



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

### Sixty-eighth session

Bangkok, 17-23 May 2012

### Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the sixty-eighth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

## I. Provisional agenda

### Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the session:
  - (a) Opening addresses;
  - (b) Election of officers;
  - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries:
  - (a) Sustainable development and Pacific island developing countries: Preparation for Rio+20 and beyond;
  - (b) Other matters.
3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the ESCAP regional institutions:
  - (a) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development;
  - (b) Trade and investment;
  - (c) Transport;
  - (d) Environment and development;
  - (e) Information and communications technology;

- (f) Disaster risk reduction;
  - (g) Social development;
  - (h) Statistics;
  - (i) Subregional activities for development.
4. Management issues:
- (a) Report on evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2010-2011;
  - (b) Programme changes for the biennium 2012-2013;
  - (c) Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015;
  - (d) Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions.
5. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
6. Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission (2013).

### **Ministerial segment**

7. Policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region:
- (a) Key challenges to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific;
  - (b) Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2012.
8. Theme topic for the sixty-eighth session: “Enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific”.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

## **II. Annotations**

### **A. Senior officials segment**

#### **1. Opening of the session**

##### **(a) Opening addresses**

The detailed programme for the opening of the session will be made available upon finalization.

##### **(b) Election of officers**

Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Commission states: “The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and

Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.” If the plenary so decides, the rule may be applied differently to enable the Commission to elect more than two vice-chairpersons, as has been the practice at previous sessions, in which case the Commission may elect a bureau of officers composed of a chairperson and several vice-chairpersons.

The senior officials segment may decide to meet in two committees of the whole and a working group on draft resolutions. It would then elect chairpersons and vice-chairpersons for each.

The ministerial segment will elect the chairperson and vice-chairpersons of the Commission.

**(c) Adoption of the agenda**

**Documentation**

Provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/68/L.1)

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/68/L.2)

The provisional agenda was drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the current Chair of the Commission and with the advice of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.

**2. Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries**

**(a) Sustainable development and Pacific island developing countries: Preparation for Rio+20 and beyond**

**Documentation**

Summary of Pacific preparations for Rio+20: The evolving “special case” of small island developing States (E/ESCAP/68/1)

Pacific small island developing States have consistently emphasized the specific and unique challenges they face in achieving sustainable development. In preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference), Pacific small island developing States have been engaged in a series of meetings in the Pacific subregion, and at the regional and global levels. Document E/ESCAP/68/1 outlines the special case of small island developing States originally identified at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3-14 June 1992) and which has evolved and should remain a key part of Rio+20 outcomes and action beyond the Rio+20 Conference. Climate change and natural disasters are the most critical challenges facing the Pacific. Additional challenges include human capacity constraints, infrastructure bottlenecks, limited economic opportunities, the effect of global crises, protection of biodiversity and shared resources, energy security and urbanization. Furthermore, Pacific small island developing States collectively have stewardship over one third of the surface of the earth.

The Special Body may wish to review the key outcomes of the Rio+20 preparatory process in the Pacific and provide the secretariat with further guidance on how to strengthen outcomes for Pacific small island developing States on: (a) the Rio+20 theme of a green economy in the

context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; (b) the Rio+20 theme of an institutional framework for sustainable development; and (c) follow-up action in support of the sustainable development of Pacific small island developing States.

**(b) Other matters**

The Special Body may wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

**3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the ESCAP regional institutions**

The documents listed below contain information spanning all of the subprogrammes and the relevant sections will be deliberated under each subprogramme as required.

**Documentation**

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/68/3)

Programme performance report for the biennium 2010-2011 (E/ESCAP/68/INF/3)

Item 3 of the provisional agenda focuses on: (a) addressing the issues and challenges pertaining to the eight subprogrammes, including the work of the regional institutions; (b) the reports of subsidiary bodies of the Commission (where sessions have been held since the last Commission session); (c) reports of other intergovernmental bodies; and (d) progress in the implementation of Commission mandates. Documents under this agenda item identify key priorities and emerging issues, taking into consideration the subregional perspectives.

The expected outcomes under this agenda item are: (a) the identification of emerging development issues that merit policy dialogue; (b) the identification of progress achieved and gaps requiring priority attention with regard to the implementation of Commission mandates; (c) follow-up actions to major global conferences; (d) the articulation of Asian and Pacific perspectives on issues that will be addressed in major global forums in 2012; (e) the endorsement of the reports of the subsidiary bodies that have held sessions since the sixty-seventh session of the Commission; and (f) the identification of key issues to be taken up in meetings of subsidiary bodies in 2012.

