

About ESCAP



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About ESCAP

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**) is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region. Comprising 53 member States and 9 associate members, with a geographical scope that stretches from Turkey in the west to the Pacific island nation of Kiribati in the east, and from the Russian Federation in the north to New Zealand in the south, the region is home to 4.1 billion people, or two thirds of the world's population. This makes **ESCAP** the most comprehensive of the United Nations five regional commissions and the largest United Nations body serving the Asia-Pacific region, with more than 600 staff members.

ESCAP was established in 1947 and has its headquarters in Bangkok .It works to overcome some of the region's greatest challenges by providing results-oriented projects, technical assistance and capacity-building to member States in the following areas:

- Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development
- Trade and investment
- Transport
- Environment and development
- Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction

- Social development
- Statistics
- Energy
- Subregional activities for development.



ESCAP promotes rigorous analysis and peer learning in its core areas of work, translates the findings into policy dialogues and recommendations, and provides good development practices, knowledge-sharing and technical assistance to member States in the implementation of the recommendations.

ESCAP uses its convening power to bring countries together to address issues through regional cooperation, including:

- Issues that all or a group of countries in the region need to address, for which it is necessary they learn from each other
- Issues that benefit from regional or multi-country involvement
- Issues that are transboundary in nature or that would benefit from collaborative intercountry approaches
- Issues that are of a sensitive or emerging nature and require further advocacy and negotiation



ESCAP provides a forum for its member States to promote regional cooperation and collective action and assists countries in building and sustaining shared economic growth and social equity. In addition, **ESCAP** promotes the increased participation of the smaller and often left-out voices of the region, such as the least developed countries, the small island States and landlocked States.

Its norm-setting and policy work ultimately impacts people's lives in a positive way by helping countries shape and implement a more balanced and inclusive development agenda for the region.

The **ESCAP** secretariat comprises the Office of the Executive Secretary, eight substantive Divisions, the Division of Administration, and the Strategy and Programme Management Division. The delivery of its programmes is

supported by the subregional offices and the regional institutions.

Vision

ESCAP is committed to a resilient Asia-Pacific region founded on shared prosperity, social equity and sustainability. Its vision is to be the most comprehensive multilateral platform for promoting cooperation among member States to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific.

History

Established in 1947 in Shanghai, China, as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East to assist in post-war economic reconstruction, it moved its headquarters to Bangkok in January 1949.

The name was changed in to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**ESCAP**) in 1974 to reflect both the economic and social aspects of development and the geographic location of its member countries.

