action, which met the planned target.
159. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.39).

Table 19.3
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
Landlocked developing countries in the subregion agreed to strengthen collaboration in developing transport and transit corridors, facilitating energy transit and promoting digital inclusion	Dialogue was strengthened among landlocked developing countries and the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries on progress and challenges related to implementing the Vienna Programme of Action	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan reported progress towards reaching the targets of the Vienna Programme of Action	Policymakers from landlocked developing countries in the subregion have increased awareness of the priority areas beyond 2024	Policymakers identify challenges and opportunities to achieve the goals related to digital connectivity of the new Programme of Action for landlocked developing countries

Result 2: strengthened cooperation instruments of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

160. The component's work contributed to countries participating in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia reiterated their commitment to the establishment of

the SPECA Multi-Partner Trust Fund and its Steering Committee for effective management and coordination of all strategic, operational, technical and management aspects of the Fund, which met the planned target.

161. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.40).

Table 19.40
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
The Almaty Declaration was adopted	Countries participating in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia established a Special Programme fund in the United Nations multi-partner trust fund format	Countries participating in the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia participating States reiterated their commitment to the establishment of the SPECA Multi-Partner Trust Fund and its Steering Committee for effective management and coordination of all strategic, operational, technical and management aspects of the Fund	The financial stability of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia to implement activities is enhanced	United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia participating countries develop joint projects for multi-partner trust fund

Result 3: member States advance digital transformation policies

Proposed programme plan for 2026

162. In North and Central Asia, the need for digital transformation has been amplified by rapid urbanization. Many countries of the subregion have initiated activities to tap into the potential of digital transformation and the component has been working closely with member States and relevant stakeholders to facilitate knowledge sharing.

Lesson learned and planned change

163. The lesson for the subprogramme was that exchanging experience and knowledge among subregional organizations on digital transformation for sustainable development could accelerate the identification of solutions to gaps in policy frameworks. In applying the lesson and under the umbrella of the Memorandum of Understanding between Eurasian Economic Community and ASEAN on economic cooperation, the component jointly with component 5 of subprogramme 8 plans to create a platform for exchange of experience and knowledge and organize policy dialogues between member States of the two subregional organizations. It will undertake a study on the role of digital transformation for sustainable development to support member States in both subregions in their policymaking and develop policy recommendations and actions to promoting digital transformation.
164. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.41).

Table 19.41
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
-	-	Eurasian Economic Community and ASEAN implement joint project to strengthen subregional cooperation on digital transformation for economic and sustainable development	Member States share best practices on digital transformation	Member States formulate policies and strategies in relation to digital transformation for sustainable development.

Deliverables

165. Table 19.42 lists all deliverables of the component.

Table 19.42
Component 3: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	-	1	–
1. Report for the Commission	1	-	1	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	12	13	12	12
Meetings of:				
2. The Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	1	1	1	1
3. The Economic Forum of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	3	4	3	3
4. Expert groups on policy and programme options to address emerging economic and social development issues in North and Central Asia	4	4	4	4
5. The subregional forum on the Sustainable Development Goals in North and Central Asia	4	4	4	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	-	1	–	–
6. On regional cooperation and integration for the landlocked and transit developing countries	-	1	–	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	1	1	1
7. On regional cooperation and integration for the landlocked and transit developing countries	1	1	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: advocacy with member States of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on regional and subregional priority issues; side events for member States and regional organizations at the annual session of the Commission.				