The outcome of deliberations under this agenda item will be reflected in the annual report of the Commission, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council. Country statements will be taken into consideration in the preparation of general inputs to the annual ministerial review and the dialogue of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions with the Economic and Social Council in July 2012. The outcomes of deliberations will also be used to prepare regional inputs to mandated reports of the Secretary-General on economic, social and environmental issues. The agreed outcomes will further guide the Executive Secretary in making interventions in diverse forums, including the Second

Committee of the General Assembly, and in preparing other presentations of the ESCAP secretariat at major global forums in 2012.

**(a) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development**

**Documentation**

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, section I)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/68/3, resolutions 66/1, 66/13)

Report of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/68/4)

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/68/5)

**Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, section I)**

The document discusses challenges that countries in the region face in sustaining economic growth amid the global slowdown and rising uncertainties, while reducing poverty at a rapid rate and pursuing the Millennium Development Goals. The document also highlights the challenges of countries with special needs, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and related work being done by the secretariat to support these countries. Further, the document discusses the role of sustainable agriculture in poverty reduction and food security in the Asia-Pacific region and the work carried out by the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) in that regard.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member countries.

**Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/68/3)**

The document summarizes the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolutions 66/1, the Incheon Declaration, and 66/13 on strengthening regional cooperation in North and Central Asia.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with further guidance for effective implementation of the resolutions.

**Report of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/68/4)**

The Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development held its second session in Bangkok from 7 to 9 December 2011. The agenda focused on macroeconomic challenges

associated with a global slowdown, high inflation, particularly food inflation, accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the region, issues related to countries with special needs and capacity-building for poverty reduction through sustainable agriculture. The Committee discussed pertinent issues under various agenda items and made a number of recommendations on how to accelerate economic growth and at the same time promote poverty reduction and inclusive development.

The Commission may wish to consider matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

**Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/68/5)**

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide guidance for the future work of the Centre.

**(b) Trade and investment**

**Documentation**

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, section II)

Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its second session (E/ESCAP/68/6)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/68/7)

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/68/8)

**Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, Section II)**

The document provides a brief overview of recent trends and developments, and emerging challenges and opportunities in trade and investment, private sector development and technology transfer in the region. The document examines key areas of policy action that countries in the Asia and the Pacific region need to pursue in order to exploit new opportunities in trade and investment that are emerging in the aftermath of the global economic crisis. It also summarizes the secretariat's initiatives to support countries in these efforts, including initiatives undertaken by the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery and Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member countries.

### **Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its second session (E/ESCAP/68/6)**

The Committee on Trade and Investment held its second session in Bangkok from 27 to 29 July 2011. It reviewed recent developments in trade and investment and related policy issues, and made a number of recommendations with respect to inclusive and sustainable trade and investment and the supportive work that could be undertaken by the secretariat.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

### **Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/68/7)**

At its seventh session, the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology endorsed the programme of work of the Centre for the biennium 2012-2013 and expressed strong support for the Centre's involvement in the establishment of a "technology bank" to facilitate the deployment of technology for the purpose of fostering inclusive development.

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide guidance for the future work of the Centre.

### **Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/68/8)**

At its seventh session, the Governing Council of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery endorsed the programme of work of the Centre for the biennium 2012-2013 and the establishment of an Asian and Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery. The Council also proposed that the Centre be renamed the "Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization".

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide guidance for the future work of the Centre.

## **(c) Transport**

### **Documentation**

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, section III)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/68/3, resolutions 63/9 and 66/6)

Report of the Ministerial Conference on Transport (E/ESCAP/68/9)

### **Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, section III)**

The document discusses the major issues and challenges in the transport sector in the region. It summarizes the ongoing and proposed

responses of the secretariat with regard to realizing the long-term vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system, with the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks as the two major building blocks. The document also reviews the progress achieved in the formulation of an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports aimed at bringing about connectivity between the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks and other transport modes and thereby accelerating the progress towards the realization of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member countries.

### **Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/68/3)**

The document summarizes the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolutions 63/9 on the implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), and 66/6 on improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with further guidance for effective implementation of the resolutions.

