



American Model United Nations

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

**Report to the Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific on Enhancing regional
economic cooperation and integration in Asia
and the Pacific**

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2 The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has worked diligently to compile its
3 final report for presentation to the Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC) on the topic of enhancing regional
4 economic organization and integration in Asia and the Pacific. The following report represents a multifaceted and
5 holistic review of the topic at hand, covering integration through economic development, fiscal policy as well as
6 physical infrastructure.

7 Chapter I includes a number of draft resolutions this commission proposes for the consideration and adoption
8 by ECOSOC. Draft Resolution 1.1 incorporated the ideas of a number of Members surrounding the creation of Asian
9 Trade Zones (ATZ) in attempts to reduce barriers to trade, while also promoting foreign direct investment within the
10 region. This draft resolution facilitates economic cooperation, promotes transparency and growth through mutually
11 beneficial trade. The aforementioned resolution was adopted by the Commission.

12 For the purpose of mutual growth of all members of ESCAP, expressed their support for the creation of
13 an Asian-Pacific Conference on Economic Development (APED), draft Resolution 1.2 includes solutions from a
14 number of Representatives and focuses on the development of a database for the enhancement of regional economic
15 cooperation and promotion of information sharing. The draft resolution also highlights the expansion of regional
16 developmental funds and banks to promote all-around economic expansion, sustainable and environmentally friendly
17 growth, and economic integration. The aforementioned resolution was adopted by the Commission.

18 Draft Resolution 1.3 addresses Representatives' concerns regarding how natural disasters impact regional
19 economic growth. It suggests the creation of the Disaster Resilience Initiative (DRI) Database which would collect
20 data on previous natural disasters, research exemplary disaster management programmes to serve as models for
21 developing Members, and provide statistical models to extrapolate future disasters. The draft resolution also discusses
22 the role of humanitarian aid following natural disasters, suggesting specific guidelines be established to ensure effective
23 distribution of resources. Finally, the draft resolution recommends further discussion of natural disasters to continue
24 strengthening efforts to make the Asian and Pacific region more resilient and economically sustainable.

25 Chapter II of this report includes the Commission's deliberations surrounding each facet of the topic of
26 hand, which was decidedly divided into inform working groups covering the following topics: economic development,
27 regional cooperation and fiscal policy and finally, the development of physical infrastructure.

2 MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION

2.1 Draft Resolution 1/1

Emphasizing the importance of international trade in continuing and growing cooperation between Asian and Pacific economies,

1. *Suggests* the creation of the Asian Trade Zone (ATZ) to reduce barriers to trade and movement in order to facilitate economic cooperation and growth through mutually beneficial trade by:

(a) Establishing Zone-wide tariff ceilings to be determined by the larger ECOSOC committee by;

(i) Creating an ATZ Goods Certification that verifies that country of origin of any transported product is an ATZ nation, thus allowing it to pass more easily through borders and avoid tariffs in excess of the ceiling;

(ii) Designing ATZ Passports that allow expedited cross-border movement to be produced by the member states with such power and that will work by specifying, in addition to normal passports;

A. ATZ State of residence;

B. ATZ State of employment;

C. Registered employer or employers which must be approved by the ATZ;

D. Hours of employment and allowed hours of border crossing;

E. Special Economic Zone membership and advantages granted by such Special Economic Zone;

(b) Creating the Workers for a United Asia and Pacific network through which ATZ nation businesses can seek international employees and citizens can seek employment;

(i) Creating a centralized office in which corporations or nations can submit detailed requests for workers including skills and education specifications;

(ii) Allowing such requests to have time limits;

(c) Establishing a framework in which special economic zones can be established by;

(i) Allowing ATZ nations to form sub-zones based on cultural or economic similarities that allow for further reduction in barriers to trade or movement;

(ii) Creating Special Economic Zone designations for goods and workers;

(d) Establishes a Special Economic Zone with the particular purpose of supporting ecological efforts and fair trade such that countries will receive even lower tariffs if they meet designated standards of ecological investment;

(e) Encourages currently existing trade zones such as Association of South East Asian Nations, Eastern Seaboard and Mekong to integrate within the ATZ umbrella;

2. *Encourages* effective foreign direct investment by suggesting that nations with large amounts of capital invest in long term infrastructure by:

(a) Facilitating meetings between investor and investee nations to discuss potential investments;

(b) Creating incentives for FDI that is directed at long term infrastructure such as tax reductions;

(c) Encouraging nations to increase transparency in currency and trade policy to reduce the risk involved with investment in them.