Component 4

Subregional activities for development in South and South-West Asia

Objective

166. 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

167. To contribute to the objective, the component will:
- (a) Provide tailored analytical support, policy advice and technical assistance, and facilitate knowledge exchange and dialogues for member States and other stakeholders, on transboundary or common development priorities, in particular for landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and least developed countries, such as connectivity for economic corridors, disaster risk resilience, energy transition, women's economic empowerment and disability inclusion;
 - (b) Convene subregional consultations on sustainable development, including through the South and South-West Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals, to facilitate the sharing of good practices and the articulation of subregional perspectives that contribute to the relevant ESCAP knowledge products and forums, such as the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;
 - (c) Collaborate with subregional intergovernmental organizations for the coordination and mutual leveraging of subregional initiatives and facilitate ESCAP communication with the respective secretariats;
 - (d) Serve as the focal point for the Commission's engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, including through substantive assistance in preparing common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in particular with regard to the transboundary dimensions of sustainable development, and assist country-level programming by providing subregional perspectives, access to regional networks and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation;
 - (e) Forge partnerships with other development partners, and private sector and civil society organizations in common areas of work, for enhanced impact in supporting member States towards their achievement of the Goals;
 - (f) Deepen linkages and synergies with other ESCAP subprogrammes and components in common areas of work, for enhanced harmonization and coherence in the delivery of assistance to member States.
168. The above-mentioned work will help member States make progress towards achieving Goals 1, 5, 7–10, 12, 13 and 17.
169. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Enhanced connectivity in the subregion, especially for people in landlocked developing countries and least developed countries;
 - (b) Strengthened capacity of member States in the subregion, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change and to reduce the risk of disasters, including those induced by climate change, particularly on people in vulnerable situations;

- (c) Enhanced design and implementation of policies and subregional cooperation among member States in the transition to sustainable energy accessible to people in remote areas and in marginalized situations in South and South-West Asia;
- (d) Enriched exchange of experiences and best practices between governments, civil society, academia/think tanks, the private sector, United Nations agencies, subregional organizations and other international organizations and financial institutions to bridge knowledge gaps for addressing the Goals.

Programme performance in 2024

Increased use of emerging technologies for disaster risk reduction in countries in special situations

- 170. In collaboration with subprogramme 5 and the United Nations Development Programme, the component has supported the small island developing State of Maldives and the landlocked developing country of Bhutan in adopting technologies to increase the resilience to hazards. The component introduced high-resolution climate projection information and geospatial techniques to support the government of Maldives in upgrading its disaster risk profile for evidence-based policy making in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The component also organized a training in Bhutan on the methodology used in Maldives which Bhutan then applied to develop its risk profile and projection database for use in disaster-resilient policy making.
- 171. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.43).

Table 19.43

Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)
Disaster management authorities in Maldives identified existing gaps in disaster risk management through the use of customized planning tools, database development and data collection	Policymakers from Maldives used customized planning tools, techniques and guidelines to facilitate the undertaking of disaster risk-related analyses for national and local planning purposes	<p>The Government of Maldives increased the accessibility to innovative online tools for national and local disaster preparedness</p> <p>The Government of Bhutan applied projection techniques to issue scenario-based recommendations for adaptation and mitigation strategies</p>

Result 1: improved flow of goods and services at border crossing points in Eastern South Asia

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

- 172. The subprogramme's work contributed to enhancing the cooperation between the land port authorities of India and Bangladesh, particularly at the Dawki-Tamabil land crossing border, that resulted in extended the opening hours, the facilitation of trade in new goods and the Government of India initiating actions to bring animal testing closer to the border, which met the planned target.
- 173. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.44).

Table 19.44
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
The flow of goods and services at border crossing points in Eastern South Asia is hampered due to limited transboundary connectivity in transport, energy, ICT and supply chains in those localities	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and one subregional organization (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) expressed interest in working jointly to improve the transboundary flow of goods and services at border crossing points between north-east India and Bangladesh	Enhanced cooperation between the land port authorities of India and Bangladesh, particularly at the Dawki-Tamabil land crossing border	Bottlenecks at two border crossing points in Eastern South Asia are reduced, in tandem with an increase in the flow of goods and services across these points	Enhanced participation of women in cross-border trade in Eastern South Asia expressed <i>inter alia</i> through the numbers of women that engage in cross-border trade

Result 2: accelerated transition to sustainable energy

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

174. The subprogramme's work contributed to Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal identifying priorities through a multi-country policy dialogue on regional energy connectivity, which exceeded the planned target of two countries.
175. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.45).

Table 19.45
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
Bhutan and Pakistan issued Goal 7 road maps	The Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand shared their experience on cross-border electricity trading with Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal identified priorities through a multi-country policy dialogue on regional energy connectivity	Two countries in the subregion draft action plans on the sustainable energy transition	One subregional organization promotes cooperation in sustainable energy transition

Result 3: bridging the digital gap to leave no one behind in South and South-West Asia

Propose programme plan for 2026

176. The digital divide, particularly for women and local communities, manifests as disparities in access to technology, internet connectivity, and digital literacy, which significantly limits opportunities for these individuals in marginalized situations. The component has been implementing training for women entrepreneurs to enhance their access to the Internet and its use e-commerce and digital marketing. It has also worked with local communities in remote border areas to enhance cross-border trade.

