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**MANAGEMENT ISSUES: TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF  
ESCAP AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENDED CONTRIBUTIONS**

(Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda)

**OVERVIEW OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES AND  
EXTRABUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

*Note by the secretariat*

**SUMMARY**

The present document provides an overview of the secretariat's technical cooperation activities in 2009 in the context of the repositioning of the Commission as a leading regional hub for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. It describes the trends in technical cooperation to meet the key and emerging challenges confronting member States in the Asia-Pacific region, including capacity development approaches based on regional and South-South cooperation. It also contains an overview of the financial contributions made available to the secretariat in 2009 for technical cooperation work, the delivery of technical cooperation in 2009 and the highlights of technical cooperation activities during the period under review. The Commission may wish to review the present document and provide the secretariat with guidance on the direction of its technical cooperation programme.

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### I. TRENDS IN THE ESCAP TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME IN 2009

1. The aim of the technical cooperation work of the secretariat is to develop the capacities of member States to formulate and implement effective, inclusive and sustainable development policies and programmes from a multidisciplinary perspective, to narrow development gaps, to build resiliency and to support member States in implementing international commitments.

2. The total cash contributions received by ESCAP in 2009 for technical cooperation from the regular budget as well as voluntary sources amounted to approximately \$15.8 million. The total volume of technical cooperation delivery in 2009 was approximately \$19.6 million. Further details are provided in section II below.

3. Strategic partnership development and inter-agency coordination at the regional level were the key elements of the work of the secretariat during the past year. In 2009, six meetings of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) were convened. In May, the achievements of the six RCM thematic working groups and the lessons learned were reviewed during a visit by the Deputy Secretary-General. Joint responses and a system-wide analysis of the impact of the financial crisis were a significant focus of the RCM process in 2009.

4. Considerable effort was made to realign and invigorate the work of the six thematic working groups in support of regional positions and preparations for key global events, such as the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. At the United Nations Climate Change Talks, held in Bangkok, ESCAP and other United Nations members of RCM highlighted the various ongoing efforts of the United Nations to assist countries in the Asian and Pacific region in combating climate change, including mitigation, adaptation, financing, capacity-building and policy integration.

5. The secretariat and RCM also strengthened the linkages with subregional organizations, in particular the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). ESCAP had been spearheading the partnership between the United Nations and ASEAN through RCM by means of, among other things, the establishment of a joint ASEAN-United Nations working group on disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

6. In April 2009, the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination decided to institutionalize its linkage with RCM in the five regional commissions of the United Nations. This alignment of the Mechanism within the Board architecture establishes a clear division of labour between RCM and the regional groupings of the United Nations Development Group, which were referred to as the Regional Directors' Teams until October 2009.

7. The secretariat continued to work with the 17 member agencies of the United Nations Development Group Asia-Pacific in providing United Nations country teams with support for the achievement of development results at the country level. This included ESCAP participation in the Peer Support Group to provide quality support and assurance for the countries involved in the 2009 United Nations Development Assistance Framework roll-out in the Asian and Pacific region. In parallel with the work carried out in the context of the Peer Support Group, the secretariat also engaged United Nations country teams in common country planning processes as a non-resident agency for the 2009 roll-out countries, in particular Cambodia, China, the Democratic Republic of Korea and Maldives.

8. In order to further enhance technical cooperation and results-based inter-agency partnerships, the secretariat signed new memorandums of understanding with the International Labour Organization, the Intergovernmental Commission of the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia and the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as a tripartite memorandum of understanding with the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Islamic Development Bank on transport development.

9. In 2009, synergies with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were further strengthened through ongoing memorandums of understanding with those organizations, as reflected in the outcomes of the respective annual consultation meetings.

10. A significant milestone in the ESCAP-ADB partnership was a joint evaluative review of the ESCAP-ADB memorandum of understanding—the first evaluation of its type—which provided a basis for the midterm review of the memorandum itself. The review acknowledged the important shift to a more strategic partnership between the two organizations, but also noted that there was room for improvement in certain key operational areas and limited progress in intersectoral coordination. It recommended that future cooperation focus on a limited number of

key programme areas of strategic importance, including the establishment of a direct link between those programme areas and policy dialogue, knowledge management and staff exchange.

