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## Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

### Sixty-seventh session

Bangkok, 19-25 May 2011

### Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh 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 Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries:
  - (a) Addressing development gaps, including the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;
  - (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) Draft programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013;
  - (b) Programme changes for the biennium 2010-2011;
  - (c) Midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission;
  - (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-eighth session of the Commission (2012).

#### **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 2011.
- 8. Theme topic for the sixty-seventh session: "Beyond the crises: long-term perspectives on social protection and development 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 provides as follows: "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/67/L.1)

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/67/L.2)

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

The Commission may wish to adopt the agenda.

**2. Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries**

In accordance with resolution 64/1 on restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission, the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries will meet during the senior officials segment and shall have a status commensurate with the committees of the whole.

**(a) Addressing development gaps, including the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action**

**Documentation**

Addressing development gaps, including the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (E/ESCAP/67/1)

In its resolution 66/13 on strengthening regional cooperation in North and Central Asia, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary, among other things, to implement the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries. In response to this resolution, the Government of Mongolia and ESCAP will organize the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and Closing other Development Gaps by the Landlocked Developing Countries, in Ulaanbaatar in April 2011.

Document E/ESCAP/67/1 assesses the progress made in implementing the Almaty Programme of Action and, among other things:

(a) Appraises the progress made in three main areas of the programme, namely (i) promoting connectivity and creating fundamental transit transport infrastructure in achieving overall development of

landlocked developing countries, (ii) enhancing the share of landlocked developing countries in global trade flows through trade facilitation and (iii) enhancing development cooperation (official development assistance (ODA), foreign direct investment (FDI) and public-private partnership for connectivity) to support inclusive and sustainable development of the landlocked developing countries;

(b) Identifies other key development gaps and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries outside of trade-transit issues, particularly in regard to the Millennium Development Goals. The document also contains a discussion on challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries in coping with the recent global financial crisis and the impact of the crisis on implementing the Almaty Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals. Other multiple risks and development gaps faced by the landlocked developing countries (such as those arising from climate change) are also addressed in the context of the fast-changing regional and global environment;

(c) Identifies forward looking medium- to long-term policies characterized by landlocked developing countries as being useful in enhancing regional cooperation for accelerating the further implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action as well as better enabling them to confront their development challenges and make the necessary improvements in their infrastructure needed to narrow the gaps in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the light of the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (see Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010).

The document includes the outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue, to be held in Mongolia in April. The Special Body may wish to review the contents of document E/ESCAP/67/1, including the “Mongolia Outcome Document” and make appropriate recommendations to the Commission, which may, in turn, wish to endorse the Document for follow-up work by the secretariat.

**(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 following consolidated documents will be deliberated under each subprogramme as required:

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/2, sections I to VIII)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/67/3)

Report of the activities of the Commission 2010-2011 (E/ESCAP/67/INF/3)

Agenda item 3 focuses on: (a) addressing the issues and challenges pertaining to the eight subprogrammes; (b) the reports of subsidiary bodies of the Commission (where sessions have been held since the last Commission

session); (c) reports of intergovernmental meetings; (d) progress in the implementation of Commission mandates; and (e) the work of the ESCAP regional institutions. Documents under this agenda item identify key priorities and emerging issues, taking into consideration the subregional aspects.

The expected outcomes under this agenda item include: (a) the identification of emerging issues that merit policy-oriented attention; (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 2011; (e) the endorsement of the reports of the subsidiary bodies which have been held since the sixty-sixth session of the Commission; and (f) the identification of key issues to be taken up in meetings of subsidiary bodies in 2011.

The outcomes 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 analysed for the preparation of regional 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 2011. The analysis will also be used in the preparation of regional inputs to mandated reports of the Secretary-General on economic, social and environmental development issues. The agreed outcomes will 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 2011.

The Commission may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on enhanced and effective implementation of its activities related to key issues under this agenda item through decisions or resolutions.

**(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/67/2, section I)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/67/3, resolution 66/3)

Report of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (E/ESCAP/67/4)

**Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/2, section I)**

Document E/ESCAP/67/2, section I, discusses challenges that countries in the region face in sustaining economic growth amid global uncertainty while reducing poverty at a rapid rate and pursuing the Millennium Development Goals in order to promote inclusive development. The document also highlights the challenges of countries with special needs and related work being done by the secretariat to support these countries. The agriculture sector plays an important role in most developing countries

of the region and in that regard, the work on issues of the agriculture sector by the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) is discussed. The views and guidance of the Commission are sought on the issues and challenges raised and the related analytical work being undertaken by the secretariat under this subprogramme.

**Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/67/3, resolution 66/3)**

The document summarizes the progress made in the implementation of resolution 66/3 on the implementation of Dhaka Outcome Document on the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

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

**Report of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (E/ESCAP/67/4)**

The annual report of CAPSA to the Commission reviews the progress made by CAPSA in the implementation of its programme of work and its administrative and financial status, and highlights major events and related developments.

The Commission may wish to comment on the document and provide guidance for the future work of CAPSA.

**(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/67/2, section II)

Report of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/67/5)

Report of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (E/ESCAP/67/6)

**Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/2, section II)**

Document E/ESCAP/67/2, section II, provides a brief overview of recent trends and developments, and challenges in trade and investment, including private sector development 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. The document also summarizes the secretariat's initiatives to support countries in these efforts.

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 Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/67/5)**

The annual report of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) to the Commission reviews the progress in the implementation of the programme of work of APCTT and its administrative and financial status, and highlights major events and related developments.

The Commission may wish to comment on the document and provide guidance for the future work of APCTT.

### **Report of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (E/ESCAP/67/6)**

The annual report of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM) to the Commission reviews the progress in the implementation of the programme of work of UNAPCAEM and its administrative and financial status, and highlights major events and related developments.

The Commission may wish to comment on the document and provide guidance for the future work of UNAPCAEM.

## **(c) Transport**

### **Documentation**

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/2, section III)

Report of the Committee on Transport on its second session (E/ESCAP/67/7)

**Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/2, section III)**

Document E/ESCAP/67/2, section III, provides a brief overview of recent developments, the major issues and challenges in the transport sector in the region. It summarizes the ongoing and proposed responses of the secretariat in moving towards the Commission's long-term vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system, with the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks as the major building blocks and dry ports as an additional important component that would support the development of the two networks.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the issues identified in this regard.

### **Report of the Committee on Transport on its second session (E/ESCAP/67/7)**

The Committee on Transport held its second session in Bangkok from 1 to 3 November 2010. It took stock of progress and considered future courses of action to address the issues and challenges in transport related to promoting regional connectivity. In so doing, the Committee reiterated the importance of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and

the Pacific and its Regional Action Programme, phase I (2007-2011), as a vital long-term strategy for the development of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system, and generally endorsed the thematic areas and actions at the regional and national levels for planning future activities under phase II (2012-2016) of the Regional Action Programme.

The Committee requested the secretariat to proceed with the development of a draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports, for consideration by further subregional and regional meetings, based on the structure proposed by the secretariat, taking into account suggestions and comments made by delegations during the session and the Regional Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Dry Ports along the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Networks, which had been held in conjunction with the session. The Committee also requested the secretariat to proceed with the preparations for the ministerial conference on transport to be held in November 2011.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action by it or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, 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/67/2, section IV)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/67/3, resolution 64/3)

Report of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development on its sixth session (E/ESCAP/67/8)

Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (E/ESCAP/67/INF/4)

Report of the Mekong River Commission (E/ESCAP/67/INF/5)

**Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/2, section IV)**

Document E/ESCAP/67/2, section IV, provides a brief account of key issues and challenges related to environment and development, including access to adequate housing, electricity, clean water and sanitation in Asia and the Pacific, as well as emerging trends towards inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the region.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action by it or brought to its attention and provide the secretariat with further guidance.



### **Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/67/3, resolution 64/3)**

Document E/ESCAP/67/3 provides a brief account of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 64/3 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

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

### **Report of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development on its sixth session (E/ESCAP/67/8)**

Document E/ESCAP/67/8 contains the report of the sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, which was held in Astana from 27 September to 1 October 2010. The report highlights the major outcomes of the Conference, including the Ministerial Declaration, the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015, and the Astana Green Bridge Initiative. The Commission may wish to note and endorse the outcomes.

### **Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (E/ESCAP/67/INF/4)**

### **Report of the Mekong River Commission (E/ESCAP/67/INF/5)**

The reports of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (E/ESCAP/67/INF/4) and the Mekong River Commission (E/ESCAP/67/INF/5) are transmitted to the Commission for its information. The Commission may wish to take note of them.

### **(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/67/2, section V)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/67/3, resolution 66/8)

Report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology on its second session (E/ESCAP/67/9)

Report of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (E/ESCAP/67/10)

Report of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/67/INF/6)

Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/67/INF/7)

**Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/2, section V)**

Document E/ESCAP/67/2, section V, 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-ISDR Asia-Pacific Disaster Report, the launch of the Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development for sharing information and best practices, ICT capacity-building through APCICT, the launch of the space information-based Regional Cooperative Mechanism on Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning, Particularly Drought, and promotion of regional collaborative disaster communication capacities through the Regional Interagency Working Group on ICT.