Lessons learned and planned change

177. The lesson for the component was that partnering with the Wi-Fi programme implemented by subprogramme 5 would help to systematically upskill women in cross-border settings and contribute to closing the digital divide for women and communities in marginalized situations along border areas. In applying the lesson, the component will link the Wi-Fi programme to the land border authority of India and leverage its existing partnership at selected borders in South and South-West Asia. The component will identify the barriers for women and local communities at borders to participate in digital upskilling programmes, and design capacity-building programmes to equip them with digital skills.
178. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.46).

Table 19.46
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
-	2,032 women trained on digital marketing and e-commerce	Stakeholders identified priority interventions to bridge the digital divide	Stakeholders initiate a cross-country pilot project addressing the identified priorities	Stakeholders initiate an initiative on bridging the digital divide with a subregional organization

Deliverables

179. Table 19.47 lists all deliverables of the component.

Table 19.47
Component 4: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	-	1	-
1. Report for the Commission	1	-	1	-
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	4	6	4	4
Meetings of:				
2. The South and South-West Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals	4	6	4	4

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	1	–	–
4. On institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in South and South-West Asia	1	1	–	–
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	2	2	2	2
5. On thematic areas related to sustainable development	2	2	2	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	5	5	5	–
6. Development paper series on economic and social development	5	5	5	–
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: expert advice to member States of the subregion in implementing the 2030 Agenda and promoting regional economic cooperation and integration.				

Component 5

Subregional activities for development in South-East Asia

Objective

180. 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

181. To contribute to the objective, the component will:
- (a) Coordinate high-level dialogues and working meetings to support the implementation of the next iteration of a plan of action between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations;
 - (b) Further expand cooperation with ASEAN through increased engagement with the ASEAN secretariat and relevant sectoral bodies and committees, as appropriate, and on initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and subregional goals, including through support for the implementation of the post-2025 ASEAN vision;
 - (c) Promote coordination with and collaboration among subregional intergovernmental organizations and member States for an effective representation of subregional perspectives at regional and global consultations;
 - (d) Further develop partnerships and cooperation with civil society organizations in support of people in vulnerable situations to enhance synergy and effective participation at the subregional Sustainable Development Goals forum and raise awareness of the Goals among youth through a collaboration with the Association of Pacific Rim Universities in mutual areas of interest;
 - (e) Provide implementation support for the Commission's subprogrammes relating to the subregion's priorities, serve as the focal point for the Commission's engagement with the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams, including through substantive assistance in preparing common country assessments and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in particular with regard to the transboundary dimensions of sustainable development, and assist country-level programming by providing subregional perspectives and access to regional networks and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation;

- (f) Support coordination among the various agencies and partners, with a focus on sustainable investment and finance, inclusive and equitable societies, Sustainable Development Goal progress monitoring, and enhanced engagement with ASEAN while ensuring synergy in the implementation of the processes;
 - (g) Support countries in special situations in the subregion in implementing their relevant programmes of action.
182. The above-mentioned work will help support member States in their progress towards the achievement of Goals 3, 5, 9, 10, 13 and 17.
183. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) An enhanced policy environment to support inclusive business and investment for sustainable development in the subregion;
 - (b) Fairer and more equitable access to social protection, especially for those most vulnerable, such as women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, and strengthened disability statistics, ageing and disability policies and social protection floor costing;
 - (c) The improved coordination and coherence of technical assistance provided under the post-2025 ASEAN Vision in the subregion.