2.2 Draft Resolution 1/2

Recognizing the asymmetrical development of Asian-Pacific economies, creating large economic boundaries that limit the participation of over 309 million impoverished people in the South Asian Region and beyond,

68 *Noting* the work done by the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships of
69 the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70 to achieve national priorities for sustainable development,

71 *Seeks* to emulate methods used by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in establishing and
72 developing an inter-economy network that connects anti-corruption and law enforcement officers to further integrate
73 the Asian-Pacific economies,

74 *Emphasizing* the increasing need for more efficient flow of goods, services, capital and people within the
75 Asia-Pacific region,

76 1. *Calls for* the creation of an Asian-Pacific Conference on Economic Development (APED) for member
77 states and associate member states of ESCAP to exchange ideas for mutual growth:

78 (a) By updating the committee on each member's progress on both long and short-term economic
79 goals;

80 (b) By providing examples of successful initiatives;

81 (c) By planning future initiatives and strategies;

82 (d) Which will be facilitated by a body comprised of all member states and associate member states
83 with a rotating voluntary host member state;

84 (e) Comprised of representatives from ESCAP member states and associate member states;

85 2. *Considers* the motive of this conference to be the enhancement of regional economic cooperation and
86 integration between member states through developing a database accessible to all participating members of ESCAP
87 that consists of:

88 (a) Reports on projects undertaken by nations as a model for other states;

89 (b) Specific factors that go into creating, funding and implementing projects such as renewable
90 energy;

91 (c) Useful information for members struggling in specific areas;

92 3. *Expresses hope* for representatives to connect among their region under the scope of similar resources,
93 issues, and goals for future development;

94 4. *Recommends* participation of members that are interested in learning about successes and failures from
95 others in their respective region:

96 (a) To gain insight into how small-scale programs can apply to larger problems;

97 5. *Recommends* expansion of regional financial institutions's long-term strategic framework as to promote
98 complementary agendas on inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

99 **2.3 Draft Resolution 1/3**

100 *Recognizing* the existence of the Association of Southeast Nations disaster management programmes,

101 *Conscious* of the interconnectivity of the greater Asian and Pacific region,

102 *Recommends* further discussion on the issues of Natural Disasters and continued efforts to strengthen re-
103 silience in the Asian and Pacific region,

104 *Referencing* the Association of Southeast Nation's ACE Programme, the Emergency Response and Assess-
105 ment Team (ERAT), the Standby Arrangement, the Disaster Emergency Logistics System, the Emergency Response
106 Operation, the Regional Disaster Emergency Exercises, and the Web-Based Crisis Information Management,

107 *Emphasizing* that this resolution is nonbinding as a continuation and implementation of the Sendai Frame-
108 work aimed at prevention and natural disaster resilience,

109 1. *Suggests the creation* of the Disaster Resilience Initiative (hereafter DRI) Database;

110 2. *Encourages* research into past disasters, research into disaster modeling, and data collection infrastructures
111 that will allow for a more useful body of data:

112 (a) Notes the need to collect long term aggregations of data for all Asia and the Pacific region
113 including;

114 (i) The types of disasters that occur in any given region;

115 (ii) The frequency of each type of disaster;

116 3. *Encourages* the use statistical models to extrapolate the expected data of future disasters and use weighted
117 evaluations to categorize each region;

118 4. *Defines* humanitarian aid as state need based rather than Non Governmental Organization dictated and
119 recommends that evaluations given by the United Nations to the states be followed to allow effective distribution of
120 resources:

121 (a) Defines humanitarian aid as state need based rather than NGO dictated and recommends that
122 evaluations given to states must be followed to allow effective distribution of resources;

123 5. *Stresses* the need of Representatives to update existing infrastructure and create new structures that can
124 withstand natural disasters;

125 6. *Highlights* the necessity for recognition of key transportation hubs and transportation routes and areas
126 with high population density which are critical to the economic and social stability of a region by:

127 (a) Understanding the location of these transportation routes, modifications will be made to guar-
128 antee that these routes can weather a natural disaster, and be reestablished in working order in the case of a natural
129 disaster;

130 (b) Recognizing the importance of these high population centers, efforts will be made to guarantee
131 their viability and durability in the case of a natural disaster;

132 7. *Notes* that natural disasters are inevitable, ESCAP suggests that member states should consider aid and
133 prioritize specific structures where reconstruction is concerned;

134 8. *Strongly suggests* that the Representatives follow standards when considering foreign aid during the
135 rebuilding process following a natural disaster:

136 (a) Regarding this aid, member states recognize the importance of the management of this aid,
137 specifically to avoid dependency on foreign nations during and following the rebuilding process;

138 (b) Encourages that member states invest and maintain up to date weather technology to give more
139 accurate forecasts and predictions to ensure that member states are as prepared as possible for natural disasters;

140 9. *Acknowledges* the importance of interstate infrastructure projects and recommends the examination
141 of past successful infrastructure projects in order to incorporate projects into new infrastructure projects being
142 undertaken:

143 (a) Acknowledging the destructive power of interregional disasters, special attention will be paid by
144 the member states to multi-state infrastructure projects, and their role in disaster response.

3 CONSIDERATION OF THE STATUS

3.1 Deliberations

At the start of session, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) acknowledged the importance of working collaboratively. The Commission discussed the notion that no nation can grow sustainably without the help of their neighbors and encouraged the development of Asia as a whole.

ESCAP Members decided to divide into informal working groups in order to address the various aspects of regional economic cooperation and integration. Economic development, international policy and trade, and physical infrastructure were identified as the main issues.

During deliberations on the topic of economic development, Representatives acknowledged the importance of expanding economies through the promotion of tourism, establishment of regional Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), and improving access to knowledge-sharing platforms and databases. Other concerns included the connectivity between rural communities and urban centers to increase rural access to markets, as members have acknowledged the role this access plays in the mitigation of poverty and the increase of agricultural productivity. Certain representatives suggested establishing microcredit systems, allowing governments to loan out small sums of money to help individuals living in slums, targeting a specific demographic and an economic status.

Numerous Representatives agreed on the importance of increasing the tourism industry of less developed, smaller commission members. The mutual relationship between boosting economies and tourism was acknowledged as well as the importance of making these tourist attractions sustainable. Certain ESCAP Members expressed concern about economies becoming overly reliant on the tourism industry for their development. Additionally the diversification of economies was discussed as an important way to boost the economic development of smaller commission Members.

Representatives discussed the importance of creating financial safety nets to guard economies against financial collapse. The idea of stabilizing currencies was addressed as a way to create these nets.

The Representatives also discussed the importance of creating regional Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) as well as subregional trade agreements in order to integrate the economy. The Representatives recognized the use of PPPs to fund developmental, specifically economic development, projects in the region. Representatives also agreed that the promotion of free trade and the reduction of tariffs were vital to economic growth and integration throughout the region. Additionally, Representatives emphasized how digital infrastructure investment would allow smaller businesses to compete in global markets.

Furthermore, Representatives noted that inefficient taxation systems and corrupt governments hinder the economies of commission Members. Therefore, the establishment of modern taxation systems and anti-corruption measures, such as increased transparency, were emphasized as tools for enhancing domestic economies. The importance of increasing discussion between commission Members on anti-corruption measures was stressed.

