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**KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL:  
MANAGING GLOBALIZATION**

(Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda)

**SUMMARY OF PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS  
RELATING TO THE THEME OF MANAGING GLOBALIZATION**

*Note by the secretariat*

**SUMMARY**

The present document provides an overview of the latest progress in the implementation of the resolutions relating to the theme of managing globalization, namely, resolutions 58/5 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, 51/8 on the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, 60/4 on the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network and 58/3 on the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The Commission is invited to review the progress achieved and provide comments and further guidance to enhance their effective implementation.

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## **Introduction**

1. The present document provides a brief update on the implementation of four resolutions under the theme of managing globalization.
2. The Commission is invited to review the progress achieved and provide comments and further guidance to enhance the effective implementation of the resolutions.

### **I. RESOLUTION 58/5. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING AND MACHINERY**

3. In its resolution 58/5 of 22 May 2002 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (APCAEM), the Commission requests the Executive Secretary to report to it on the progress made at each of its annual sessions and present a comprehensive review of the Centre's work performance in 2007.
4. In February 2004, missions were undertaken to three APCAEM member countries, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, for needs assessment in those countries and consultations on the future plan of action with the focal point institutions of APCAEM and the ministries of agriculture. Seminars were held on animal feed biotechnology and information and communication technology applications for agriculture and rural industry, and agro-based enterprise development. APCAEM also organized a side event during the sixtieth session of the Commission at which APCAEM's major programme and project activities and plans were highlighted. APCAEM also participated in the sixth International Fruit/Vegetable Processing Technology Exhibition, held in Yantai, China, in September 2004. The Centre also sponsored and co-organized an international forum on a development strategy for agricultural equipment and machinery in least developed countries held in Beijing in October 2004.
5. The third sessions of the Technical Advisory Committee and Governing Board of APCAEM were held in Hanoi from 13 to 16 December 2004. The Governing Board reviewed and adopted the revised Statute of APCAEM and endorsed the work plan and budget for 2005.
6. At the recommendation of the Governing Board, APCAEM is now developing a policy paper on the role of mechanization in the development of agriculture for poverty reduction. Four project profiles are being finalized for submission to a donors' consultation meeting in May 2005. Non-reimbursable-loan experts in the areas of APCAEM mandates are being invited from selected ESCAP member countries and non-member donor countries to engage in project formulation and implementation activities.
7. Document E/ESCAP/1346 contains the full report of APCAEM on its activities in the past year, including the summary proceedings and decisions and recommendations of the Governing Board at its third session.

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## **II. RESOLUTION 51/8. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW DELHI ACTION PLAN ON INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

8. In its resolution 51/8 of 1 May 1995 on the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Commission requests the Executive Secretary to: (a) report to it at its annual sessions until the last year of the Action Plan on its implementation; (b) encourage active involvement of the private sector in the implementation of the Action Plan and promote cooperation between the public and private sectors; (c) ensure the availability of adequate human resources to enable the secretariat to monitor, coordinate and report effectively and efficiently on the implementation of the Action Plan; and (d) review and refine periodically the regional action programme and the project profiles to ensure their continued relevance to changing conditions in the region.

9. Progress has been achieved in the development of the Asian Highway network, as reported in section III below, with the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network expected to come into force in 2005. Furthermore, the Asian Highway route map has been updated and published as well as posted on the ESCAP website (<<http://www.unescap.org/ttdw/common/TIS/AH/maps/AHMapApr04.gif>>). Action is also being taken to update the Asian Highway database and extend it to cover all 32 member countries of the Asian Highway network. An interactive geographic information system database is also being developed.

10. The secretariat developed a draft intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway network to facilitate the coordinated construction and upgrading of international railway lines in Asia. The draft agreement was discussed and revised at the Regional Meeting to Draft an Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network in November 2004. At its first session, the Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism recommended that an intergovernmental meeting be organized in 2005 to finalize the agreement, so that it could be adopted at the sixty-second session of the Commission in 2006 and a signing ceremony organized during the Ministerial Conference on Transport in November 2006.

11. The secretariat also undertook a comprehensive review of the Trans-Asian Railway network resulting in the publication of a draft revised map of the network, which is posted on the ESCAP website (<<http://www.unescap.org/ttdw/common/images/latesttarmap-2004.jpg>>).