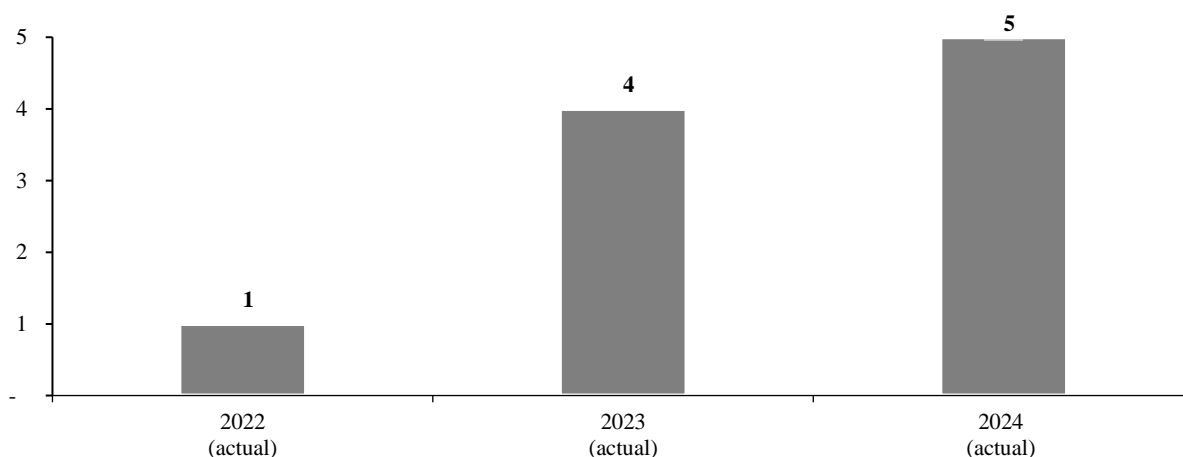
Programme performance in 2024

Increased usage of national Sustainable Development Goal tracker to inform the voluntary national review process

184. ESCAP has been supporting countries in the preparation and conduct of voluntary national reviews to assess national Sustainable Development Goal progress and has developed the national SDG tracker to facilitate the analysis. In 2024, the ASEAN Secretariat approached subprogramme 7 and the component for support in the preparation of a session to introduce and explore the utilisation of the national SDG tracker across all ASEAN member States. After the session, the ASEAN Secretariat requested ESCAP to organize a full training on the tracker upon request. Subsequently, the first ESCAP-ASEAN workshop on tracking progress against the Sustainable Development Goals was then held in Bangkok, Thailand.
185. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.X).

Figure 19.X

Performance measure: number of countries in the Southeast Asian subregion using the national Sustainable Development Goal tracker to inform their voluntary national reviews (cumulative)



Planned results for 2026

Result 1: improved sustainable foreign direct investment strategies in the subregion

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

186. The subprogramme's work contributed to member States discussing FDI promotion in the subregion at the ASEAN Investment Forum and its related events, which did not meet the planned target of one member State in the subregion developing a national strategy to attract sustainable FDI. The target was not met as the support to the development of the strategy was deferred to 2025 given limited capacities.
187. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.48).

Table 19.48

Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
Member States in the subregion agreed to promote intraregional sustainable FDI as a means for inclusive recovery and development	Eighty per cent of member States reported an increase in capacity to promote sustainable FDI in the subregion	Member States discussed FDI promotion in the subregion at the ASEAN Investment Forum and its related events	One additional member State in the subregion develops a national strategy to attract sustainable FDI	One additional member State, in the subregion develops a national strategy to attract sustainable FDI

Result 2: aligned investment policies and regulations for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

188. The subprogramme's work contributed to the adoption of the ASEAN Regional Investment Promotion Action Plan which serves as a workplan for ASEAN member States to collaborate on promoting investment across the subregion and provides a framework for leveraging FDI, which met the planned target.
189. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.49).

Table 19.49

Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
–	Member States agreed to develop a subregional action plan on sustainable investment to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals	Member States adopted the ASEAN Regional Investment Promotion Plan	Member States align their investment policies with the investment priorities of the subregional action plan on sustainable investment	Member States develop the next phase of the ASEAN Regional Investment Promotion Plan by focusing on additional sectors

Result 3: youth engagement towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Proposed programme plan for 2026

190. Youth can bring unique perspectives and innovative solutions to achieving the SDGs. In 2023, ESCAP renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Pacific Rim Universities which includes capacity building on the SDGs for students across Asia and the Pacific. The component has been working on integrating youth perspectives in the Southeast-Asia Forum for Sustainable Development Goals.

Lesson learned and planned change

191. The lesson for the component was that a more structured approach on youth engagement was required to effectively address the increased demand by universities to partake in the subregional forum. In applying the lesson, the component will support the Association of Pacific Rim Universities to create a curriculum for the promotion of the SDGs, and conduct trainings for the students on the Goals chosen to be part of the Sustainable Development Goals for Global Citizenship Programme in a particular year.
192. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.50).