Representatives emphasized how smaller businesses could utilize knowledge-sharing platforms to learn about investment opportunities, the rights of entrepreneurs, as well as intellectual property rights. Representatives acknowledged the importance of supporting small businesses and incentivizing their creation. This database would be managed by a body which would give financial and strategic advice to the businesses and then give their reports of businesses to international banks for the purpose of investment. This knowledge-sharing platforms would primarily serve to connect investors with smaller businesses, allowing them to grow in an efficient manner. Representatives agreed with this idea as a good way to expand businesses and diversify economies.

Additionally, Members raised the importance of investing in green energy and green solutions, which the Members agreed was important for creating sustainable economies. Representatives encouraged the incentivization of investment in green projects in order to increase economies in the long run. Members encouraged the creation of a fund dedicated to investment in natural disaster prevention and relief.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Environment & Energy Unit assists commission Members by facilitating access to funding opportunities from the UNDP, Global Environment Facility (GEF), bilateral and multilateral donors for environmental and natural resource management projects including sustainable energy. This initiative promotes climate-resilient economic development and sustainable livelihoods in the face of climate change. The Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP)

194 focuses on the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions from fossil fuel use in the Pacific Island Countries
195 through the removal of barriers to the widespread and cost effective use of feasible renewable energy (RE) technolo-
196 gies. Representatives urged utilization of the success of these projects to encourage the development of similar ones
197 and to promote sustainable investment.

198 The importance of creating partnerships between ESCAP Members to facilitate mutual growth of
199 economies. The idea of creating a conference of local businesses was brought up and heavily endorsed by a number
200 of other commission Members. The creation of an annual conference to facilitate the exchange of ideas through
201 these businesses, as well as other informed citizens and policymakers, will allow for increased economic development
202 and the formation of stronger international relations. There was consensus on the idea that by creating such a
203 conference we could further develop business relationships between ESCAP Members. Representatives stressed the
204 importance of releasing updates at these conferences of how they have been growing economies and developing
205 businesses. Commission Members agreed on sharing initiatives that have been developed on smaller scales that can
206 then be used in larger settings. Many Representatives felt that their economies are not strongly linked with the rest
207 of ESCAP, and believed that creating a conference would enable for more benefits due to specialization.

208 ESCAP Members emphasized the importance of increasing the free flow of goods and labor as a
209 method. Representatives proposed making a system similar to the US Global Entry System as a means of increasing
210 the economy and workforces of commission Members. It was acknowledged that increasing accessibility to jobs in
211 different regions would substantially increase the economies of said Representatives.

212 Representatives encouraged investment in the region as a whole by communities and groups such as
213 the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in order to grow the economy of the region as a whole.

214 During deliberations on trade and international policy, Representatives began by discussing the
215 advancement of an Asian Trade Zone that would encourage multilateral trade. Representatives expressed a desire
216 for increased regional trade instead of current bilateral trade agreements.

217 Representatives discussed the idea of creating a regional visa program to promote freer movement
218 of labor between commission Members, specifically in reference to individuals possessing work visas. This program
219 would allow labor to transfer more seamlessly across borders, and such a trade zone might allow for free movement of
220 labor that both high and low unemployed communities could stand to benefit from. However, certain Representatives
221 argued that the regional visa programs should be voluntary in order to maintain national security. ESCAP Members
222 expressed how the program should include minor restrictions in order to prevent human trafficking and drug traf-
223 ficking. Representatives then clarified that the trade zone would create specialized passports to verify employment
224 and denote specific times when the employee would be allowed to cross the border.

225 Some commission Members also suggested that such a trade zone would be in a natural position to
226 reduce illegal trade by coordinating local law enforcement. Japan emphasized their concerns about such issues, and
227 added that Members should work to address security concerns such as the illegal arms trade, piracy, and adherence
228 to arms treaties before focusing on certain parts of trade.

229 Representatives also discussed the issue of domestic labor standards and wage rates. Representatives
230 agreed that labor regulations were necessary to ensure corporations were not violating the civil rights of their em-
231 ployees. Representatives emphasized the role of education when discussing skills training, professional development,
232 and increasing business self-sufficiency. Representatives specified that ESCAP Members could help guide education,
233 however, emphasized that local peoples should be primarily hired. Non-governmental organizations and governments
234 should collaborate in the process of implementing educational programs.