### **Report of the Ministerial Conference on Transport (E/ESCAP/68/9)**

The Ministerial Conference was held in Bangkok from 12 to 16 March 2012. The Conference reviewed and deliberated on the emerging issues in transport, which subsequently led to the formulation of a set of recommendations on policy actions and initiatives designed to enhance regional cooperation in transport for inclusive, sustainable and resilient development in the region. It culminated in the adoption of a ministerial declaration on transport development in Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016), and the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Conference, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

### **(d) Environment and development**

#### **Documentation**

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, section IV)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/68/3, resolution 63/6)

Report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/68/10)



Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (E/ESCAP/68/INF/4)

Report of the Mekong River Commission (E/ESCAP/68/INF/5)

**Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, section IV)**

The document provides a brief account of key issues and challenges related to environment and development, including access to basic services, such as energy, water and sanitation, and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific. It also covers emerging trends towards inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the region.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member countries.

**Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/68/3)**

The document summarizes the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolution 63/6 on the implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with further guidance for effective implementation of the resolution.

**Report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/68/10)**

The Committee on Environment and Development held its second session in Bangkok from 22 to 24 February 2012. The Committee discussed trends in environment and development and reviewed the progress of related actions, including the outcome of the Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the outcome of the Fifth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, and the progress in implementing the outcomes of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

**Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (E/ESCAP/68/INF/4)**

**Report of the Mekong River Commission (E/ESCAP/68/INF/5)**

The Commission may wish to take note of the two reports.

(e) **Information and communications technology**

(f) **Disaster risk reduction**

**Documentation**

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, section V)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/68/3, resolution 66/14)

Report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its second session (E/ESCAP/68/11)

Report of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (E/ESCAP/68/12)

Report of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/68/INF/6)

Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/68/INF/7)

**Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, section V)**

The document contains an overview of major issues and policy challenges in the areas of development of information and communications technology (ICT), including space applications, and disaster risk reduction. It highlights a number of secretariat initiatives undertaken and planned, including regional studies, such as the ESCAP-International Strategy for Disaster Reduction *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report*, implementation of the Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development for sharing information and best practices, and the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries. It also highlights various initiatives under the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP), including the Regional Cooperative Mechanism on Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning, Particularly Drought, the use of satellite imagery for disaster risk management and development in Pacific island developing countries and other developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, improving the capacity of countries with special needs for disaster risk preparedness. The document also reviews the progress in the implementation of the programme of work of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development in the area of ICT capacity-building.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member countries.

**Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/68/3)**

The document summarizes the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolution 66/14 on the continuation of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with further guidance for effective implementation of the resolution.

**Report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its second session (E/ESCAP/68/11)**

The Committee held its second session in Bangkok from 29 June to 1 July 2011. It reviewed trends and challenges associated with disasters and their socio-economic and environmental aspects. It supported ESCAP initiatives in the area of disaster risk reduction and emphasized the importance of effective early warning systems for preventing and mitigating the impact of disasters.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

**Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its sixth session (E/ESCAP/68/12)**

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and provide guidance for the future work of the Centre.

**Report of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/68/INF/6)**

**Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/68/INF/7)**

The Commission may wish to take note of the two reports.

**(g) Social development**

**Documentation**

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, section VI)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/68/3, resolutions 58/4, 63/7, 64/9, 66/10)

Report of the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Assessment of Progress against Commitments in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals (E/ESCAP/68/13)

**Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, section VI)**

The document highlights issues and challenges in the area of social development and provides an overview of regional preparations for: (a) the special session of the General Assembly to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; and (b) the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 65/234, the document outlines the regional

preparatory activities proposed to be undertaken by the secretariat in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to support ESCAP member States in preparing for the special session. With regard to regional preparations for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, which will be held from 29 October to 2 November 2012 and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea in Incheon, the document outlines the status of regional preparatory activities, including the outcome of stakeholder consultations and the regional survey on the final review of the Decade.

The Commission may wish to review the proposed regional activities and recommendations, particularly with regard to preparations for the special session of the General Assembly within the framework of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference as well as the recommendation to proclaim a new decade focused on the rights of persons with disabilities for the period 2013-2022.

The Commission may also wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member countries.

#### **Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/68/3)**

The document summarizes the progress made in the implementation of the following Commission resolutions:

- (a) 58/4 on promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty-first century;
- (b) 63/7 on international migration and development for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;
- (c) 64/9 on the midpoint review of the implementation of the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty adopted at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference;
- (d) 66/10, a regional call for action to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with further guidance for effective implementation of the resolutions.

