



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
29 May 2025

Original: English

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation

Second session

Bangkok, 28–30 May 2025

Agenda item 8

**Adoption of the report of the Committee on Trade,
Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation on its
second session**

Draft report

I. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. The following decisions adopted by the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP):

Decision 1

The Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation requests the secretariat to continue promoting trade and regional cooperation by supporting members and associate members, within existing mandates and resources, in addressing emerging trade issues and facilitation challenges related to international trade and investment as an engine for development through, inter alia, the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement and the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. This includes conducting research and analysis and providing capacity-building assistance upon request, especially for the parties to, and in relation to, those agreements and in line with paragraph 1 (d) of the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to avoid duplication of efforts.

Decision 2

The Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation notes the progress made by the secretariat in the engagement of the private sector to scale up sustainable business practices and solutions, including through the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and the Asia-Pacific Business Forum. It requests the secretariat to support members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, upon request, within existing mandates and available resources, in strengthening public-private engagements, as appropriate, with a focus on sharing best practices, exchanging knowledge on sustainability and facilitating technical cooperation.

Decision 3

The Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation notes challenges in promoting enterprise and business innovation for inclusive and sustainable development, inter alia, the development, transfer, adaptation and application of technologies, notes the progress made by the secretariat in promoting enterprise and business innovation for inclusive and sustainable development and requests the secretariat to continue to support members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, upon their request, within existing mandates and available resources.

(USA, Japan to circle back)

II. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

2. The Committee held its second session in Bangkok from 28 to 30 May 2025. The session was opened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. Statements were delivered by: Minister of Tourism, Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives, Kiribati, Ms. Tangariki Reete; Vice Minister of Trade and Integration, Kazakhstan, Mr. Asset Nussupov; Special Chief Secretary to the Government and Chief Executive Officer of the Industry and Investment Cell in the Chief Minister's Office and of Smart Proactive Efficient and Effective Delivery, government of Telangana, India, Mr. Jayesh Ranjan; and Vice-Chair of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, President of the World Digital Chamber and President of the KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific, Mr. Michael Yeoh.

3. Video messages were played from: Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry, Philippines, Ms. Ma. Cristina A. Roque; and Senior Minister in Charge of Special Missions (Multilateral Trade and Economic Affairs) and Chairman of the Trade Policy Advisory Board, Cambodia, Mr. Sok Siphana.

B. Attendance

4. Representatives of the following member States attended: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

5. Representatives of the following Permanent Observers attended: Guatemala, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland.

6. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds also attended: International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

7. A representative of the Eurasian Economic Commission, an intergovernmental organization, provided a video message.

8. A representative of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network also attended.

9. In accordance with rule 12 of the ESCAP rules of procedure, the bureau examined the credentials of the representatives of member States and reported upon them to the Committee. The credentials of the representatives of 33 member States were found to be in order. Acknowledging the report of the Credentials Committee to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session,¹ and in line with Assembly resolution 396 (V) of 14 December 1950, the bureau decided to defer any action on the credentials pertaining to the representatives of Myanmar at the second session of the Committee pending a decision by the Assembly on the representation of Myanmar.

10. The Committee took note of the oral report of the bureau on credentials.

C. Election of officers

11. The Committee elected the following officers:

Chair:	Mr. Faiyaz Murshid Kazi (Bangladesh)
Vice-Chairs:	Ms. E.A.S. Wijayanthi Edirisinghe (Sri Lanka) Ms. Jayagowri Pindaya (Malaysia)

D. Agenda

12. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Trends in trade and cooperation for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.
3. Private sector leadership in scaling up sustainable business practices and solutions in the Asia-Pacific region.
4. Mobilizing foreign direct investment for sustainable development.
5. Advancing the agenda on business innovation for inclusive and sustainable development.
6. Fostering cooperation to leverage innovation and technology for sustainable development.
7. Other matters.

¹ A/79/613.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation on its second session.

E. Other events

13. The following seminars, side events and special sessions were held in conjunction with the second session of the Committee:

(a) 27 May 2025: workshop on the trade elements of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, organized by the secretariat, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the World Trade Organization;

(b) 27 and 28 May 2025: meeting on the implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Investment Promotion Action Plan 2025–2030, organized by the secretariat;

(c) 28 May 2025: workshop on closing regulatory gaps for digital trade integration, organized by the secretariat, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

(d) 29 May 2025: expert group meeting on promoting inclusive business across Asia and the Pacific, organized by the secretariat;

(e) 29 and 30 May 2025: consultative session on cooperation on investment promotion and attraction in Central Asia, organized by the secretariat and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation;

(f) 30 May 2025: demonstration of the artificial intelligence-powered Trade Intelligence and Negotiations Adviser and its new online tariff simulator module, organized by the secretariat.

III. Account of proceedings

14. The discussions held during the session will be summarized in an account of proceedings that will become available within a week following the conclusion of the session and be annexed to the present report.

Annex

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
ESCAP/CTIEBI(2)/1	Provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/CTIEBI(2)/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/CTIEBI(2)/2	Regional trends in trade and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region	2
ESCAP/CTIEBI(2)/3	Unleashing digital trade and investment for sustainable development	2
ESCAP/CTIEBI(2)/4	Private sector leadership in scaling up sustainable business practices and solutions in the Asia-Pacific region	3
ESCAP/CTIEBI(2)/5	Mobilizing foreign direct investment for sustainable development	4
ESCAP/CTIEBI(2)/6	Advancing the agenda on business innovation for inclusive and sustainable development	5
ESCAP/CTIEBI(2)/7	Fostering cooperation to leverage innovation and technology for sustainable development	6
ESCAP/CTIEBI(2)/8	Note verbale dated 16 May 2025 from the Permanent Mission of China to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific addressed to the secretariat of the Commission	2
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/CTIEBI(2)/L.1	Draft report	8

Note: The information for participants, the list of participants and the tentative programme are available at www.unescap.org/events/CTIEBI2-2025.