235 Representatives agreed that fiscal and capital investments were key to economic growth in the
236 region. Further encouraging private companies from developed ESCAP Members to invest in developing Members
237 via subsidies. Certain representatives suggested that the use of microfinance initiatives could serve to help our
238 regions.

239 In debate, The Democratic People's Republic of Korea cautioned that they were against any strong
240 policy requirements that would be prerequisites insisting on maintaining sovereignty.

241 Numerous Representatives believed that tariffs should be reduced through a tariff ceiling. It was
242 agreed there should be no minimum tariff. While all Representatives agreed that pursuing tariff reduction would
243 increase multilateral trade amongst the ESCAP Members, the exact percentage of the tariff ceiling was a point of
244 extreme contingency throughout deliberations.

245 The commission Members added that a multilateral trade organization could open opportunities for
246 Representatives worried about their dependence on specific trade partners.

247 The Representatives then suggested that ECOSOC promote the creation of special economic zones
248 within the larger trade zone. They further discussed an idea to create a network within the trade zone that allowed
249 communities to post a need for workers and allowed workers to find communities where they would be able to work.

250 When asked what sort of trade zones they had researched, the Representatives acknowledged that
251 they found much to appreciate in the EU system, but noted that the cultural integration of ESCAP Members is not
252 sufficient to reinvent the system within our region at this time.

253 Representatives also referenced the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Single Window
254 system as an example of successful international economic cooperation, and suggested the development of domestic
255 National Single Window systems which facilitate trade in the region.

256 ESCAP Members further discussed the topic of foreign direct investment, which they believe can
257 be directed toward long term infrastructure using tax incentives and by increasing transparency in policy. Financial
258 and material foreign investments were both prioritized as a means to enhance regional economic growth.

259 Commission Members then suggested the usage of micro-financial transaction as a method of poverty
260 reduction, which Representatives further suggested could be done through regional bank cooperation.

261 During deliberations on the topic of regional cooperation, the discussion primarily focused on the
262 issue of natural disaster resilience.

263 Following the initial conversation regarding the topics to be discussed by National Disaster Relief
264 (NDR), Representatives decided to discuss the following aspects of disaster relief; a collaborative planning and shared
265 data innovation, management of humanitarian aid, and subsequently restructured aid, and post disaster re-structural
266 priorities.

267 Members of the Commission stressed the importance of the Sendai Framework as an example of
268 a functioning, non-binding agreement that encourages Members to take primary role in reducing disaster risk but
269 responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders. The Asia Regional Plan created by the Asian Ministerial
270 Conferences for Disaster Risk Reduction seeks to implement the Sendai Framework.

271 Members of the subgroup NDR heavily discussed and deliberated the formation of a collaborative
272 database to assist with the Natural Disasters Resilience.

273 Some Representatives proposed the data sharing initiative and database (DRI), or Disaster Resilience
274 Initiative. Following this proposal, other Members introduced and incorporated the essential ideas of dichotomous aid
275 which expanded the dichotomous aid into the sections of Humanitarian Aid and Restructural Aid. Other Members
276 defined Humanitarian and Restructural Aid as aid with the focus of alleviating suffering in the time of natural disaster
277 that promotes human welfare, and Restructural Aid defined as funds designed to proactively revitalize and rebuild
278 areas and infrastructure impacted by Natural Disaster, as well as develop sustainable infrastructure to prevent future
279 natural disaster.

280 NDR created and developed the previous data sharing initiative and database with the following
281 guidelines in mind: management of foreign aid from developed Members, management of humanitarian aid to avoid
282 aid dependency and promoting the efficient allocation of resource. This would ensure meaningful distribution of aid
283 through assessments of ESCAP Members.