11. In 2009, the Millennium Development Goal partnership between ESCAP, ADB and UNDP was further expanded to cover not only annual analytical Goal assessment reports but also policy and action workshops focusing on key areas where it was becoming difficult to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

12. ESCAP also deepened its engagement with countries with special needs in 2009 through enhanced development partnerships and capacity-building to coordinate their strategies to address the impact of the economic, food and fuel crises, using South-South cooperation as a key modality. The high-level development dialogue held in Nay Pyi Taw in December 2009 with Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, as well as senior Government officials, policymakers and development practitioners, provided a unique opportunity for Myanmar Government officials and their development partners to engage in dialogue aimed at identifying the key elements of a comprehensive framework to support the improvement of rural livelihoods and poverty reduction in the country.

13. The secretariat continued its efforts to improve the planning processes of ESCAP during the formulation of the ESCAP strategic framework for 2012-2013. Technical cooperation programme priorities were incorporated into the planning process for the strategic framework with a view to enhancing the coherence and impact of the technical cooperation work of ESCAP. In particular, the secretariat developed the strategic framework to ensure that the comparative advantages of ESCAP were reflected.

## **II. TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT IN 2009**

### **A. Introduction**

14. For the purpose of the present document, technical cooperation activities are defined as activities relating to: (a) policy advocacy and dialogue on critical and emerging issues, including follow-up to global and regional commitments; (b) regional knowledge networking aimed at enabling the members and associate members of ESCAP to share and discuss information and experiences on good and innovative practices; and (c) training, advisory services and other forms of technical assistance aimed at strengthening the capacity of the members and associate members of ESCAP to formulate and implement effective policies and programmes in a range of key development areas.

15. ESCAP technical cooperation activities are funded from both the regular budget of the United Nations and extrabudgetary resources. The regular budget comprises (a) the regular programme of technical cooperation (section 22) and (b) the United Nations Development Account (section 34).<sup>1</sup> Extrabudgetary resources are voluntary contributions provided by individual Governments, entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Such contributions can be in cash (funds-in-trust) or assistance in kind, including the secondment of experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis and the provision of host facilities and equipment.

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<sup>1</sup> Contributions are reported in the year in which they are received. Contributions received in 2008 for the Development Account (section 34) that related to both 2008 and 2009 were reported as contributions in 2008, and have therefore been excluded from 2009 contributions.

## B. Financial contributions in 2009 for technical cooperation

### 1. Cash contributions

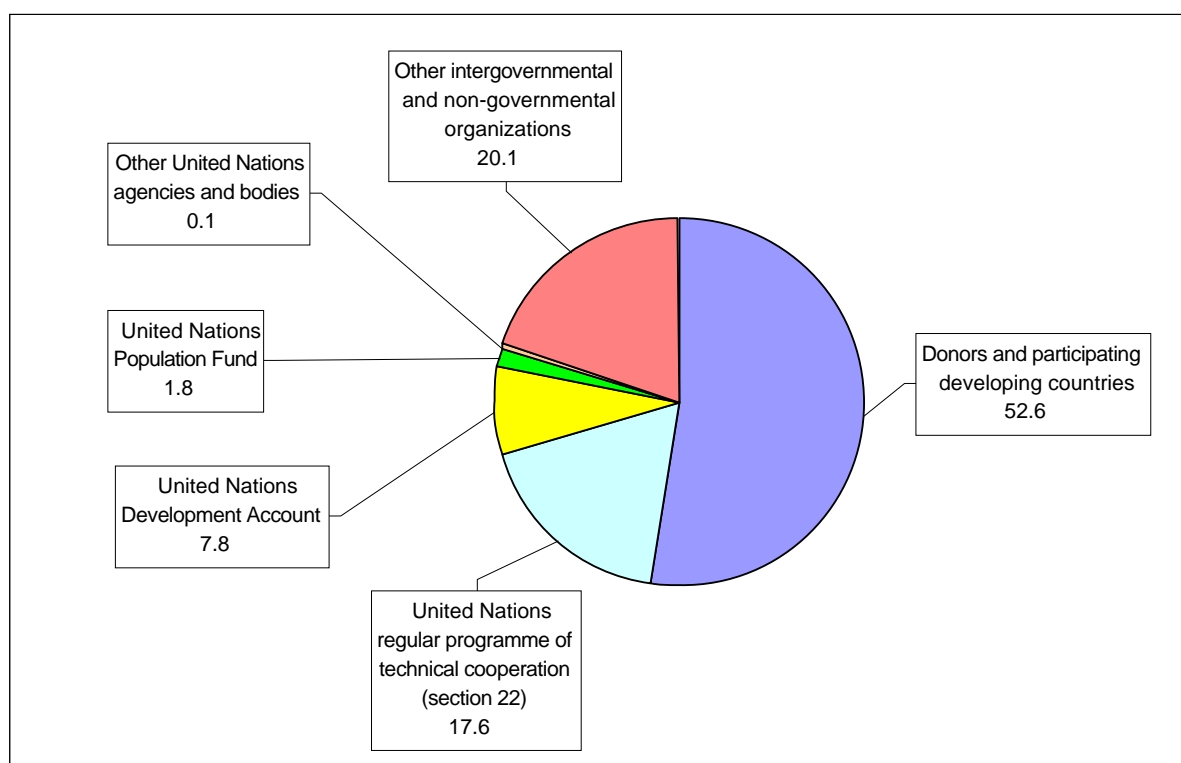
16. The total cash contributions received by ESCAP in 2009 for technical cooperation, from sources within and outside the United Nations, amounted to \$15,816,144.19, which represents a 30 per cent increase compared with the total cash contribution in 2008 of \$12,200,544.61. That total comprises \$11,806,144.19 from extrabudgetary contributions, \$2,786,000.00 from section 22 and \$1,224,000.00 from section 34.