12. Within the framework of the memorandum of understanding on the planning and implementation of demonstration runs of container block trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor, the secretariat organized steering committee meetings in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, and Ulaanbaatar. At the meeting in Ulaanbaatar a schedule for four demonstration runs was agreed. These demonstration runs were all implemented during the period November 2003-July 2004 on the routes: (a) Tianjin, China, to Ulaanbaatar; (b) Lianyungang, China, to Almaty; (c) Brest, /...

Belarus, to Ulaanbaatar; and (d) Vostochny, Russian Federation, to Malaszewicze, Poland. In addition, it was agreed in Ulaanbaatar that specific efforts should be made to organize demonstration runs from or to locations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, especially the port of Rajin. The secretariat is now giving specific attention to the implementation of such demonstration runs.

13. The strategy for the development of an integrated international transport and logistics system for North-East Asia was prepared and adopted by a subregional policy-level expert group meeting held in Ulaanbaatar in September 2004. It includes proposals for improved intermodal connectivity between the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway and major ports in the region to help to open up wider hinterlands that have yet to benefit from the globalization process. To assist countries in the subregion in implementing the strategy at the national level, country-level workshops are being organized during the first half of 2005. It is proposed that a similar approach be applied to South-East Asia, South Asia and the Caucasus to cover the whole ESCAP region eventually.

14. Advisory services on freight forwarding and logistics development were provided to the Government of Viet Nam and the Viet Nam Freight Forwarders Association in October 2004, including recommendations on formulating a comprehensive policy for the development of the logistics industry and the delivery of the ESCAP training material on multimodal transport and logistics. Training materials and assistance were provided to the Shippers Council of Bangladesh to conduct a workshop on smooth and economic transport of foreign trade cargo of Bangladesh and multimodal transport systems from 9 to 11 January 2005. The Government of Thailand has requested the secretariat's support in assisting the so-called "CLMV" member countries of ASEAN, namely, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam, in capacity-building in multimodal transport, and a subregional seminar utilizing ESCAP training material is tentatively scheduled to be held in Bangkok from 30 May to 3 June 2005.

15. The study on the facilitation of international land transport and the draft Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) agreement was prepared and distributed to SCO countries and an expert group meeting held in Urumqi, China, in June 2004 recommended negotiations on the draft SCO agreement. The first negotiating meeting, held in Urumqi in August 2004, agreed on a refined text for further negotiation in 2005. The prime ministers of the SCO countries, at their meeting in Bishkek in September 2004, called for completion of the agreement by the middle of 2005. The agreement, in its present form, adopts the main international conventions on land transport facilitation and provides momentum towards the ratification of the international conventions listed in Commission resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures, including the broadening of the scope of that resolution.

16. A study on transit charges in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) was completed with extensive information gathered and an analysis made of various aspects of the charges on transit traffic. Based on the study, Protocol 2: Charges concerning Transit Traffic, was drafted for  
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negotiation by the GMS countries. The GMS countries expressed their satisfaction with the findings and recommendations of the study during their meeting held in Phuket, Thailand, on 14 October 2004. The study has been instrumental in enhancing understanding and cooperation between the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and ESCAP.

17. Best practices in establishing successful free trade zones (FTZs) have been identified and a study report is being prepared with additional inputs and updates. The secretariat has prepared two interim study outputs, namely, an overview of FTZs and port hinterland development and a government perspective on FTZ and port hinterland development. Preliminary study findings were presented at the seminar on FTZ and port hinterland development held at Bangkok in November 2004.

18. A project on capacity-building in developing interregional land and land-cum-sea transport linkages is being implemented by the five United Nations regional commissions and funded through the United Nations Development Account. A first expert group meeting on developing Euro-Asian transport linkages, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in March 2004, endorsed a strategy and implementation schedule for the further development of Euro-Asian linkages as well as criteria for the identification of linkages. The second such meeting, held in Odessa, Ukraine, in November 2004, inter alia, identified and adopted selected major rail, road and sea routes linking Asia and Europe for priority development and cooperation. These routes are currently being further analysed and investigated. The results of this analysis will be reported at the third expert group meeting, to be held in the second quarter of 2005, where the countries will discuss the operational aspects of the routes.