284 Following the creation of the DRI database, Members highlighted the work conducted by Modern-
285 ization and Urbanization Development Database (MUD). A second database was proposed which would resemble a
286 collaborative data sharing initiative to help accumulate relevant information related to assessing the economic pros-
287 perity and possibility of these urban centers. The secondary database further eased the transition from the working
288 group of Physical Infrastructure to Regional Cooperation.

289 After discussing the Database Initiative, Members discussed a framework which would revitalize
290 obsolete infrastructure, ensuring that in the case of a natural disaster this infrastructure would be functioning and
291 viable. This framework identifies critical transportation hubs, transportation routes, and high density population
292 centers which will be key to secure and ensure are viable in the case of a natural disaster. Some Members suggested
293 the implementation of educational programs as a preventative measure against natural disasters, especially those
294 prone to natural disaster. These educational measures would outline the methods to assess ESCAP Members using

295 data provided from United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). This would allow for
296 more efficient and effective responses to natural disasters through approaches with regional sensitivity.

297 Further, Representatives agreed to encourage Members to both receive and give foreign aid, with
298 caution, to ensure that infrastructural revitalization and construction take place in a prompt manner. Concerns were
299 also raised about corruption in countries receiving aid and appropriate countermeasures were also discussed.

300 During deliberations on the topic of physical infrastructure, several working groups were established
301 in order to address many aspect of the issue. Commission Members determined the three major categories of
302 concern in terms of development that are as follows: utilities, transportation and, finally disaster preparedness and
303 resilience. Deliberations under the category of utilities included infrastructure surrounding electricity, water and the
304 accessibility of rural and urban populations to these resources, while transportation included maritime reform, as
305 well as interregional and domestic transport.

306 In consideration of the topic of transportation, Representatives agreed that physical mobility will
307 enable socioeconomic mobility, mitigating the urban-rural disparity through greater cultural integration and expanded
308 access to markets. This would require the construction and maintenance of roads and pathways for the use of
309 transportation of goods to previously inaccessible markets, allowing rural communities to engage in urban spaces.
310 There has been discussion of regulations hoping to enforce maintenance of roads, making them resilient in case of
311 natural disaster. Through a number of global studies in developing communities, Representatives have determined
312 that increasing the economic capacity of rural communities would result in increased productivity and the eventual
313 alleviation of suffering due to poverty.

314 The commission drew attention to a number of previously established infrastructure programs and
315 policies. A number of delegations acknowledged that the successful execution of the One Belt, One Road (OBOR)
316 initiative, comprising overland and maritime transport routes, would provide unparalleled economic connectivity.
317 OBOR represents renewed enthusiasm for trade, tourism and exchange, a catalyst for connectivity in a region
318 representing nearly 33% of global wealth. Its benefits are not limited to the region's marquee economic powerhouses;
319 like tributaries feeding off of a larger river, benefits of improved transport and connectivity will touch all, mitigating
320 urban-rural disparities. In concert with other regional and national measures, OBOR will ease and accelerate
321 commerce across Asia & The Pacific and throughout the world at large. Railways and road connections will increase
322 movement of people as well as freight. This will provide not only trade-based growth, but also tourism as cities
323 will find themselves on a major thoroughfare. As for another major initiative, the Asian Highway Network is an
324 ESCAP-endorsed regional transportation initiative that works to maximize the use of existing highway systems, only
325 constructing missing routes to create a complete network. The India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway aims to
326 connect the three nations with the intention to boost trade and commerce in the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area was
327 also referenced.

328 Furthermore, concerning international and regional integration, Representatives agreed on the con-
329 cept of transforming land-locked commission Members into land-linked centers of development through enhancement
330 of quality road and railways that span borders. The commission acknowledged that many of these linkages currently
331 exist in outdated, deteriorating condition. The commission to asserted the importance of upgrading and maintaining
332 these vital existing links and structure to foster integration and economic development.