**Table. Summary of financial contributions in 2009, by source**

|   | <i>United States dollars</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Donors and participating developing countries (see annex I)               | 8 324 915.90                 | 52.6              |
| United Nations system (see annex II)                                      |                              |                   |
| United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation (section 22)    | 2 786 000.00                 | 17.6              |
| United Nations Development Account  | 1 224 000.00                 | 7.8               |
| United Nations Population Fund  | 283 457.53                   | 1.8               |
| Other United Nations agencies and bodies                                  | 14 000.00                    | 0.1               |
| Other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (see annex II) | 3 183 770.76                 | 20.1              |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>15 816 144.19</b>         | <b>100</b>        |

17. The sources for the above-mentioned contributions are shown in figure 1.

**Figure 1. Financial contributions for technical cooperation in 2009, by source**  
(Percentage)



18. Donors and participating developing countries contributed \$8,324,915.90, or 52.6 per cent, of the total funds received in 2009, as compared with \$6,736,462.38 in 2008. Of that amount, approximately 77 per cent was received from developing member countries. Further details on the extrabudgetary resources (funds-in-trust) received from bilateral sources are provided in annex I to the present document.

19. The United Nations, from sources including section 22 and section 34 and funding from other United Nations entities, contributed a total of \$4,307,457.53, representing 27.3 per cent of the total funds received in 2009, as compared with \$4,227,246.91 in 2008. Further details are provided in annex II.A to the present document.

20. Other intergovernmental organizations and NGOs contributed \$3,183,770.76, or 20.1 per cent, of the total funds received in 2009, representing a 157 per cent increase from \$1,236,835.32 in 2008, owing to an initial contribution from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for a new \$4.4 million project on waste management. Other major contributors under this category were ADB and the International Development Research Centre. More detailed information on contributions from other intergovernmental organizations and NGOs is given in annex II.B to the present document.

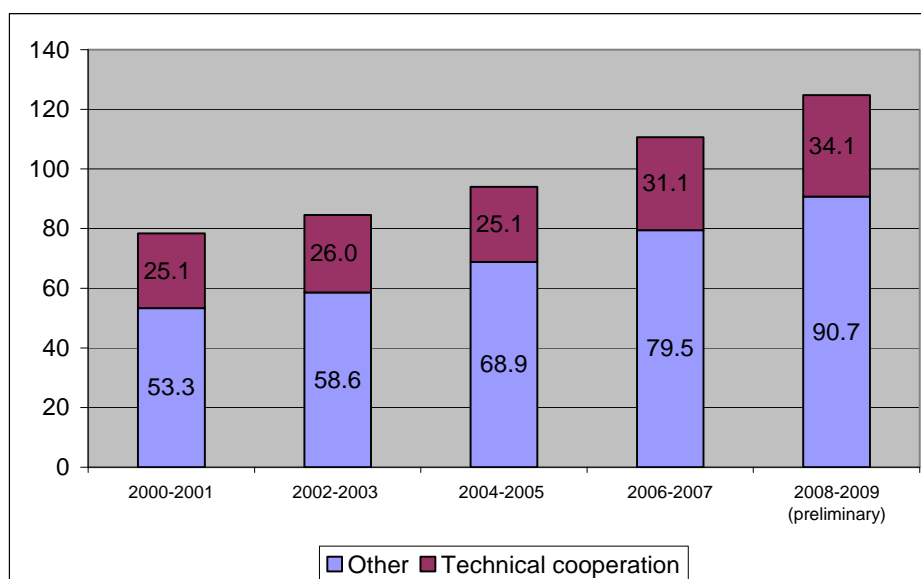
## 2. Contributions in kind

21. In 2009, ESCAP member States and one NGO also provided, on a non-reimbursable loan basis, a total of 116 work-months of services of experts in various disciplines. Further details are provided in annex III. Moreover, in the context of many technical cooperation projects, Government partner organizations provided various in-kind contributions, such as conference and technical facilities and professional or secretarial support.