19. Private sector participation in the development, upgrading, rehabilitation and maintenance of transport infrastructure and in the provision of transport services has remained an important activity in the work of the secretariat. As part of the secretariat-wide project "Provision of basic services to the poor through public-private partnerships: ESCAP follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development" (or the so-called 5P project), ESACP has supported networking of public-private partnership (PPP) units and programmes including those in Bangladesh, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka. Outputs include the development of PPP readiness indicators and the production of guidelines on PPPs from both a legal and financial perspective. At the operational level, advisory services were rendered to Myanmar on the development and maintenance of road network and PPP initiatives like build-operate-transfer (BOT) and build-operate-own-transfer in July 2004. A study visit for the senior officials of the BOT Center in the Philippines was organized in 2003 to share Australian experience in implementing PPP projects. A training programme is being organized to support institutional capacity-building on legal and financial perspectives of PPPs for local government officials of the Philippines and other countries in the region. The PPP readiness framework will be piloted in a few countries to prepare action plans to strengthen their PPP readiness.

20. Support continues to be given to the Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing Facilitation within the framework of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), particularly the Action Programme on Transit Transport Cooperation for SPECA Countries, which addresses the issues contained in the Almaty Programme of Action.

21. Other recent initiatives include implementation of ESCAP/Railway Cooperation Organization (RCO) project on operationalization of Euro-Asian rail routes with particular reference to landlocked countries in Asia and the Caucasus, with a mission fielded to Warsaw (RCO headquarters) in October 2004 to ensure a common approach to project implementation. Phase I of the project will review international rail linkages to Mongolia.

22. Advisory missions were carried out to landlocked countries including Kazakhstan on (a) a mechanism to implement the concept of international transport corridor development (2-17 April 2003) and (b) increasing the efficiency of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing Facilitation (7-13 December 2004). Advisory missions were also undertaken to Mongolia (6-8 October 2003), Kyrgyzstan (14-20 March 2004) and Tajikistan (20-27 March 2004) on the preparation of national plans of action in line with the Almaty Programme of Action.

23. In order to provide countries in the region with an improved context for the planning of port infrastructure and shipping, the secretariat has undertaken a container traffic forecast study to be published in April 2005. A new study is now planned to expand the forecast to include intermodal land transport connections and make projections of container transport demand for landlocked and transit developing countries in the region.

24. In reviewing and refining the regional action programme since the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure held in Seoul from 12 to 17 November 2001, guidance has been given by the Commission and the Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism and specific mandates have been provided, for example, through the revised plan of action for the Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID) project, phase VI (2004-2005).

25. Particular attention is being given to the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action through the implementation of relevant projects as indicated below and provision of advisory services requested by landlocked countries.

### **III. RESOLUTION 60/4. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON THE ASIAN HIGHWAY NETWORK**

26. In its resolution 60/4 of 28 April 2004 on the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, the Commission requests the Executive Secretary to: (a) assist member countries in becoming parties to the Agreement; (b) accord priority to the development of the Asian Highway network within the ESCAP work programme; (c) collaborate effectively with international and

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regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors and subregional organizations for the development of the Asian Highway network; (d) effectively discharge the functions of the secretariat of the Agreement; and (e) report to the Commission at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the resolution.

27. The Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, which is deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, was adopted in November 2003 and opened for signature by member States during the sixtieth session of the Commission at Shanghai, China, from 26 to 28 April 2004. Twenty-six member States signed the Agreement at Shanghai with the signatures of China, Japan and Uzbekistan being definitive. The Agreement is currently open for signature at United Nations Headquarters in New York until 31 December 2005.

28. Since the opening of the Agreement for signature at Shanghai, the secretariat has advised member States on the procedure for ratification. It has also continued to encourage the signatory member States to ratify, accept or approve the Agreement and has encouraged potential signatory States to sign it. The secretariat continues to apprise member States of the progress and process for ratification and signature at meetings organized by its Transport and Tourism Division and during missions.

29. Since the sixtieth session of the Commission, Malaysia signed the Agreement in New York in September 2004 and Myanmar, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam have deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval with the Secretary-General.