333 Representatives acknowledged the importance of discussing the standardization of railroad gauges
334 to make trade amongst commission Members easier and more efficient. This would include the both the renovation
335 of existing lines, as well as the creation of new lines both of which should follow aforementioned standards and be as
336 cost-effective and efficient as possible. Representatives expressed support for the Trans-Asian Railway project that is
337 set to connect Asia and Europe through a number of commission Members. This project will create a vital economic
338 and cultural link between the continents. Existing railways should also be expanded in order to accommodate an
339 increased volume of international and domestic freight and passenger traffic. Representatives also mentioned shifting
340 from diesel to electric locomotives in order to accommodate future changes in railway technology which will help
341 decrease the costs of operations and services.

342 Representatives have agreed upon the importance of developing, upgrading, and constructing the
343 missing links along with the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway networks, as well as Euro-Asian linkages.
344 In relation to this, expanding and improving railway systems would allow for populations to shift away from other
345 forms of private transportation that clogs roads and contributes to pollution.

346 Representatives, especially those from the regions of South East Asia and the Pacific, focused delib-
347 erations on maritime reform as well as infrastructure required for air transportation. A number of Representatives

348 supported the study of maritime management strategy at ports in the region, such as Hong Kong, in order to gain
349 insight into effective models of management. Representatives felt that it would be beneficial to increase govern-
350 ment involvement regarding privatized ports. Specifically, enforcing said governments laws and allowing for more
351 government oversight in operations.

352 Members of this commission noted and acknowledged the disparity of airport quality and capacity
353 throughout the Asian-Pacific region; such disparity causes a substantial impact on the economic capacity of particular
354 underdeveloped airports. Runway lengths and structure substantially limit the weight and type of plane that is able
355 to land, as well as having the capacity to support simultaneous ascent and descent via queuing space and multiple
356 separate runways. It is imperative that commission Members take action by implementing funding and means of
357 construction to assist in improvement of underdeveloped airports. This applies equally to several other airport
358 investments.

359 The body also acknowledged the representative's responsibility to properly educate and test the
360 pilots they field, noting especially the fluency in "Aviation English" to provide accurate and fast communication
361 between foreign aircrafts and airports. It should be noted that all represented ESCAP Members fully implement and
362 abide by the standards put forth by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which is composed of 190
363 of 193 representatives at time of writing. Finally on this topic was the recommended participation in the (ICAO)
364 ?No Country Left Behind? program to assist with the above actions.

365 There was brief deliberation over the concerns of post-Soviet nations in Central Asia who are faced
366 with the revitalization of Soviet-era infrastructure. Through this revitalization and repurposing of buildings such
367 as old hotels and institutional buildings, these nations expressed that the economic capacity of post-Soviet nations
368 would be exponentially increased in previously dilapidated urban centers.

369 A few Representatives brought attention to the possible benefits of domestic transit in urban center.
370 Additionally, it was noted that the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) is one of the most profitable metro systems in the
371 world, and thus this body encourages representatives to view the MTR system as an example to be followed by other
372 representatives currently undergoing rapid urbanization.

373 At the conclusion of the deliberations surrounding transportation was the concern utilities and access
374 of such in rural communities. Representatives recognized the necessity for investment, subsidies, and international
375 cooperation in the area of green energy development and implementation. Many commission Members have the desire
376 to shift their energy sources from fossil fuels to green energy, but are not able to do so for a variety of reasons, whether
377 they be a lack of funding or geographic constraints. These issues can be solved through international cooperation
378 between Representatives that are able to produce green energy and those that are not.

379 A number of ESCAP Members expressed interest in standardizing grids across the Asian Pacific
380 region. Many Representatives expressed their struggles in providing rural communities with electricity grids. A
381 number of nation have made the rapid transition from an agrarian society into a largely mechanized economy by
382 increasing widespread accessibility to electricity to both rural and urban neighborhoods. Public-private partnerships
383 like subsidies provided by the government to energy companies to expand the nation's electrical grid into rural areas
384 will certainly be beneficial.

385 Many Members of the Commission foresee significant threats in the coming decades due to climate
386 change, especially including low-lying Southeast Asian Members and small island communities. Green development
387 will also help to alleviate the issue of pollution which is rampant in much of the region.