Table 19.50
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
–	10 students intervened at the subregional forum for sustainable development	20 students made statements and contributed substantively to the discussions at the subregional forum for sustainable development	Students partake in the conceptualization of a session at the subregional forum	Increased number of universities participating in activities to increase awareness on the Goals amongst their students

Deliverables

193. Table 19.51 lists all deliverables of the component.

Table 19.51
Component 5: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	-	1	-
1. Report for the Commission	1	-	1	-
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	9	10	9	8
Meetings of:				
2. Expert groups on policy and programme options to address emerging sustainable development issues in South-East Asia	2	2	2	-
3. The South-East Asia Multi-stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals	4	6	4	4
4. ASEAN member States, the ASEAN secretariat and the ASEAN sectoral working groups on sustainable development in South-East Asia	3	2	3	-
5. High Level Brainstorming Dialogue on the Implementation of the Complementarities Initiative	-	-	-	4
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	2	1	-
6. On institutional programmatic priorities of ESCAP in South-East Asia	1	2	1	-
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	2	6	-	14
7. 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	1	2	-	3
8. On the implementation of sustainable FDI indicators	1	4	-	-
9. On sustainable investment	-	-	-	4
10. On Sustainable Development Goal progress monitoring	-	-	-	2
11. For youth on the Sustainable Development Goals	-	-	-	3
12. On digitalization	-	-	-	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	1	1	-

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
13. 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	1	1	–

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: consultations and advisory support to the subregional member States on sustainable investment and finance, inclusive and equitable societies, Sustainable Development Goals progress monitoring; consultations on enhanced engagement with ASEAN; side events at the Commission session; side events at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

Subprogramme 9 Energy

Objective

194. 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 energy access, renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy connectivity.

Strategy

195. To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will enhance the evidence base for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 and Goals with interlinkages to it, and support member States in progressing towards Goal 7. Specifically, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Facilitate intergovernmental dialogue and develop and disseminate evidence-based policy recommendations and guidance related to expanding access to modern energy, growing the share of renewable sources of energy in the energy mix, adopting energy efficient technologies and approaches, and increasing energy connectivity;
 - (b) Provide capacity-building activities focused on facilitating planning and policy development for achieving Goal 7, including in least developed countries, based on local contexts and in alignment with national priorities, in cooperation with resident coordinator offices to leverage institutional resources and ensure the efficiency of work programme implementation;
 - (c) Produce and contribute to the development of knowledge products focused on broadening understanding of the benefits and implications of energy connectivity for energy security and resilience, affordability and sustainability;
 - (d) Provide access to up-to-date data, policy information and energy infrastructure maps through the Asia Pacific Energy Portal and other knowledge platforms;
 - (e) Review regional and national progress against the targets of Goal 7 and provide support through the development and implementation of road maps and plans (Goal 7 road maps, the regional road map on power system connectivity and national cooling action plans), as applicable, and by promoting the use of modelling and policy planning tools and methodologies;
 - (g) Focus capacity-building efforts on the acceleration of progress towards Goal 7 targets and emissions reductions, in particular access to clean cooking fuels and technologies; sustainable cooling; the sustainability of supply chains for minerals, materials and technologies critical for energy transition; cleaner use of fossil fuels; and energy connectivity, with a special emphasis on countries in special situations;
 - (h) Mainstream a gender perspective by facilitating dialogue and producing knowledge products that include the energy system's impacts on women and highlight their contribution to a sustainable energy transition, working jointly with subprogramme 6.

196. The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) The adoption of evidence-based policies, strategies and plans to increase energy access, energy efficiency and the use of renewable sources of energy and enabling technologies at the national and subnational levels;
 - (b) Improved capacity to implement policies for the transition to renewable sources of energy, environmentally sound energy technologies and net-zero emissions goals, targets and ambitions;
 - (c) Increased capacity of policymakers and regulators to plan and implement power system connectivity initiatives that enable the scaling up of renewable energies;
 - (d) Greater recognition among policymakers of a gender perspective in the sustainable energy transition, including the potential for women to accelerate progress.