### C. Delivery of technical cooperation in 2009

22. The evolution of the expenditures for technical cooperation as a portion of total ESCAP expenditures over the past 10 years is shown in figure 2.

**Figure 2. Evolution of ESCAP expenditures, 2000-2009**  
(Millions of United States dollars)



23. The volume of the secretariat's technical cooperation delivery in 2009 totalled approximately \$19.6 million (representing a 35 per cent increase compared with the \$14.5 million delivery figure in 2008), of which approximately \$14.4 million was funded from extrabudgetary resources. Of that amount, approximately \$9.2 million was delivered under technical cooperation projects implemented by ESCAP operational divisions or other agencies under the ESCAP-administered Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.<sup>2</sup> Approximately \$5.2 million was utilized for the institutional support of the regional institutions and their technical cooperation activities.

24. The above-mentioned total technical cooperation delivery amount includes \$3.4 million from the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation (section 22) and \$1.8 million from the Development Account (section 34). Section 22 resources were used to enhance capacities in economic and social policymaking, with special attention being given to the needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island developing countries through the provision of advisory services, training activities and fellowships, including the sharing of experiences and good practices through South-South cooperation.

#### **D. Highlights of technical cooperation in 2009**

##### **1. Addressing the challenges to achieving the Millennium Development Goals**

25. At a subregional meeting on the Millennium Development Goals held in Fiji in March 2009, and in the context of the tripartite ESCAP-ADB-UNDP Millennium Development Goal partnership, ESCAP Pacific members and associate members were able to exchange policy options, experiences and good practices to address the challenges to meeting the Goals in the context of the economic crisis. More than 100 participants from Governments, subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, civil society and development partners in the Pacific identified new interventions for deepening the response to the Millennium Development Goal agenda and suggested that a Millennium Development Goal fund be set up for the Pacific region and that a network of Goal focal points in the region share information, resources and good practices.

26. In Kathmandu in November 2009, the three partner organizations convened senior Government officials from countries in South Asia and representatives of United Nations agencies and NGOs to discuss policy options and increase awareness of the key areas of concern and the critical actions needed to accelerate the achievement of the Goals.

27. ESCAP, ADB and UNDP also completed the 2009 regional report on the Millennium Development Goals, which was launched at ADB headquarters in Manila in February 2010. The report identified key strategies to support the achievement of the Goals, notwithstanding the global financial and economic turmoil, including pro-Goal fiscal stimulus packages to strengthen social protection systems, boost domestic demand, promote regional integration, including intraregional trade, and enhance regional cooperation on monetary policy.

28. The ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre supported Pacific island member States in strengthening their national sustainable development strategies and addressing the priorities identified in the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of

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<sup>2</sup> See Commission resolution 62/7 of 12 April 2006.

Small Island Developing States,<sup>3</sup> in particular through an exchange of experiences with other small island developing States. The Centre facilitated the development of a draft regional report for the Pacific for the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy, to be finalized in early 2010. The Centre also contributed to the Cairns Compact development, facilitated by the Pacific Islands Forum, which included a renewed commitment to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the strengthening of development cooperation in the Pacific.

## **2. Strengthening the regional response in addressing the financial crisis and food insecurity**

29. Given the impact of the financial crisis in the region, ESCAP developed the capacities of policymakers and senior officials to respond to the crisis through the sharing of experiences and good practices on macroeconomic, monetary, fiscal and external debt policies. The secretariat organized a series of regional and national capacity-building workshops involving high-level officials from central banks and ministries of finance and economics, as well as regionally renowned experts in the field. The first workshop was held in Dhaka in July 2009 and was attended by policymakers from 17 countries in the region. A regional high-level expert group meeting was held in Singapore in October 2009, and the second South Asia Economic Summit was held in New Delhi in December 2009. Those two meetings addressed key issues relating to macroeconomic management policies to sustain the dynamism of Asia and the Pacific in the aftermath of the crisis. In response to a request by the Government of Bhutan, a national workshop was held in December 2009, in cooperation with UNDP, in which senior officials identified concrete initiatives to respond to the crisis, such as tax reforms, inter-bank markets, risk-based bank supervision and the development of markets for Government securities.