30. The situation with regard to the 27 member States that have signed the Agreement is indicated in the annex to this document. Ratification by one more member State would meet the requirement for the entry into force of the Agreement 90 days later.

31. The ratification process is apparently at an advanced stage in a number of countries and it is anticipated that the Agreement will enter into force during the first half of 2005.

32. The secretariat has worked closely with subregional organizations in implementing a project to identify investment needs and priorities for the development of the Asian Highway network. Two expert group meetings have been organized, the first for the South Asian subregion in Islamabad in September 2004 and the second for the North, Central and South-West Asian subregion in collaboration with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Tehran in January 2005. A third meeting for South-East Asia is to be held in Bangkok in April 2005 in collaboration with the secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

33. The secretariat continues to collaborate effectively with multilateral and bilateral donors and other organizations like ADB, the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, ECO, ASEAN, SCO, the



Intergovernmental Commission-TRACECA (Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia), the International Road Federation, the International Road Transport Union, the Korea Transport Institute and the Infrastructure Development Institute (IDI) of Japan. The secretariat continues to work with member States, international and subregional organizations and multilateral and bilateral donors in implementing the Agreement and promoting the development of the Asian Highway network. In addition, the secretariat signed a memorandum of understanding with IDI on 1 September 2004 outlining cooperative activities, such as joint research and the exchange of trainees, researchers and experts as well as data and information sharing between the two organizations for the development of the Asian Highway.

34. Under the Intergovernmental Agreement, a Working Group on the Asian Highway is to be established to consider the implementation of the Agreement and any proposal for revision/addition of the Asian Highway routes. The Working Group will be a forum for member States to discuss progress on development policies and issues relating to the Asian Highway.

35. To assist and support member States' participation in the Working Group, the secretariat has developed a project on promotion and development of the Asian Highway: capacity-building for the implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement, for which funding has been secured from the Government of Japan. The secretariat will provide administrative support to the Working Group and assist in the preparation and distribution of the necessary documentation. It is anticipated that the first session of the Working Group will be convened in the second half of 2005.

36. The secretariat will perform the functions of secretariat of the Agreement such as circulating notifications, supporting the organization of Working Group meetings and liaising closely with the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs after the entry into force of the Agreement. All the circular notifications relating to signature, ratification, acceptance or approval by member States have been issued by the depositary.

#### **IV. RESOLUTION 58/3. WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

37. In its resolution 58/3 of 22 May 2002 on the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Commission requests the Executive Secretary to: (a) mobilize both technical and financial assistance for the implementation of the seven initiatives contained in the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific; (b) enhance intraregional cooperation and coordination with all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, subregional organizations, regional development banks and non-governmental organizations to develop or enhance regional sustainable development strategies and action plans that reflect regional priorities; (c) strengthen the role of the Commission in implementing, coordinating and monitoring the implementation of Agenda 21 and, in particular, the implementation of the seven initiatives contained in the Phnom Penh Regional Platform; and (d) carry out regular review and assessment of the  
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progress achieved in the implementation of the Phnom Penh Regional Platform as well as follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and to report to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development, as necessary.

38. In the process of preparing for the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Seoul in March 2005, the secretariat has conducted a review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, the Phnom Penh Regional Platform as reflected in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific. The review analyses progress in the implementation of the various outcomes in the context of Asia and the Pacific, identifies lessons learned and suggests a possible future approach to promoting sustainable development in the region.

39. The *State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 2005* is being prepared by the secretariat in close cooperation with ADB, the United Nations Environment Programme and various subregional organizations, agencies and collaborating centres. It will cover the key indicators of pressure on environmental sustainability, as well as the key indicators of environmental conditions and trends.

40. With a view to ensuring coherence in the United Nations system's multidisciplinary response to the World Summit and to collectively engage stakeholders outside the United Nations, UN-Water and UN-Energy were established in 2002 and 2004 respectively. ESCAP is an active member of both forums. UN-Energy and UN-Water are expected to develop an operational framework for ensuring policy coherence in reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development and to adopt coordinated approaches to the implementation of activities at the regional, subregional and national levels in support of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

41. In support of national efforts to implement the Plan of Implementation, the secretariat has carried out a number of activities focusing on policy and capacity-building activities on sustainable development, including environmental protection, energy and water resources.