Programme performance in 2024

A roadmap for the development of a regional electricity market in Central and West Asia

197. The potential for multilateral power system connectivity and trade to facilitate the integration of higher shares of renewable energy in Central and West Asia has been recognized by the members of the Economic Cooperation Organization. The subprogramme developed a roadmap for promoting cross-border electricity connectivity using an ESCAP-designed policy framework which provides a set of principles to ensure the coherence of energy connectivity initiatives with the Goals. This roadmap has been recognized by relevant stakeholders in its role in revitalizing the Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM) initiative through the proposal of actions on operationalizing a regional electricity market in the region.
198. Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.52).

Table 19.52
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)
Member States finalized a set of principles to enable the assessment of interconnection projects against economic outcomes, efficiency and sustainability criteria and to ensure coherence with the SDGs	Member States reviewed the application of the set of principles and policy framework for sustainable power system connectivity in Northeast Asia at the North-East Asia Regional Power Interconnection and Cooperation Forum, and recognized its potential to enhance alignment of power connectivity initiatives with sustainability goals.	Member States of Economic Cooperation Organization launched the roadmap and established a task force for speeding up the advancement of the ECO-REM project

Planned results for 2026

Result 1: increased ambition of national commitments by member States towards modern and clean energy in support of Goal 7

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

199. The subprogramme's work contributed to Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji and Viet Nam announcing more ambitious national commitments to increase the share of energy from renewable sources, and to

adopt advanced energy efficiency and enhance access to electricity and clean cooking technologies, research, technology and investments in clean energy, which met the planned target.

200. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 19.53).

Table 19.53

Performance measure

<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>	<i>2024 (actual)</i>	<i>2025 (planned)</i>	<i>2026 (planned)</i>
Member States provided updates on the development of sustainable energy policies at meetings of the Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels	Member States agreed on accelerated Sustainable Development Goal 7 actions in the areas of energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy, in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement under the ministerial declaration adopted by ESCAP member States at the Third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, in October 2023	Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Viet Nam announced more ambitious national commitments to increase the share of energy from renewable sources, and to adopt advanced energy efficiency and enhance access to electricity and clean cooking technologies, research, technology and investments in clean energy	Member States in Asia and the Pacific announce commitments to close gaps on achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 targets	Member States introduce strengthened policies to achieve Goal 7 by 2030 and announce more ambitious clean energy commitments towards achieving mid-century net zero targets

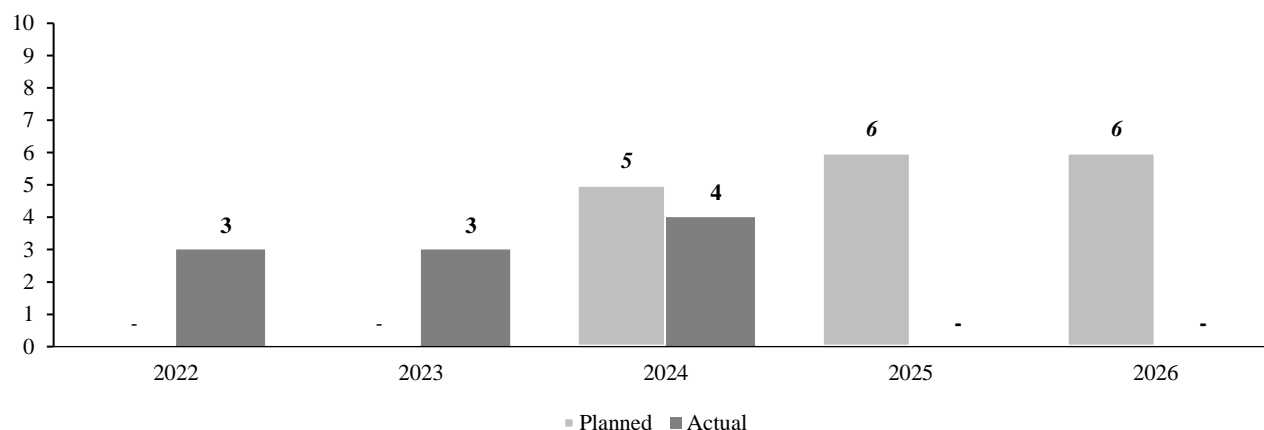
Result 2: countries adopt national cooling action plans

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

201. The subprogramme's work contributed to the issuance of one new national cooling action plan by Indonesia in 2024, which did not meet the planned cumulative target of five national cooling action plans issued by member States. The target was not met due to challenges in gathering comprehensive data to enable sectoral assessments, modelling and scenario development, which underpin the evidence-based policy recommendations needed to finalize the other national cooling action plan.
202. Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.XI).