30. In May 2009, ESCAP, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, held a policy dialogue on the impact of the global economic crisis on international migration. Following up on the Asia-Pacific High-level Meeting on International Migration and Development, the workshop examined country-level information on the impact of the crisis on inflows and outflows of migration, and noted that more needed to be done to mitigate the full force of the crisis. ESCAP worked closely with the Global Migration Group, providing both the countries of origin of migrants and the host countries with policy recommendations and developing an analytical fact-sheet on the impact of the global economic crisis on migrant workers in the region.

31. In recognition of the critical importance of global issues such as energy security, climate change and green growth, the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology initiated a programme of work to promote the adoption and utilization of renewable energy technologies in the Asian and Pacific region. The initiative resulted in the development of a regional knowledge hub, the Renewable Energy Cooperation Network for Asia-Pacific, and a related training programme.

32. The Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific brought together representatives from Governments, research centres, private companies and donor agencies from 13 member States to develop an inclusive strategic plan to strengthen the Centre's work on poverty alleviation and food security through action-oriented policy research and technical cooperation programmes.

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<sup>3</sup> *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.



33. The United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery held an expert group meeting on agricultural machinery development for sustainable agriculture, which provided input for a study report on the subject, to be published in early 2010. It also held an expert group meeting to review feasibility studies and methodology guidelines relating to the application of the clean development mechanism facility for conservation agriculture and biogas, at which it was acknowledged that there was a need to develop a strategy to promote the wider application of the clean development mechanism in the agricultural sector and to share successful experiences and lessons learned. The Centre also conducted a regional training-of-trainers programme on hybrid rice cultivation technology, aimed at equipping member States with tools to address food insecurity.

### **3. Promoting low-carbon green growth**

34. ESCAP supported the efforts of the Government of Cambodia to develop a national green growth road map and to establish the national green growth secretariat under the auspices of the Ministry of the Environment. The Government of Kazakhstan was also provided with technical support for an assessment of the opportunities to apply green growth policy tools in national strategic planning. ESCAP assisted the Government of Viet Nam in implementing the first national application of eco-efficiency indicators.

35. In Manila in September 2009, ESCAP, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization held the International Conference on Green Industry in Asia. The focus of the Conference, which was attended by senior officials from 22 Asian countries, was managing the transition to resource-efficient and low-carbon industries. The Conference adopted the non-binding Manila Declaration on Green Industry in Asia and the Framework for Action, in which the region's commitment to pursuing green industry and managing the transition to low-carbon and resource-efficient economies was affirmed.

36. In August 2009, in Incheon, Republic of Korea, ESCAP held the fourth Policy Consultation Forum of the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth in conjunction with the Global Environment Forum. At the Forum, senior Government officials from 18 member countries and experts from United Nations agencies, international organizations and research institutions reached the consensus that promoting green industry would lead developing countries in the region towards long-term economic prosperity while ensuring environmental sustainability. Subsequently, in September 2009, ESCAP and the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Korea held a green growth training programme, which was attended by 41 policymakers, drawing on the experiences of the Republic of Korea.

37. In November 2009, ESCAP and the International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy held a regional workshop on engendering energy policy and practice in Asia to facilitate the sharing of experiences among policymakers and leading energy, poverty and gender specialists. ESCAP also worked with the Korea Energy Management Corporation to strengthen institutional capacity in energy efficiency in Central, South and South-East Asia. Furthermore, ESCAP, together with other United Nations partners, took the lead in developing the concept of a regional sustainable energy security framework.

38. ESCAP collaborated with ADB and other organizations in the preparation of the 2010 Asian Water Development Outlook, which focuses on the development of a comprehensive concept of water security for the region. ESCAP also worked with the Government of the Republic of Korea in the promotion of eco-efficient water infrastructure for socio-economic development in the Asian and Pacific region.

#### **4. Building social foundations for more inclusive and resilient societies**

39. In November 2009, ESCAP convened the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes, which was attended by representatives from 37 member States, as well as many United Nations agencies and NGOs (see E/ESCAP/66/14). A declaration was adopted reflecting the concerns of member States and setting out commitments to action in a number of key areas, which will serve as regional input to the global review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action,<sup>4</sup> to be held in March 2010.