42. To promote collaboration among the public and private sectors in enhancing access to basic services for the poor, the secretariat has implemented a multi-component project on pro-poor public-private partnerships, with funding support from the Government of the Netherlands. Three components relevant to the subprogramme on environment and sustainable development have been implemented: (a) a mini-hydropower plant was inaugurated in April 2004 in Cinta Mekar, a community of 600 households in Indonesia; (b) a water supply system was inaugurated in November 2004, providing access to water to a community of 3,000 people in Halgahakumbura, Sri Lanka; and (c) the Morgah Biodiversity Park in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, was inaugurated in January 2005 to support income generation and access to the Park by a community of 48,000 people. Each project component demonstrated a unique model of partnership among government agencies, the private sector, NGOs, local governments and communities which holds great potential for replication in the region. The

Governments hosting the demonstration projects have expressed their wish to establish institutional frameworks or other facilitating means in support of replicating the models at the national level. ESCAP has been advocating pro-poor policies in the provision of water-related services through its publication entitled *Water Services for the Urban Poor: A Guide to the Planning and Provision of Water and Sanitation Services to the Urban Poor*.

43. During 2003 and 2004, the secretariat continued to promote and build capacities for the strategic planning and management (SPM) of the energy, water and environment sectors with a view to incorporating sustainable development issues into sectoral policies. The secretariat worked intensively with national teams in seven countries to enhance their capacity to incorporate sustainable development issues into energy policies. Building on and further developing the SPM concept and guidelines, the secretariat is implementing another project in seven countries of South-East and South Asia on integrating energy and rural development policies and programmes. In the water resources sector, 17 country case studies were carried out to apply the SPM guidelines on water resources and promote the formulation of strategic plans for various levels of water resources governance. ESCAP has also been supporting improved management of freshwater resources by carrying out a number of capacity-building activities to advocate the concept of conservation. In some countries, elements related to water-use efficiency have been incorporated into broader water resources management plans.

44. The South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), after collaborating with ESCAP on the implementation of the SPM project, has applied the SPM approach to developing a Pacific islands energy policy whose endorsement at a subregional high-level meeting is being sought based on the recommendations of the regional energy meeting held in December 2004. In addition, SOPAC has integrated modules on SPM into its own training events.

45. In cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the secretariat assisted three least developed countries in South-East Asia in developing their respective water action plans as part of the common efforts to enhance regional strategies to promote integrated water resources management in cooperation with international organizations.

46. With regard to the promotion of enhanced utilization of renewable energy, the secretariat organized seminars on the facilitation of technology transfer for the enhanced utilization of wind energy and on small hydropower policies and development, with the cooperation of national institutions in China. In the Pacific subregion, the secretariat provides assistance in meeting the training needs emerging from government policies and programmes on large-scale renewable energy development. The assistance focuses on strengthening the capacity of Pacific-based institutions to identify and meet training needs by developing and executing pilot training programmes and developing project proposals for long-term resource mobilization. In collaboration with the Jakarta office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Asian Institute

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of Technology, the secretariat is providing technical inputs to developing a regional energy database focusing on good policies promoting enhanced utilization of renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies.

47. In an effort to promote the clean development mechanism (CDM), the secretariat organized two subregional workshops funded by the Government of Japan for East and South-East Asia and Central Asia, with the collaboration of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, to enhance awareness and provide the latest information on climate change and CDM issues, methodologies to formulate and evaluate CDM projects and a forum to discuss strategies in moving forward to take advantage of CDM projects in the energy sector.

48. As the interim secretariat, ESCAP continues to facilitate and strengthen the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation. Following endorsement by the Tenth Meeting of Senior Officials in North-East Asia convened in Okinawa, Japan, in November 2004, the secretariat has developed projects and programmes for achieving environmental sustainability, including the Framework for a Nature Conservation Programme in North-East Asia, approved for implementation during 2005-2006. The secretariat has also assisted countries in North-East Asia in promoting clean coal technologies through the development of action plans addressing air pollution from coal-fired power plants.

49. To promote collaboration on energy development in the North-East Asian subregion, the secretariat is facilitating dialogue among concerned Governments in North-East Asia through meetings on a collaborative framework and the principles and modality of such a framework.

