

GENERAL

E/ESCAP/1066

26 March 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Fifty-third session

23-30 April 1997

Bangkok

**PROGRAMME PLANNING: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME
OF WORK, 1996-1997, AND PROPOSED PROGRAMME
CHANGES FOR 1997**

(Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME CHANGES FOR 1997

Note by the secretariat

Introduction

1. The programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 was endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-first session in April 1995. It was formulated within the framework of the second revised medium-term plan, 1992-1997, endorsed by the Commission at its fiftieth session, with emphasis on the promotion and enhancement of existing regional cooperation modalities, the establishment of new modalities, strengthening national capabilities and providing technical assistance in the context of the emerging socio-economic and political imperatives in the Asian and Pacific region.

2. The programme of work was revised substantially based on the secretariat's proposals for changes contained in documents E/ESCAP/1033 and E/ESCAP/1033/Add.1 and Corr.1, submitted to and approved by the Commission at its fifty-second session, held in Bangkok in April 1996. The changes were mainly deletions and modifications of activities owing to reductions of US\$ 3,750,200 in the ESCAP budget, from the initial appropriations of US\$ 67,524,700 approved by the General Assembly in December 1995. The savings were achieved mainly by freezing vacant posts in the secretariat in both the Professional and General Service categories. In May 1996, the budget for ESCAP was further reduced by US\$ 367,000, thus bringing the revised appropriation for the biennium to US\$ 63,407,500.

3. Progress on the implementation of the revised programme of work, 1996-1997, as of 31 December 1996 is reported to the Commission in document E/ESCAP/1065. In the course of 1996, several events took place, necessitating further changes to the revised programme of work, 1996-1997. The present document contains the secretariat proposals for programme changes for 1997, based on the following:

- (a) General Assembly resolutions relevant to regional commissions;
- (b) Recommendations of the Commission and the legislative committees;
- (c) Consultations with United Nations bodies and its specialized agencies, and other relevant intergovernmental bodies, with a view to increasing coordination and harmonization of activities;
- (d) Re-examination of activities against the available regular budget resources in 1997 and in the light of clearer prospects of the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

4. The reasons for the changes, as well as their resource implications, are provided for each programme output or activity.

5. It is brought to the attention of the Commission that recommended changes, where additional outputs and activities are involved, would not increase the overall level of authorized regular budget resources. The secretariat will continue to request experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis from member countries, and to mobilize extrabudgetary resources from bilateral and multilateral funding sources for the implementation of programmed activities, especially for the purpose of technical assistance to members and associate members of the Commission.

6. The Commission is invited to examine the proposals of the secretariat and guide it in its effort to further streamline and rationalize the programme of work, keeping in mind the current financial situation of the United Nations, and the ESCAP reform process.

/...

Annex

Proposed programme changes for 1997

Programme 31: Regional Cooperation for Development in Asia and the Pacific

| Code | Activities as in the programme of work, 1996-1997 ^{a/} | Deletion | Addition | Modification | <u>Resource implications</u> | | | | Justification |
|------|---|----------|----------|--------------|------------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|---------------|
| | | | | | <u>Released</u> | | <u>Required</u> | | |
| | | | | | RB w/m | XB w/m | RB w/m | XB w/m | |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | | | | (7) |

Subprogramme 1: Regional economic cooperation

1.2 Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1-2-104 | Reports to the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on aspects of regional economic cooperation (3 in 1996, 3 in 1997) | | | Reports to the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on aspects of regional economic cooperation (4 in 1996, 5 in 1997) | | | 1 | | <p><u>One additional document in 1996</u></p> <p>An ACPR report on improving the effectiveness in the functioning of the Committee and its Steering Group was mandated by the Commission, at its fifty-first session in 1995, to consider the rationalization of the work of the Committee and the Steering Group.</p> <p><u>Two additional documents in 1997</u></p> <p>A report on the institutional framework and policy dialogue for promoting industrial restructuring in the region was added in pursuance of the recommendation of the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-second session. A review of the</p> |
|---------|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|

The subprogrammes contain the programme of work, 1996-1997, approved by the Commission at its fifty-first session and revised by the Commission at its fifty-second session. (See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 16*) (E/1996/36 - E/ESCAP/1044).

outcome of the first WTO Ministerial

| Code (1) | Activities as in the programme of work, 1996-1997 ^{a/} (2) | Deletion (3) | Addition (4) | Modification (5) | <u>Resource implications</u> | | | | Justification (7) |
|---|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|---|
| | | | | | <u>Released</u> | | <u>Required</u> | | |
| | | | | | RB w/m | XB w/m | RB w/m | XB w/m | |
| | | | | | (6) | | | | |
| 1-2-107 | Report to the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement (1996, 1997) | | | Report to the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement (1997) | 3 | 6 | | | Conference was prepared to provide a preliminary analysis of the outcome and major decisions of the Conference and their implications for developing countries in the ESCAP region. The meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement scheduled to be held in 1996 has been postponed to 1997. |
| <i>(d) Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| 1-2-3051 | Ad hoc expert group on enhancement of technology flows from advanced developing countries to least developed countries (1994) [1 output postponed from 1994-1995] | X | | | | | | | The activity, originally scheduled for 1994 and postponed to November 1995, was further postponed to the current biennium owing to the special measures related to the financial crisis imposed by United Nations Headquarters. However, RB funds are not available in the biennium 1996-1997 to undertake this activity. |
| 1.3 Published material | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>(a) Recurrent publications:</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| 1-3-110 | Trade Review of the Bangkok Agreement (1996, 1997) | | | Trade Review of the Bangkok Agreement (1997) | 3 | 4 | | | Difficulties were encountered in collecting yearly statistics of trade flows in conceded items among the Bangkok Agreement member countries, and tariff concessions. Only one publication will be issued in 1997. |