The Commission may wish to comment on the information presented in the document with a view to providing guidance on the issues and secretariat initiatives identified therein.

**Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/67/3, resolution 66/8)**

The secretariat summarizes the progress it has made in the implementation of resolution 66/8 on the review of the proposal for the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Commission may wish to review the summary and provide guidance on the future direction of the matter.

**Report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology on its second session (E/ESCAP/67/9)**

The Committee on Information and Communications Technology held its second session in Bangkok from 24 to 26 November 2010. It reviewed key challenges faced by the Asia and the Pacific region in the development of ICT, including space-based technologies, and their applications towards sustainable and inclusive economic and social development and effective disaster risk reduction and management. The Committee highlighted the importance of ICT as a fundamental enabler in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the targets of the World Summit on the Information Society and the Hyogo Framework for Action. It requested the secretariat to undertake policy analysis and research in the areas of ICT policies and regulations, particularly with regard to reducing emerging digital divides through inclusive broadband development, mobile applications and regional collaborative disaster communication capacities, focusing on the problems of landlocked and Pacific island countries and the need to reduce costs and increase the quality of access.

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

### **Report of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (E/ESCAP/67/10)**

The annual report of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) to the Commission reviews the progress in the implementation of the programme of work, its administrative and financial status, and highlights other major events and related developments.

The Commission may wish to comment on the document and provide guidance for the future work of APCICT.

### **Report of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/67/INF/6)**

### **Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/67/INF/7)**

The reports of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/67/INF/6) and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/67/INF/7) are transmitted to the Commission for its information. The Commission may wish to take note of them.

## **(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/67/2, section VI)

Report of the Committee on Social Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/67/11)

### **Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/2, section VI)**

Under this agenda item, the Commission will consider regional preparations for two key global reviews, namely: (1) the comprehensive review by the General Assembly of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS; and (2) the review and appraisal by the Commission for Social Development of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

The Commission's attention is drawn to General Assembly resolution 65/180 of 20 December 2010 on the organization of the 2011 comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. In that resolution, the General Assembly, inter alia, invited the regional commissions to consider initiatives in support of the preparatory process for the convening of a high-level meeting by the General Assembly from 8 to 10 June 2011. The Commission may wish to review progress in achieving the above-mentioned commitments, including in the context of ESCAP resolution 66/10 on a regional call for action to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in Asia and the Pacific, as part of regional preparations for the General Assembly's comprehensive review in June 2011.

The Commission's attention is also drawn to General Assembly resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing and Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/14 of 22 July 2010 on the future implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action, 2002, whereby it was decided that the second global review and appraisal of Madrid Plan of Action would be conducted in 2013. In resolution 2010/14, the Council decided, among other things, that the regional commissions would organize regional review and appraisal meetings as inputs for the global review. In pursuance of that mandate, ESCAP will be convening a high-level intergovernmental meeting on the second Asia-Pacific regional review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action in 2012. The Commission's guidance and advice are sought on regional preparations for the convening of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting, the outcome of which will be submitted to the global review in 2013.

**Report of the Committee on Social Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/67/11)**

The report of the Committee on Social Development on its second session, held in Bangkok from 19 to 21 October 2010, is submitted to the Commission for consideration and endorsement. The theme of the Committee session was disability-inclusive development. In particular, the Committee decided to recommend the following matters for action by the Commission: (a) proclamation by the Commission at its sixth-eighth session of a new decade to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, 2013-2022; (b) establishment of a regional multi-donor fund to broaden support for the implementation of a new decade; and (c) consideration of a draft resolution on enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP. The Committee also identified priorities for the work of ESCAP in the field of social development, endorsed the secretariat's proposed outputs for inclusion in the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013, and decided that its third session would be held in 2014. The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action by it or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, 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/67/2, section VII)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/67/3, resolutions 62/10 and 65/2)

Report of the Committee on Statistics on its second session (E/ESCAP/67/12)

Report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/13)

**Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/2, section VII)**

Document E/ESCAP/67/2, section VII, contains an overview of the secretariat's current and planned follow-up actions to decisions and recommendations of the Committee on Statistics. It highlights the secretariat's work to develop and improve social, vital and economic statistics in the region, to improve the coordination of statistical training and to support the modernization of statistical information systems by the region's national statistical systems, in support of the Committee's agreed strategic direction.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance and advice on the follow-up work being undertaken by the secretariat and encourage its members to actively support these efforts.

**Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/67/3, resolutions 62/10 and 65/2)**

Document E/ESCAP/67/3 summarizes the progress the secretariat has made in the implementation of Commission resolutions 62/10 on strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific and 65/2 on regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with comments and guidance on the further implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions.

**Report of the Committee on Statistics on its second session (E/ESCAP/67/12)**

The Committee on Statistics at its second session, held in Bangkok from 15 to 17 December 2010, reviewed a range of issues of strategic importance to statistics development in the Asian and Pacific region, and agreed to work towards the goals of (a) ensuring that, by 2020, all countries in the region have the capability to generate a basic range of population, economic, social and environment statistics, and (b) creating a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through stronger collaboration.

The Committee adopted a number of recommendations and decisions on: (a) the improvement of vital statistics; (b) the improvement of economic statistics; (c) the integration of agricultural statistics into national statistical systems; (d) the International Comparison Programme; and (e) coordination among international partners for statistics development.

The Committee supported the submission of draft resolutions in the areas of (a) statistical capacity development, (b) vital statistics, and (c) economic statistics.

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

**Report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific  
(E/ESCAP/67/13)**

The annual report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) to the Commission reviews progress in the implementation of the programme of work of the Institute and its administrative and financial status. The report also highlights major events and related developments.

The Commission may wish to comment on the document and provide guidance for the future work of SIAP.

**(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/67/2, section VIII)

**East and North-East Asia**

As a follow-up action to the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on the New ESCAP Subregional Offices for East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia, and South and South-West Asia, held in Bangkok in March 2010, a consultation meeting was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 22 and 23 November 2010, to further refine the specific work programme for East and North-East Asia and to identify the approaches to be used in addressing subregion-specific challenges to inclusive and sustainable development.

Document E/ESCAP/67/2, section VIII, highlights the priorities and approaches discussed at the Consultation Meeting and the progress of the ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia. The Commission may wish to review the progress and make further suggestions for specific priority areas for the subregion, bearing in mind that the Subregional Office is complementary in its approach to already existing work programmes with specific emphasis on creating and maintaining knowledge-sharing platforms to strengthen partnerships and interdisciplinary collaborative efforts, on facilitating subregional collaboration and on promoting South-South cooperation through transfer of knowledge and best practices.

**Pacific**

The Pacific Subregion is working towards strengthening its capacity for sustainable and inclusive development, with particular emphasis on addressing the challenges of climate change, and the development of appropriate plans and policies to stimulate growth and overcome setbacks following recent global crises. Following the 2010 milestone reviews of progress towards achieving the (a) Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme for Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and (b) the Millennium Development Goals, the subregion has been exploring concrete solutions to accelerate progress and address vulnerability to external shocks.

Document E/ESCAP/67/2, section VIII, contains an overview of recent and planned initiatives by the secretariat to support the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development in the Pacific subregion. The

Commission may wish to review and comment on the information presented in the document and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

#### **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) Draft programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013**

###### **Documentation**

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 (E/ESCAP/67/14)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/67/3, resolution 66/15)

###### **Draft programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 (E/ESCAP/67/14)**

Document E/ESCAP/67/14, entitled “Draft programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013”, is submitted for the Commission’s review and endorsement.

The document contains four sections: (a) overall orientation; (b) subprogramme results frameworks and strategies; (c) proposed output citations by subprogramme; and (d) legislative mandates. Sections (a), (b) and (d) are derived from the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013, as endorsed by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session, in May 2010, and by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fiftieth session, in June 2010. Section (c) contains the proposed outputs designed to enable ESCAP to achieve the planned results as set out in the strategic framework.

The draft programme of work for 2012-2013 has been prepared taking into account the lessons learned from the implementation of past programmes of work as well as the outcomes of a series of external evaluations. In preparing the document, every effort has been made to reflect the priorities of member States, ensure a better balance in the secretariat’s normative, analytical and operational work, and build upon areas of comparative strength of ESCAP, including its multidisciplinary orientation.

The Committee on Social Development, the Committee on Transport, the Committee on Information and Communications Technology and the Committee on Statistics have provided guidance on the focus of the future work for the subprogrammes under their purview, which served as the basis for the formulation of outputs. In addition, the draft programme of work will be reviewed in its entirety by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission in February 2011.