#### **Report of the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Assessment of Progress against Commitments in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals (E/ESCAP/68/13)**

The Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Assessment of Progress against Commitments in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals was held in Bangkok from 6 to 8 February 2012. It identified, among other things, measures to support the further implementation of Commission resolutions 66/10 and 67/9, as well as the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, particularly in the context of regional efforts to promote universal access to

HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including multisectoral and regional cooperation to address legal and policy barriers, stigma, discrimination and gender-based violence related to HIV.

The Commission may wish to endorse the report of the Meeting, consider the matters calling for action or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Meeting, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

#### **(h) Statistics**

##### **Documentation**

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, section VII)

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/68/14)

##### **Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, section VII)**

The document contains an overview of the issues and challenges in the field of statistics and the secretariat's current and planned efforts and initiatives aimed at assisting Asia-Pacific countries in improving statistical capacity. Capacity development activities in the region are focused on two overarching strategic goals adopted by the Committee on Statistics at its second session: (a) ensuring that, by 2020, all countries in the region have the capability to provide an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environmental statistics; and (b) creating a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through stronger collaboration.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member countries.

##### **Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/68/14)**

The Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific reviewed the programme of work, the administrative and financial status, and other matters related to the Institute.

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide guidance for the future work of the Institute.

#### **(i) Subregional activities for development**

##### **Documentation**

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, section VIII)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/68/3, resolutions 66/2 and 66/7)

**Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/2, section VIII)**

**Component 1**

**The Pacific**

The document highlights the issues and challenges and recent and planned initiatives of the secretariat to support the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development in the Pacific subregion.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member countries.

**Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/68/3)**

The document summarizes the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolutions 66/2 on the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and 66/7 on the Pacific Urban Agenda.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with further guidance for effective implementation of the resolutions.

**Component 2**

**East and North-East Asia**

The document highlights the progress in formulating and implementing subregional activities in priority areas identified and approved by member States of the subregion. In particular, it elaborates the role of the subregional office in supporting the delivery of the secretariat's programme of work in the subregion, functioning as a hub for multilateral cooperation among member States in addressing common challenges, and serving as the secretariat of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC).

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member countries.

**Component 3**

**North and Central Asia**

The document highlights issues and challenges in the North and Central Asian subregion and planned initiatives by the secretariat to support the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development. The subregion is working towards achieving internationally agreed development goals by promoting inclusive and sustainable economic and social development; improving regional connectivity by encouraging transport infrastructure development and facilitating regional trade; and addressing water, energy, disaster risk reduction and environment issues by strengthening cooperation and integration.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member countries.

#### **Component 4**

##### **South and South-West Asia**

The document provides an overview of the multidimensional and interrelated challenges facing the South and South-West Asian subregion, which, despite being one of the most rapidly growing subregions, remains home to almost 43 per cent of the world's poor living on less than \$1.25 a day. Drawing on the outcome of the High-level Policy Dialogue on Development Challenges facing the Subregion, held in New Delhi on 15 and 16 December 2011, the document highlights the policy options for the subregion and the potential to scale up poverty reduction efforts, enhance connectivity and partnerships and regional economic integration, including through measures to redress the many economic, social and environmental imbalances that prevail. This overview also sets out an agenda for the work of the subregional office.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member countries.

#### **4. Management issues**

Under agenda item 4, the secretariat is submitting for the consideration of the Commission reports on a range of management issues relevant to the continued effectiveness of the work of ESCAP.

##### **(a) Report on evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2010-2011**

###### **Documentation**

Report on evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2010-2011 (E/ESCAP/68/15)

The document contains an overview of evaluative exercises carried out during the biennium 2010-2011, with a focus on their main findings and recommendations as well as key actions undertaken by the secretariat in responding to those recommendations. The document also provides an update on the implementation of the secretariat's monitoring and evaluation system.

The report also includes a summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 67/14 on cooperation between ESCAP and other United Nations and regional and subregional organizations serving Asia and the Pacific.

