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Ministerial Conference on Transport

Second session

Bangkok, 14-18 November 2011

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the Ministerial Conference on Transport (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).¹

I. Provisional agenda

A. Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and of the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia.
3. Emerging issues in transport:
 - (a) A vision of the development of the transport sector in the Asian and Pacific region;
 - (b) Transport infrastructure;
 - (c) Transport facilitation;
 - (d) Transport logistics;

¹ The Ministerial Conference on Transport is part of a series of quinquennial ministerial conferences organized by the secretariat, consisting of the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure (New Delhi, 1996), the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure (Seoul, 2001) and the Ministerial Conference on Transport (Busan, Republic of Korea, 2006).

- (e) Finance and private sector participation;
 - (f) Sustainable transport development;
 - (g) Road safety;
 - (h) Transport and the Millennium Development Goals;
 - (i) Inter-island shipping;
 - (j) Connecting subregional transport networks.
- 4. Draft ministerial declaration on transport development in Asia and the Pacific, including a regional action programme for transport development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016).
 - 5. Other matters.
 - 6. Adoption of the report of the senior officials.

B. Ministerial segment

- 7. Policy debate on issues pertaining to transport development in Asia and the Pacific and the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia, including the report of the senior officials.
- 8. Other matters.
- 9. Adoption of the ministerial declaration on transport development in Asia and the Pacific, including a regional action programme for transport development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016).
- 10. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
- 11. Closing of the Conference.

II. Annotations

A. Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening addresses

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

(b) Election of officers

The senior officials will elect a chair, vice-chairs and a rapporteur of the senior officials segment.

The ministerial segment will elect a bureau, which will comprise a chair, several vice-chairs and a rapporteur.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/L.1)

Annotation

The Conference will consider and adopt the annotated provisional agenda, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

2. Assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and of the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia

Documentation

Assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and of the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/1)

Annotation

The document provides an overview of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia. It also contains a summary of the major findings and conclusions of an independent evaluation of phase I of the Regional Action Programme.

3. Emerging issues in transport

All documents under item 3 will be taken up together to assess current issues in the transport sector, with each delegation making a single intervention.

(a) A vision of the development of the transport sector in the Asian and Pacific region

Documentation

A vision of the development of the transport sector in the Asian and Pacific region (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/2)

Annotation

In recent years, most economies in the Asian and Pacific region have experienced robust economic growth, which has benefited immensely from

the expansion of external trade favoured by the process of globalization, as well as increases in domestic aggregate demand. The most successful countries have been able to develop and expand transport capacity to reach out to traditional markets and thereby deliver their products at competitive prices. For the future, the challenges will be to enhance the quality of regional connectivity in a partnership process that supports further trade in fast-growing regional markets.

The document considers major driving forces of future transport development in the region and elaborates the vision of transport development for each of nine areas in which progress is considered important in moving towards the broad vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system.

(b) Transport infrastructure

Documentation

Transport infrastructure (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/3)

Annotation

The Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks are now recognized as the primary trunk routes linking countries across the Asian continent and with other regions. With the parallel development of a network of internationally recognized dry ports that is now under way, the basic building blocks will be in place for the realization of the vision of a sustainable integrated international intermodal transport and logistics system for Asia.

In the document, the substantial progress that has been achieved in the transport sector in recent years is recalled and proposals are highlighted that call for further cooperation in the development of transport infrastructure that would support the realization of improved regional connectivity.

(c) Transport facilitation

Documentation

Transport facilitation (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/4)

Annotation

Transport infrastructure is being developed rapidly across the region, but institutional and regulatory systems have often not kept pace. This situation is most clearly seen in international land transport, in particular at international border crossings, where delays add costs and reduce efficiency, thus impeding regional connectivity.

The document presents an integrated approach to addressing the challenges in international land transport. It proposes a regional strategic framework for the facilitation of international road transport and suggests undertaking a study to find possible ways to facilitate international railway transport among member countries. It also proposes a number of activities

to be included into a regional action programme, phase II (2012-2016), to support the facilitation process of member countries.

(d) Transport logistics

Documentation

Transport logistics (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/5)

Annotation

Efficient logistics reduce costs and transit times, thereby making products more competitive in international and domestic markets. Owing to the cross-sectoral nature of the logistical issues related to trade, transport services, infrastructure, rules and regulations that need to be addressed, both Governments and the private sector need to be involved in policymaking and service optimization processes.

The document reviews some key issues and challenges in developing an efficient logistics system, namely, transport logistics policy, a regulatory and institutional framework for enhancing professionalism, experience sharing and partnerships within the region, and capacity-building. It also proposes a set of interrelated activities to be included into a regional action programme, phase II (2012-2016).

(e) Finance and private sector participation

Documentation

Finance and private sector participation (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/6)

Annotation

The financing requirements to develop and maintain infrastructure are massive and the potential for public-private partnerships has been recognized by all countries in the region. Those that have used innovative approaches have been relatively successful in attracting funding to supplement government budgets while, at the same time, harnessing other efficiency benefits.

The document outlines the background issues and activities of the secretariat in promoting investment in land transport linkages of international importance, highlights the importance of maintaining the transport infrastructure assets and initiatives of a number of member countries in addressing the issue, and considers the issues and challenges of public-private partnerships. It proposes a number of national- and regional-level activities that would support investment in transport infrastructure and services.