###### **Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/67/3, resolution 66/15)**

Document E/ESCAP/67/3 contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 66/15 on the strengthening of the evaluation function of the secretariat of the Commission, including an evaluation plan for the secretariat. This plan covers periodic evaluation

exercises that incorporate the work of divisions, subregional offices and regional institutions for the period 2012-2013.

The Commission may wish to comment on the information presented in the document with a view to identifying measures to further strengthen evaluations at ESCAP.

**(b) Programme changes for the biennium 2010-2011**

No programme changes have been identified for the biennium 2010-2011 subsequent to the latest revision of the programme of work approved by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session.

**(c) Midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission (E/ESCAP/67/15)**

**Documentation**

Midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission (E/ESCAP/67/15)

Document E/ESCAP/67/15 reports on the implementation of resolution 64/1, focusing in particular on whether the conference structure has served the purpose of improving efficiency and attracting higher and wider representation from members and associate members, and serves as the basis for the current session's midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure.

The Commission may wish to consider which issues require further study between its current session and its sixty-ninth, when the final review of the conference structure, including its subsidiary structure, will take place.

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

**Documentation**

Overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions (E/ESCAP/67/16)

Document E/ESCAP/67/16 summarizes the secretariat's technical cooperation activities in 2010, in accordance with the programme of work of ESCAP for 2010-2011 and Commission resolution 60/3 on the work of ESCAP in implementing its technical cooperation projects. In addition, it explains the actions taken by the secretariat towards the implementation of a programmatic approach to capacity development work. The document also provides an overview of the extrabudgetary resources mobilized in 2010 for implementing technical cooperation activities.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance to the secretariat on future technical cooperation activities and also to announce intended contributions for 2011.



## **5. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission**

### **Documentation**

Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/67/17)

Document E/ESCAP/67/17 covers the main activities of the Advisory Committee since the sixty-sixth session of the Commission, including its support to the Executive Secretary on matters related to programme planning, implementation and monitoring. The Commission may wish to comment on the role of the Advisory Committee and provide further guidance in its work.

## **6. Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission (2012)**

### **Documentation**

Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission (2012) (E/ESCAP/67/18)

Unless the Commission decides otherwise, the sixty-eighth session will be held in Bangkok in April/May 2012. Under this agenda item, the Commission may also wish to select a theme topic for that session.

## **B. Ministerial segment**

### **7. Policies 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 2011**

### **Documentation**

Summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2011 (E/ESCAP/67/19)

Document E/ESCAP/67/19 reviews the status of the region's recovery from the economic crisis and analyses emerging challenges in sustaining progress in economic development. The review and analysis are based on the performance of key macroeconomic indicators, including data on trade, investment and employment. The analysis for the recovery process addresses key challenges ahead and policy responses recommended for countries in order to sustain their development. The document also analyses the critical role of connectivity in Asia and the Pacific to support the region's need to foster domestic and regional sources of aggregate demand. The document, among other things, provides an evaluation of connectivity in the region, identifies main gaps or areas where improvements are needed, and presents policy recommendations. In addition, the document suggests strategies that countries in the region, particularly least developed countries, could pursue in order to increase their productive capacities and benefit from regional integration and the new sources of aggregate demand within the region.

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

**8. Theme topic for the sixty-seventh session: “Beyond the crises: long-term perspectives on social protection and development in Asia and the Pacific”**

**Documentation**

Beyond the crises: long-term perspectives on social protection and development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/20)

The Commission, at its sixty-sixth session, endorsed “Beyond the crises: long-term perspectives on social protection and development in Asia and the Pacific” as the theme topic for its sixty-seventh session.

Under this agenda item, the Commission reviews national experiences and considers policy choices to be followed to promote more effective and inclusive social protection systems in the Asia-Pacific region. Social protection refers to a set of public policies that seek to assure people of a minimum level of security in their basic needs. To facilitate the Commission’s deliberations, document E/ESCAP/67/20 provides an overview of social protection in Asia and the Pacific. The document presents a case for social protection as an investment in social and economic development and as a means of addressing poverty and inequality. It examines a range of programmes, both contributory and non-contributory, in the region as a basis for regional cooperation. The document outlines the elements of a social protection floor that would ensure a minimum level of access to essential services and income security for all. It also urges countries to consider striving towards incrementally building social protection systems beyond the social protection floor to achieve comprehensive and universal coverage.

The Commission may wish to review the analysis and provide guidance on policy directions and choices for the building and strengthening of social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific as a critical contribution to meeting the development goals of poverty eradication and exerting a positive impact on economic growth, social cohesion and social development.

**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-seventh session.

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