50. In the context of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, the secretariat has organized pilot projects/activities and thematic seminars on critical issues in urban environmental management, supported and monitored ongoing intercity cooperation activities, disseminated information on successful practices, developed quantitative indicators for urban environmental management and established the Kitakyushu Initiative website.

51. The prevention of dust and sandstorms in North-East Asia has continued to receive attention, and a long-term plan for further measures and assistance for the mitigation and prevention of dust and sandstorms in the subregion has been prepared. A project is being developed under which the secretariat will implement the community-based components of the long-term plan.

52. To enhance the capacity of developing member States to formulate coherent trade and environment policies that address issues related to the environment in an effective manner, the secretariat has initiated the implementation of a regional project which will equip decision makers with appropriate tools for building the policy coherence needed to (a) maximize positive economic benefits and minimize environmental pressures arising from trade expansion and liberalization and (b)

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manage the pressure on environmental sustainability arising from imports of products into developing countries.

53. With funding from the Government of the Republic of Korea, the secretariat has initiated two projects to assist member countries in (a) identifying and developing policies to promote environmentally sustainable economic growth or “green growth” and (b) promoting sustainable consumption patterns through reference to cultural values and traditional lifestyles in Asia and the Pacific.

54. To assist countries in the region in coping with disasters, ESCAP was able to mobilize financial and technical assistance for promoting community-based disaster risk management in several countries in the region, particularly in South-East Asia and for member countries of the Typhoon Committee. Following the recent devastating tsunami in the region, the secretariat has initiated a number of activities to assist Governments with rehabilitation programmes and enhancement of multi-hazard disaster preparedness including early warning systems. Cooperation was also enhanced with the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the World Meteorological Organization, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center and other international organizations and local NGOs to promote community-based disaster risk management and effective integration of disaster reduction into the socio-economic development process.

55. The secretariat has worked jointly with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to assist concerned countries in Central Asia in formulating a cooperative strategy to promote the rational and efficient use of water and energy resources in Central Asia. The strategy, worked out under SPECA, outlines the broad prospects for collective actions to ensure a sustainable future for water and energy development and provides major principles for cooperation frameworks in the subregion. Together with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the secretariat has provided additional assistance to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in making their agreement of January 2000 on the Chu and Talas rivers operational by establishing a joint commission on the operation of selected water facilities on those rivers.

56. A memorandum of understanding between ESCAP and ECE, on the one hand, and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, on the other, has been signed to strengthen cooperation mostly on issues related to the environment, water and energy resources in Central Asia.

*Annex*

**SIGNATORIES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT  
ON THE ASIAN HIGHWAY NETWORK AS AT 31 JANUARY 2005**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Signatory</b>	<b>Type of signature</b>	<b>Date of signature</b>
1.	Afghanistan	Simple, reservation on article 11	26 April 2004
2.	Armenia	Simple	26 April 2004
3.	Azerbaijan	Simple	28 April 2004
4.	Bhutan	Simple	26 April 2004
5.	Cambodia	Simple	26 April 2004
6.	China	Definitive	26 April 2004
7.	Georgia	Simple	26 April 2004
8.	India	Simple	27 April 2004
9.	Indonesia	Simple	26 April 2004
10.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Simple	26 April 2004
11.	Japan	Definitive	26 April 2004
12.	Kazakhstan	Simple	26 April 2004
13.	Kyrgyzstan	Simple	26 April 2004
14.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Simple	26 April 2004
15.	Malaysia	Simple	24 September 2004 at New York
16.	Mongolia	Simple	26 April 2004
17.	Myanmar	Simple, reservation on article 11 Ratified on 15 September 2004	26 April 2004
18.	Nepal	Simple	26 April 2004
19.	Pakistan	Simple	26 April 2004
20.	Republic of Korea	Simple Ratified on 13 August 2004	26 April 2004
21.	Russian Federation	Simple	27 April 2004
22.	Sri Lanka	Simple Ratified on 24 September 2004	26 April 2004
23.	Tajikistan	Simple	26 April 2004
24.	Thailand	Simple	26 April 2004
25.	Turkey	Simple	26 April 2004
26.	Uzbekistan	Definitive	26 April 2004
27.	Viet Nam	Simple Approved on 3 August 2004	26 April 2004

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