40. Also in November 2009, representatives from 15 Asian and Pacific countries adopted a declaration at the ESCAP–Takayama Congress on the Creation of an Inclusive and Accessible Community in Asia and the Pacific, held in Takayama City, Japan. The declaration contained recommendations aimed at improving accessibility for persons with disabilities through regional networking, advocacy, policy development, research and data collection, capacity-building and resource mobilization.

41. The work of ESCAP on the informal sector and informal employment, carried out in conjunction with that of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, contributed to global efforts in that regard, providing a multiregional perspective on improving the estimation and availability of data for the analysis of informal employment and the contribution of household enterprises to the economy.

42. ESCAP contributed to the development of international standards on disability measurement through support for the inclusion in the next census round in several countries of a question set on disability. Furthermore, during the ninth meeting of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, African and Western Asian countries requested the Washington Group secretariat to ask the United Nations Statistics Division for support in replicating the experiences of Asia and the Pacific in their regions.

#### **5. Building statistical capacity**

43. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific continued to build statistical capacity in developing member States and to facilitate knowledge networking among statisticians within and beyond the region, as well as to promote South-South cooperation. The Institute adopted a core skills framework to improve the efficiency of its training courses following the endorsement of the framework at its Governing Council session. The Institute further extended the reach of its statistical training activities and resources through the development of an online e-library, making training materials available on the Institute website for self-learning purposes.

44. Under the guidance of the Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics and in cooperation with key national, subregional, regional and international partners, ESCAP began to formulate two multi-year regional programmes. The regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific will serve as a road map to address the constraints preventing countries from producing a core set of economic statistics necessary for effective monitoring and decision-making. The regional programme for the improvement of vital registration systems

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<sup>4</sup> *Report of the fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

will contribute to the improvement of civil registration and vital registration systems, as well as promoting the use of existing statistics in that area. The regional programmes have been developed in response to decisions and recommendations made by the Committee on Statistics at its inaugural session in February 2009.

## **6. Strengthening regional connectivity in Asia and the Pacific**

45. The secretariat developed the capacities of Government officials to formulate information and communications technology (ICT) policies through a series of workshops. Two subregional workshops were held in Bangkok—for Pacific and South-East Asian countries and for South Asian and Central Asian countries—to discuss the conditions and environment for ICT expansion and to recommend policies and programmes for enhancing ICT connectivity and narrowing the digital divide among countries and subregions in support of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the goals of the World Summit on the Information Society. ESCAP also collaborated with ADB in assisting Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal in piloting several community e-centre models to generate regional knowledge and policy recommendations on the use of ICT for development and to expand ICT access in remote and rural areas.

46. The Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development expanded its Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders training programme. Available online, the programme has built the capacities of policymakers and other Government officials to use ICT for development in areas such as Internet governance, e-government applications and network information security and privacy. By the end of 2009, it had been rolled out in 12 countries in the region (Afghanistan, the Cook Islands, Indonesia, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the Philippines, Samoa, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tonga and Tuvalu).

47. In the area of transport connectivity, the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks continued to be the major building blocks for the realization of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system, as reaffirmed in the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia, which was adopted at the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport, held in Bangkok in December 2009.

48. In 2009, two additional countries (Bangladesh and the Islamic Republic of Iran) acceded to or ratified the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network,<sup>5</sup> bringing to 25 the total number of parties to the Agreement.

49. China ratified the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network<sup>6</sup> in March 2009, bringing the total number of ratifications to eight (Cambodia, China, India, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Thailand). Consequently, as stipulated in its article 5, the Agreement entered into force on 11 June 2009. By the end of 2009, the total number of signatories had reached 22, of which 13 were parties to the Agreement. A recent ESCAP study on priority investment requirements for the development of the Trans-Asian Railway Network identified the urgent need to build the “missing links” along 8,300 km of the Network, for which \$24 billion would be required.

50. ESCAP provided assistance for the operationalization of international intermodal transport corridors in North-East and Central Asia. After carrying out an initial assessment of six intermodal transport corridors, an expert group meeting held

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<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. I-41607.

<sup>6</sup> Commission resolution 62/4 of 12 April 2006, annex.

in Tashkent in March 2009 selected three corridors for further study for development and operationalization. Following a discussion at the second expert group meeting, held in Bishkek in November 2009, corridor-based memorandums of understanding and terms of reference for steering committees are being developed for adoption by participating countries.

51. Road safety is increasingly becoming a priority for member States, and in Bangkok in September 2009, ESCAP convened an expert group meeting on improving road safety. A set of regional goals, targets and indicators were finalized, and Cambodia, Nepal and Sri Lanka were provided with assistance in setting their national goals, targets and indicators. At the first Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, held in Moscow in November 2009, the secretariat served as a moderator at the panel session on the impact of road infrastructure on road safety.