388 There are number of examples demonstrating the conversion of electric grids from fossil fuels to
389 greener solutions. The example provided in debate was Germany's Energiewende, or ?energy transition?, which has
390 achieved a 27% decrease in emissions since 1990 and is on track to get 60% of its electricity from renewable sources
391 by 2050. While the German economy is developed beyond most communities, members have geographic advantages
392 that Germany does not have, and it is the opinion of many Representatives that a massive shift toward renewable
393 energy would leave the Asia-Pacific region with an economic advantage that cannot be overstated

394 Members recognized the importance of clean water for drinking and industrial use and recognize
395 that nearly 1.7 billion people in the Asia-Pacific region do not have access to clean water. In some represented
396 communities, up to 50% of the population primarily drink water that is not up to international standards regarding
397 microbial cleanliness levels, giving rise to myriad health problems. Water resources across the region, including the
398 Aral Sea, are under threat of depletion. Sewage systems are also deficient, raw sewage is often discharged directly
399 into landfills. In many regions, access to drinking water is decreasing. In some places, access to pipelines carrying

400 potable water in rural villages is as low as 40%. Representatives acknowledge that in many post-Soviet communities,
401 major renovations and upgrades to the systems of water treatment and distribution are required.

402 Capacities to discharge of wastewater in a sanitary manner is of deep concern to the members of this
403 body. Only 38.82% of urban populations have access and 0.42% for rural populations. Many communities throughout
404 the region are striving towards 100% accessibility to clean water and limit the gap between rural and urban areas.
405 As outlined in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, Representatives are called to ensure water availability and
406 sanitation for all citizens, improve overall water quality, and increase the efficiency of water use in all sectors.

407 ESCAP Members recognized that peace and stability are necessary conditions for economic inte-
408 gration, further expressing concern over the stability of the Pacific region. Possible solutions to maritime piracy,
409 resolving border conflicts, increasing surveillance of illicit arms trade routes, coordinating intelligence agencies and
410 the strengthening of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) were discussed.

411 **3.2 Actions Taken by the Committee**

412 At this meeting, ESCAP debated and approved for consideration by ECOSOC the draft resolution
413 1.1 regarding Asian Trade Zones and foreign direct investment. The representative of New Zealand requested a roll
414 call vote, and the final resolution was passed with a vote of nineteen in favor, four opposed and five abstentions. The
415 votes were as follows:

416 In Favor: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, France, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, Demo-
417 cratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Maldives, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, Turk-
418 menistan, United Kingdom and Viet Nam;

419 Opposed: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Pakistan, and the United States of America;

420 Abstain: Australia, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Myanmar.

421 Draft resolution 1.2, regarding the development of a database for the enhancement of regional eco-
422 nomic cooperation and promotion of information sharing, was debated and approved for consideration by ECOSOC.
423 Two friendly amendments were made to the resolution. After the representative of Pakistan requested a roll call
424 vote, the draft resolution was passed with a vote of 22 in favor, 2 opposed, and 6 abstained. The votes were as
425 follows:

426 In Favor: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, France, Georgia, India, Islamic Republic of
427 Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Democratic Republic of Korea, Maldives, People's Republic of Lao, Malaysia, Maldives,
428 Myanmar, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Vietnam;

429 Opposed: United States of America, New Zealand;

430 Abstain: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Republic of Korea, Pakistan, United Kingdom.

431 Draft resolution 1.3, regarding the Disaster Resilience Initiative (DRI) Database, sustainable infras-
432 tructure, and effective humanitarian aid, was debated and approved for consideration by ECOSOC. Three friendly
433 amendments were made to the resolution. The draft resolution was adopted by consensus, with the abstention of
434 Afghanistan.

435 4 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

436 At its meeting on the 20 November 2017, the draft report of the Commission was made available
437 for consideration. The Commission considered the report, and with no amendments, adopted the report by a vote
438 of 27 yes, with 2 absentions.

Passed, Yes: 27 / No: 0 / Abstain: 2