##### **(b) Programme changes for the biennium 2012-2013**

###### **Documentation**

Programme changes for the biennium 2012-2013 (E/ESCAP/68/16)

The proposed programme changes for 2012-2013 are necessitated by the new mandates adopted by the Commission at its sixty-seventh session as well as the emerging global priorities identified by the Economic and

Social Council and the General Assembly and other global conferences since the Commission adopted the draft programme of work for 2012-2013 at its sixty-seventh session.

The Commission may wish to consider the proposed changes with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the programme of work for 2012-2013.

**(c) Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015**

**Documentation**

Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015 (E/ESCAP/68/17)

The document consists of: (a) a narrative highlighting the overall orientation of the programme as a whole; and (b) elements of the logical framework for each subprogramme.

The Commission may wish to review the draft strategic framework for ESCAP for the biennium 2014-2015 with a view to endorsing it.

**(d) Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions**

**Documentation**

Overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions (E/ESCAP/68/18)

The document summarizes the secretariat's technical cooperation activities in 2011, in accordance with the programme of work of ESCAP for the biennium 2010-2011 and Commission resolution 60/3 on the work of ESCAP in implementing its technical cooperation projects. The document also provides an overview of the extrabudgetary resources mobilized in 2011 for implementing technical cooperation activities and engagement with donors to increase the extrabudgetary resource base of ESCAP.

The Commission may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on future technical cooperation activities and to request members and associate members to indicate intended contributions for 2012.

**5. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/68/19)**

**Documentation**

Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/68/19)

The document covers the main activities of the Advisory Committee since the sixty-seventh session of the Commission, including its support to the Executive Secretary on matters related to programme planning, implementation and monitoring. The report also contains the report of the Advisory Committee's informal working group established to review the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee.

The Commission may wish to comment on the role of the Advisory Committee and provide further guidance regarding its work.



**6. Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission (2013)**

**Documentation**

Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission (2013) (E/ESCAP/68/20)

Unless the Commission decides otherwise, the sixty-ninth session of the Commission will be held in Bangkok in April/May 2013. Under this agenda item, the Commission may also wish to select a theme topic for that session.

**B. Ministerial segment**

**7. Policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region:**

(a) **Key challenges to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific**

(b) **Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2012**

**Documentation**

Summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2012 (E/ESCAP/68/21)

The document provides a review of the region's outlook as it recovers from the global economic crisis and assesses the region's policy response to remaining and emerging vulnerabilities. Areas of economic and social policy to be analysed include growth, inflation, trade and investment, financial markets, employment, migration and remittances. Key challenges ahead will be addressed and policy responses recommended for countries in order to sustain their development. The document also analyses the social and economic risks associated with price volatility of food and other agricultural commodities. Recent trends, main causes and short- and long-term effects of commodity price volatility will be discussed. Policy responses will be outlined that governments in the region can take to reduce the many risks associated with this issue.

The Commission may wish to deliberate on these issues and propose policy recommendations for promoting inclusive and sustainable development in the region.

**8. Theme topic for the sixty-eighth session: "Enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific"**

**Documentation**

Enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/68/22)

The document reviews the current status and potential of regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific and examines policy choices for enhancing it through a comprehensive and broader framework for regional cooperation. It examines the criticality, potential and opportunities for regional economic cooperation and integration in the Asia-Pacific region in the post-crisis scenario, emphasizing the importance of complementarities between the region's economies, summarizing key

sources of interdependence, and demonstrating the welfare gains from integration. The document suggests various possible routes for evolving a regional trading arrangement that not only is comprehensive, deep and broad but also keeps equity at its heart by being sensitive to the concerns of lesser developed countries of the region and incorporating provisions and safeguards regarding special and differential treatment.

The document also highlights the importance of developing land transport corridors for spreading the fruit of prosperity through the hinterlands, and advocates the development of an ambitious regional financial architecture that could channel the region's large savings to close its huge cross-country infrastructure development gaps. Beyond economic integration, the document also emphasizes the need for further cooperation in various policy areas — such as food and energy security, disaster management and prevention, the development of environmentally sustainable technologies, and the management of international labour migration — towards the achievement of a more inclusive and sustainable pattern of development.

The Commission may wish to review the analysis and provide guidance on how to enhance regional economic integration and cooperation in Asia and the Pacific in order to sustain its dynamism, narrow development gaps and increase the inclusiveness and sustainability of its development process.

#### **9. Other matters**

The Commission may wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

#### **10. Adoption of the report of the Commission**

The Commission will consider and adopt resolutions and the report on its sixty-eighth session.

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