52. In the area of deepening regional cooperation in trade, ESCAP worked to present the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) and its potential benefits to prospective members in Central Asia, North Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific through a series of subregional and national seminars. In December 2009, at the third session of the Ministerial Council, the Trade Ministers of APTA countries formally launched the accession process of Mongolia, which was provided with regional advisory services to develop a road map for the implementation of a national single electronic window.

53. In January 2009, the Asia-Pacific Business Forum was held in Bangkok on the theme "Climate game change: innovations and solutions for climate change adaptation". The event attracted more than 250 participants from business, government, international organizations, civil society and academia, with positive feedback being received from the participants.

54. Through its work on corporate social responsibility, ESCAP considered the idea of building an online community of practice to allow the exchange of information among the practitioners of corporate social responsibility in the region. ESCAP also co-organized, with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a regional conference which discussed the benefits of corporate social responsibility for Governments and business and presented key international corporate responsibility instruments, such as the Global Compact and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

55. The Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade continued to evolve, and the Network's publications are increasingly being cited in other academic works. Through the organization of research on the key trade issues of the region, the dissemination of policy briefs and working papers and the organization of capacity-building workshops and seminars, the Network has successfully convened a large number of researchers from across the region; produced high-quality demand-driven studies; enhanced the research capacity of the region, in particular that of the least developed countries; and forged a close linkage between research and policymaking.

56. ESCAP continued its cooperation with the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, delivering six training seminars and workshops in 2009 which strengthened the capacities of member States to effectively negotiate, conclude and implement trade agreements at various levels. It further assisted the least developed member States in the process of acceding to and further complying with the rules and principles of the World Trade Organization, with targeted project activities in Bhutan and Nepal, including a legislative review of

laws and regulations and the strengthening of World Trade Organization reference centres, as well as the establishment of new centres, in the countries.

### **7. Tackling natural disasters, including early warning systems**

57. ESCAP, in collaboration with United Nations country teams, the World Bank and ADB, provided the Governments of Samoa and Cambodia with technical assistance in undertaking damage, loss and needs assessments following the earthquake and tsunami in Samoa and Typhoon Ketsana in Cambodia, respectively. For both countries, a preliminary disaster needs assessment for recovery and reconstruction was developed and used by the Governments, development partners and donors. The assistance effort benefited from the training on damage and loss assessment methodology for ESCAP staff members provided by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as part an intraregional project, which was supported by the World Bank.

58. As of the end of 2009, the ESCAP Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia had programmed approximately \$9.9 million for 14 projects being implemented by Governments, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. The Fund's key donors are considering a proposal to change the name of the Fund and to broaden its scope to cover overall disaster risk reduction.

59. The Fund continued to maintain close partnerships with various organizations, including the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Meteorological Organization.

60. In connection with one Fund-supported project implemented by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Indian Ocean and South-East Asian countries have concluded an international agreement on the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia, for which the Government of Maldives serves as the secretariat.

## **III. CONCLUSION**

61. During the past year, the secretariat was able to record much progress in strengthening its technical cooperation work to support the Commission's goal of inclusive and sustainable economic and social development, including a significant increase in both cash contributions and technical cooperation delivery in 2009. This would not have been possible without the valuable support of ESCAP donors and development partners.

62. Looking ahead, ESCAP will continue its efforts to improve the design and sharpen the focus of its technical cooperation programmes in accordance with the needs of the member States, with special attention paid to the requirements of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island developing countries. Furthermore, the secretariat will continue to create the necessary strategic and operational synergies with United Nations entities and subregional organizations with a view to enhancing the impact and sustainability of its technical cooperation work and to ensuring United Nations system-wide coherence at the regional level.

63. The Commission may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the direction of its technical cooperation programme.