(f) Sustainable transport development

Documentation

Sustainable transport development (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/7)

Annotation

Economies in the region have benefited substantially from rapid economic growth and are now putting in place policies and practices to ensure long-term sustainability. While progress is being made, there is a greater need to further reduce energy consumption and emissions in the transport sector through modal shifts in freight transport and improved efficiencies in intermodal transport.

The document contains a review of policy options and initiatives to promote modal shifts to environmentally friendly modes of transport, such as railways and inland waterways, and the use of intermodal transport. It also proposes a number of national and regional activities that would support environmentally sustainable transport development.

(g) Road safety**Documentation**

Road safety (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/8)

Annotation

Road accidents cause human tragedies every minute of every day. In the ESCAP region, more than 700,000 people are killed on roads each year. To focus global and regional attention on this issue, the General Assembly adopted resolution 64/255 of 2 March 2010 on improving global road safety, proclaiming the period 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety.

The document contains: (a) highlights of key global and regional road safety developments; (b) a review of recent progress and initiatives taken by ESCAP member countries to improve road safety; and (c) proposals for a series of actions that would help to achieve the goals of the Decade in the ESCAP region.

(h) Transport and the Millennium Development Goals**Documentation**

Transport and the Millennium Development Goals (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/9)

Annotation

While the Millennium Development Goals do not include specific references to transport, it is now widely accepted that transport infrastructure and services play a critical role in addressing them.

The document provides a summary of perspectives on how transport infrastructure and services affect poverty and the Millennium Development Goals and draws on examples of selected programmes from countries in the Asian and Pacific region. It then highlights the ways in which the secretariat's activities could contribute to the achievement of the Goals during the next phase of a regional action programme (2012-2016).

(i) Inter-island shipping**Documentation**

Inter-island shipping (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/10)

Annotation

International maritime shipping across the ESCAP region has developed at a rapid pace, yet the provision of efficient, reliable and affordable shipping services to, from, between and within island and archipelagic developing countries presents a number of unique constraints and challenges, which include matching ship size, service speed, port capacity, safety and comfort with low and often irregular traffic volumes, long voyage distances, imbalanced cargo flows and low unit values of exports.

The document considers issues and challenges in inter-island shipping as well as some of the means of addressing them. It submits proposals for work that could be undertaken in collaboration with other development partners to create a better understanding of how to meet the challenges.

(j) Connecting subregional transport networks**Documentation**

Connecting subregional transport networks (/ESCAP/MCT.2/11)

Annotation

In the ESCAP region, intergovernmental organizations with responsibility for subregional development, as well as other notable subregional initiatives, have made remarkable progress in promoting development. In the transport sector, this has resulted in advances in infrastructural and institutional collaboration.

In general, however, the collaboration has focused on the internal needs, aspirations and constraints of each subregion, with little consideration being given to connectivity among subregions, especially institutional connectivity.

The document raises a number of questions concerning the current extent of physical and institutional connectivity among subregions and submits a number of proposals for obtaining a greater understanding of and the means to address issues of such connectivity.

4. Draft ministerial declaration on transport development in Asia and the Pacific, including a regional action programme for transport development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016)

Documentation

Draft ministerial declaration on transport development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/WP.1)

Draft regional action programme for transport development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016) (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/WP.2)

Annotation

A draft ministerial declaration on transport development in Asia and the Pacific will be considered by the senior officials prior to its submission to the ministerial segment for adoption. The draft will have been reviewed by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission prior to its submission to the senior officials. The declaration will reaffirm the commitment of ESCAP members and associate members to promoting regional cooperation and integration in transport for inclusive and sustainable development in the region, including realizing the long-term vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system.

5. Other matters

Under this agenda item, the Conference may wish to consider other matters.

6. Adoption of the report of the senior officials

Documentation

Draft report of the senior officials (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/CRP.1)

Annotation

The senior officials will consider and adopt a report for consideration by the ministers.

B. Ministerial segment

7. Policy debate on issues pertaining to transport development in Asia and the Pacific and the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia, including the report of the senior officials

Delegations will discuss transport development in the Asian and Pacific region, including challenges and opportunities for cooperation. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP will deliver a policy statement highlighting the major developments achieved in the pursuit of the long-term vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system.

The ministers and heads of delegations will then deliver their policy statements, highlighting the issues, policies and initiatives that are central to the inclusive and sustainable development of transport in their respective countries. The policy statements will also afford an opportunity to showcase the priority transport-related projects of regional significance. Representatives of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations will make brief statements on the policies and initiatives of their organizations in this important area.

The report of the senior officials (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/12) will be considered concurrently.

8. Other matters

Any other matters raised by delegations and/or the secretariat will be considered under this item.

9. Adoption of the ministerial declaration on transport development in Asia and the Pacific, including a regional action programme for transport development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016)

The Conference will consider for adoption the draft ministerial declaration on transport development in Asia and the Pacific, including a regional action programme for transport development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016) (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/L.3). The declaration will reaffirm the commitment of ESCAP members and associate members to promote regional cooperation and integration in transport for inclusive and sustainable development in the region, including realizing the long-term vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system. It will also provide a framework for the efficient and effective implementation of the regional action programme.

10. Adoption of the report of the Conference

The Conference will consider for adoption the draft report (E/ESCAP/MCT.2/L.2), which will be submitted to the Commission at its sixty-eighth session, in 2012.

11. Closing of the Conference

Closing statements will be delivered.