Figure 19.XI

Performance measure: number of national cooling action plans issued by member States (cumulative)



Result 3: increased cooperation of member States in the Asia Pacific region on cross-border power connectivity projects

Proposed programme plan for 2026

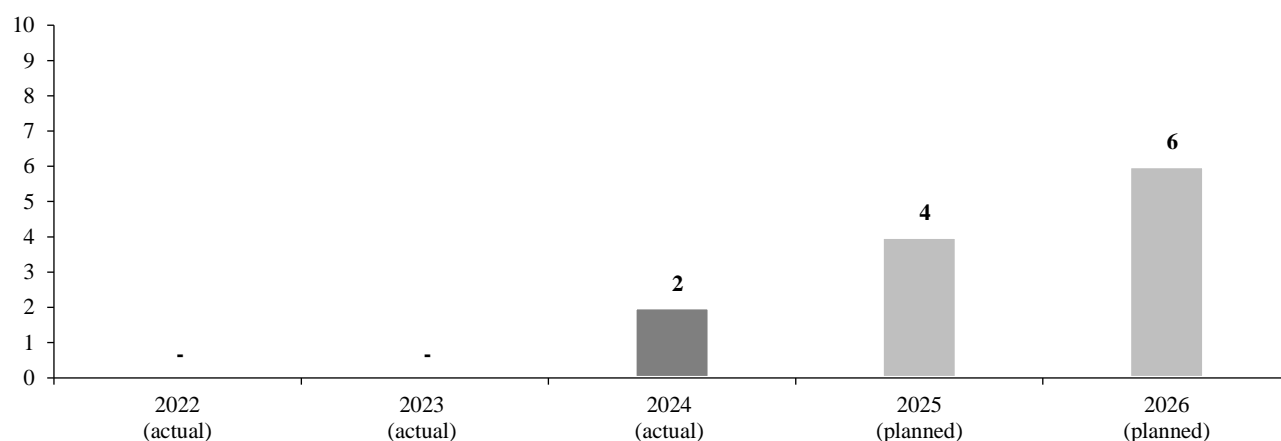
203. Recognizing the important role of cross-border power system connectivity in supporting access to secure, sustainable and affordable electricity, member States endorsed the Regional Road Map on Power System Connectivity and its nine strategies in 2021. Subsequently, the subprogramme, through the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity, established milestones under the nine strategies and has worked towards supporting member States in implementing the road map and achieving the milestones.

Lessons learned and planned change

204. The lesson for the subprogramme, based on the latest subprogramme evaluation was that intergovernmental deliberations created a shared understanding of the challenges of improving connectivity and garnered support for guiding principles to bolster connectivity efforts. However, it was also noted that more efforts could be made to facilitate the consensus building on subregional connectivity. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will engage with member States through various channels of communication and increase outreach and cooperation with the subregional offices and United Nations country teams. It will also enhance consensus building on key connectivity priorities by strengthening the intergovernmental deliberation process to develop additional milestones under the road map to guide increased cooperation among member States.
205. Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 19.XII).

Figure 19.XII

Performance measure: number of newly announced bilateral and multilateral power connectivity projects and initiatives (cumulative)



Deliverables

206. Table 19.54 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 19.54

Subprogramme 9: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	2	1
Reports for:				
1. The Commission	1	1	1	1
2. The Committee on Energy	–	–	1	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	10	9	16	10
Meetings of:				
3. The Committee on Energy	–	–	6	–
4. The Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels	4	4	4	4
5. The Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity	4	4	4	4
6. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment (energy-related issues)	2	1	2	2
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	2	12	2	2
7. On the implementation of Goal 7	2	12	2	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	2	2
9. On ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	2	2	2	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	4	4	5	4
10. On ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	4	4	5	–

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2024 actual</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>	<i>2026 planned</i>
11. Working papers on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	—	—	—	2
12. Policy briefs on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	—	—	—	2
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: policy advice to all member States, upon request, on the implementation of Goal 7 and energy connectivity; side events on energy at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: Asia Pacific Energy Portal (containing more than 200 data sets, 3,000 policy documents and a mapping of more than 6,000 power plants).				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: information materials on sustainable energy, primarily for government officials and technical experts in the region; International Day of Clean Energy.				