*Annex I*

**Extrabudgetary resources provided by bilateral donors in cash in 2009  
(funds-in-trust)**

|  | Value in United<br>States dollars |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Bangladesh   | 9 000.00                          |
| Bhutan   | 1 000.00                          |
| Brunei Darussalam  | 14 975.00                         |
| Cambodia   | 12 000.00                         |
| China  | 426 792.88                        |
| Fiji   | 9 955.00                          |
| Hong Kong, China   | 60 000.00                         |
| India  | 466 207.72                        |
| Indonesia  | 159 877.83                        |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of)                               | 42 313.88                         |
| Japan  | 1 815 680.00                      |
| Kyrgyzstan   | 1 479.59                          |
| Macao, China   | 151 883.46                        |
| Malaysia   | 64 970.00                         |
| Micronesia (Federated States of)                         | 5 000.00                          |
| Mongolia   | 15 000.00                         |
| Myanmar  | 1 940.36                          |
| New Caledonia  | 5 741.82                          |
| Pakistan   | 21 501.34                         |
| Papua New Guinea   | 100 000.00                        |
| Republic of Korea  | 3 443 612.02                      |
| Russian Federation                                       | 1 200 000.00                      |
| Samoa  | 975.00                            |
| Singapore  | 15 000.00                         |
| Spain/Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund       | 64 200.00                         |
| Sri Lanka  | 24 910.00                         |
| Thailand   | 63 000.00                         |
| Tonga  | 1 475.00                          |
| Turkey   | 12 425.00                         |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland     | 100 000.00                        |
| Viet Nam   | 14 000.00                         |
| <b>Total extrabudgetary inputs from bilateral donors</b> | <b><u><u>8 324 915.90</u></u></b> |

*Annex II*

**Technical cooperation resources provided by the United Nations system and  
by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in 2009**

|   | Value in United<br>States dollars |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>A. United Nations system</b>   |                                   |
| (a) Regular budget resources  |                                   |
| United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation (section 22)                                    | 2 786 000.00                      |
| United Nations Development Account  | 1 224 000.00                      |
| Subtotal (a)  | <hr/> 4 010 000.00 <hr/>          |
| (b) Extrabudgetary resources  |                                   |
| United Nations Population Fund  | 283 457.53                        |
| Other United Nations agencies and bodies  | 14 000.00                         |
| Subtotal (b)  | <hr/> 297 457.53 <hr/>            |
| <b>Subtotal of resources from the United Nations system (a) + (b)</b>                                     | <hr/> <b>4 307 457.53</b> <hr/>   |
| <b>B. Other organizations</b>   |                                   |
| Asian Development Bank  | 360 827.00                        |
| Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation   | 1 940 840.00                      |
| China Disabled Persons' Federation  | 10 000.00                         |
| Christian Conference of Asia  | 32 983.00                         |
| European Community  | 105 350.82                        |
| International Development Research Centre   | 320 672.66                        |
| Korea Energy Economics Institute  | 3 000.00                          |
| Korea Energy Management Corporation   | 210 507.60                        |
| World Trade Organization  | 199 589.68                        |
| <b>Subtotal of extrabudgetary resources from intergovernmental and<br/>non-governmental organizations</b> | <hr/> <b>3 183 770.76</b> <hr/>   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <hr/> <b>7 491 228.29</b> <hr/>   |

*Annex III*

**Extrabudgetary assistance in kind (non-reimbursable loans) in 2009**

**Christian Conference of Asia**

(Total 5 work-months)

Mr. Emmanuel N. Ilagan  
Expert on Youth Health Training  
Social Development Division  
5 work-months

**Japan**

(Total 3 work-months)

Mr. Shoji Matsubara  
Expert on Disaster Risk Reduction  
Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division  
3 work-months

**Republic of Korea**

(Total 108 work-months)

Mr. Dae-Young Ju  
Expert on Environment Policy  
Environment and Development Division  
12 work-months

Mr. Byung-Sam Kang  
Expert on Space Technology  
Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division  
9 work-months

Mr. Kim Dong Cheol  
Expert on Information, Communication and Space Technology  
Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division  
12 work-months

Mr. Song Ouk-Heon  
Expert on International Finance  
Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division  
12 work-months



Mr. Heung-kyeong Park  
Expert on Programme Management  
Programme Management Division  
2 work-months

Mr. Duek Yung Ko  
Expert on Social Policy  
Social Development Division  
12 work-months

Mr. Boo Sung Kang  
Expert on Regional Trade and Monetary Cooperation  
Trade and Investment Division  
10 work-months

Mr. Daehi Lee  
Expert on Regional Trade and Monetary Cooperation  
Trade and Investment Division  
1 work-month

Mr. Cheoljo Lee  
Expert on Maritime, Ports and Logistics  
Transport Division  
2 work-months

Mr. Moo-Young Jo  
Non-reimbursable Loan Expert on Railways  
Transport Division  
12 work-months

Mr. Jong Cheon Son  
Expert on ICT Programme and Training  
Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for  
Development  
12 work-months

Ms. Hui-Suk Yang  
Administrative Expert  
Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for  
Development  
12 work-months

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