

Summary Assessment

Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation First session 22-24 February 2023

I. Introduction

The first session of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation took place from 22 to 24 February 2023 as a hybrid meeting.

An online questionnaire assessing the relevance, effectiveness and quality of the meeting was conducted.¹ The main purpose of the assessment is to support the secretariat's ongoing efforts to improve its servicing of the session.

II. Attendance

The first session of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation was attended by 35 members and associate members; 1 permanent observer; 1 United Nations Secretariat; 2 United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds; 2 intergovernmental organizations; and 1 other entities. In total, there were 187 registered participants, of whom 77 were female (41 per cent).

The total number of participants from governments were 182, of whom 130 were from the capitals (71 per cent).

III. Respondent's Profile

A total of 16 individual respondents from 10 member countries (2 respondents did not state their countries) provided feedback to the questionnaire. 15 respondents were from government agencies. Of these 16 respondents, 10 respondents were male, 5 were female, and 1 preferred not to say.

IV. Relevance

Overall, respondents agreed that the agenda items reflected the present trends and issues in the Asia-Pacific region and that the issues discussed were useful for their government/organization. The respondents gave a slightly lower rating on discussing relevant gender and concepts.

Please rate your agreement of the following statements	Ratings
1. The issues discussed reflected the present development trends/issues in the Asia-Pacific region.	Average: 4.3

¹ The rating scale is 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).

2. The issues discussed were useful for my government/ organization	Average: 4.3
3. The Committee discussed related gender issues and concepts	Average: 4

V. Effectiveness

The respondents agreed that the meeting effectively enhanced their knowledge of the issues discussed; promoted regional cooperation and networking among participants were highly effective; the resource persons demonstrated mastery of their respective topics successfully; positive feedback was also received for the facilitators engaged with participants in discussions; documents were of high quality and the time was allocated adequately.

Please rate your agreement of the following statements	Ratings
1. The Committee effectively enhanced my knowledge of the issues discussed	Average: 4.3
2. The Committee effectively promoted regional cooperation and networking among participants	Average: 4.4
3. The resource persons demonstrated mastery of their respective topics	Average: 4.4
4. The facilitators effectively engaged with participants in discussions	Average: 4.1
5. Enough time was available for discussion	Average: 4.2
6. The Committee documents and presentations were of high quality, concise & clear	Average: 4.3

VI. Efficiency

Generally, the respondents rated positively on the efficiency of the meeting, they were highly satisfied with the communications from ESCAP to the member States on the preparation for the Committee. The respondents strongly agreed that the Committee was organized in a timely manner and the duration of the Committee was appropriate. The administrative and logistical arrangements of the Committee were satisfied.

Please rate your agreement of the following statements	Ratings
1. I am satisfied with the administrative and logistical arrangement of the Committee	Average: 4.3
2. The Committee was organized in a timely manner and according to the programme	Average: 4.4
3. The communications from ESCAP to the member States on the preparation for the Committee were effective	Average: 4.5
4. The duration of the Committee was appropriate	Average: 4.4

VII. Comments and suggestions

The respondents provided comments and suggestions on what were the results achieved or likely to be achieved through the Committee session. There were two comments stating that the session has not yet and merely achieved. However, a majority of respondents indicated the achievement as follows:

- Well understood and materialized in the policy development and implementation of UNESCAP member countries.
- Sharing best practices and references for further enhance works on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation.
- Cooperation through the UNESCAP mechanism
- Harmonized priority programs that could push for appropriate regional development.
- Moving one step ahead towards achieving SDGs.
- Get familiar with ESCAP Committees and with Trade issues in the region.
- The content of this meeting covered all fields that relate to trade and other relevant issues.
- Stock taking of any relevant information.

Suggestions on how to improve ESCAP's intergovernmental meetings:

Many respondents were satisfied with the organization of the meeting programme and stated that everything was practical. There were also some other comments and suggestions for future improvement:

- In-person meetings only
- Provide copies of country comments, remarks, and other reference materials to the participants.
- Frequency and time limit for each country to deliver their statements.
- Provide longer time for the secretariat presentations to be able to visually present current development initiatives that could be benchmarked by the member states.

VIII. Conclusion

Overall, delegations agreed that the first session of the Committee on Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation was well organized and successful. Positive feedback was received on the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of the session. Delegations were in particular satisfied by the communication and support provided by the secretariat to the member States on the preparations for the Committee.