b) *Non-recurrent publications:*

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|--|
| 1-3-214 | Studies in trade and investment (4 in 1996, 4 in 1997) | | | Studies in trade and investment (12 in 1996, 6 in 1997) | 3 | 10 | | Publications are essential to create better awareness of critical and priority issues relating to trade and investment particularly in developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region, as requested in paragraphs 11, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 30 of the annex to Commission resolution 52/10 of 24 April 1996; and to promote free flow of information and experience among economies of the region concerning development strategies and policies, as well as trade, technology and investment, as requested in paragraph 1(c) of Commission resolution 50/1 of 13 April 1994. XB resources have been made available to carry out the studies. |
| 1-3-215 | Trade and product profiles (1996, 1997) | | | Trade and product profiles (5 in 1996, 4 in 1997) | 2 | | | Publications are essential to promote free flow of information and experience among economies of the region concerning development strategies and policies, as well as trade, technology and investment, as requested in paragraph 1(c) of Commission resolution 50/1. XB resources have been made available for printing and dissemination and arrangements made with a commercial publisher to undertake printing and distribution using those resources. |
| 1-3-2211 | Regional cooperation measures for skills development to promote technology-led industrialization (1994, 1995) [1 output postponed from 1994-1995] | X | | | | | | The publication is proposed for deletion owing to the non-availability of RB staff resources. |
| | Subtotal | 2 | - | 5 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 10 |

Subprogramme 3: Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development

3.2 Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation:

| | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|--|
| 3-2-104 | Report to the Commission on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (1996) | X | 3 | <p>The Commission, in paragraph 4 of resolution 268 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988, adopted at its forty-fourth session, requested the Executive Secretary to assist the members and associate members in the formulation of shelter strategies and take other measures that would facilitate exchange of information and experience in accordance with the guidelines for international action contained in General Assembly resolution 42/191 of 11 December 1987 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. In that connection, the Commission, in paragraph 5 of resolution 268 (XLIV), requested the Executive Secretary to report to it at its annual sessions in alternate years, starting from 1990, for a regular review of the progress towards the goal of shelter for all by the year 2000 in Asia and the Pacific. The mandated report of the Executive Secretary has been superseded by new recommendations adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul in July 1996.</p> |
|---------|---|---|---|--|

3.3 Published material

(b) Non-recurrent publications:

3-3-237
Strengthening
of population
policies and
programmes
(1997)

2

The publication is proposed at the secretariat's initiative as the output of the bilateral project on strengthening of population policies and programmes for poverty alleviation.

(c) Technical material:

3-3-307 Regional database on women in development within the framework of the ESIS and EBIS database management systems (1997)

X

5 ^{b/}

2

In compliance with the budget reductions for the biennium 1996-1997, the initial work for developing a regional database on women in development could not commence in 1996, thus postponing its completion to the biennium 1998-1999. In view of the continued RB staff resource constraints, the activity is proposed for deletion so that the available RB resources can be reallocated to other high priority activities in 1997 and the biennium 1998-1999.

^{b/} Redeployed to other higher priority activities.

3.6 Coordination, harmonization and liaison

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | 3-6-009 | | | | 2 | | | In compliance with the decision of the Commission at its fifty-first session and in conformity with recommendation 16.16 of the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994. |
| | | Organizing and servicing of the regional Inter-organizational Subcommittee on Population and Development | | | | | | | |
| Subtotal | 2 | 2 | - | 8 | 2 | 4 | - | | |

Subprogramme 4: Transport and communications

4.3 Published material

(a) Recurrent publications:

| | | | | |
|---------|--|---|------------------|--|
| 4-3-102 | Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (1996 and 1997) | X | 14 ^{b/} | RB resources were reallocated to the preparation of reports to the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, New Delhi, October 1996, and follow-up to its outcomes. |
|---------|--|---|------------------|--|

(b) Non-recurrent publications:

| | | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|---|
| 4-3-201 | Guidelines on environmentally friendly transport (1997) (XB) | | Road transport and protection of the environment | Among all forms of transport, road transport has by far the largest detrimental impact on the environment. The publication would focus on this important aspect of environmental degradation. |
|---------|--|--|--|---|

| | | | | |
|---------|---|---|-----------------|---|
| 4-3-208 | Information requirements for the management of inland water transport (1997) (XB) | X | 5 ^{b/} | In view of the continued RB staff resource constraints and other higher priority activities in the area of water transport, the publication is proposed for deletion. |
|---------|---|---|-----------------|---|

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| Subtotal | 2 | - | 1 | 19 | - | - | - |
|----------|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|

Subprogramme 6: Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

5.3 Published material

(b) Non-recurrent publications:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| 5-3-201 | Follow-up to the mid-term review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (1997) | X | | | 6 | | | | The continued RB staff resource constraints in the Least Developed Countries Section. |
| 5-3-204 | Population and development in the least developed countries (1997) | X | | | 2 | | | | Lack of extrabudgetary funding to support the proposed project. |

5.5 Operational activities

(a) Advisory services:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------|----------|---|----------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|
| | | | 6-5-106 | | | | 2 | | This activity is essential to serve the needs of member governments in the least developed countries on demographic issues. |
| | | | Demographic issues in the least developed countries | | | | | | |
| | Subtotal | 2 | 1 | - | 8 | - | 2 | - | |
| Total | | 8 | 3 | 6 | 41^{e/} | 12 | 12 | 10 | |

^{e/} Inclusive of 17 RB work-months redeployed to other higher priority activities.