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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Sixty-ninth session

Bangkok, 25 April-1 May 2013

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

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-chairs, as has been the practice at previous sessions, in which case the Commission may elect a bureau of officers composed of a chair and several vice-chairs.

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 chairs and vice-chairs for each.

The ministerial segment will elect the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission.

(c) **Adoption of the agenda**

Documentation

Provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/69/L.1)

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/69/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 Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries

(a) **Final regional review of the Almaty Programme of Action**

Documentation

Summary of the final regional review of the Almaty Programme of Action (E/ESCAP/69/1)

Lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from world markets and high transit costs continue to impose serious constraints on the overall socioeconomic development of landlocked developing countries. These countries unavoidably depend on other countries to carry out seaborne trade. Additional border crossings and the long distance from markets substantially increase the total expenses for the transport services. The economic performance of landlocked developing countries reflects the direct and indirect impact of the geographical situation on key economic variables. Landlocked developing countries tend to be among the poorest of the developing countries and are typically heavily dependent on a very limited number of commodities for their export earnings.

The global and regional socioeconomic climates have changed dramatically since the midterm review of 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 was undertaken in 2008. Although significant progress has been made in several areas of the Almaty Programme of Action, landlocked developing countries continue to face major challenges and development gaps, including harmonization of legal regimes, adoption of an integrated approach to trade and transport facilitation, elimination of physical and non-physical bottlenecks to transport, completing missing links, promoting intermodal transport, developing integrated transport corridors and logistics services and mobilizing domestic and external resources. The multiple (or triple) food, fuel and financial crises have highlighted the vulnerabilities of the countries with special needs, including landlocked developing countries, to external shocks as well as to impacts of climate-related extreme weather events and natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, sand and dust storms.

The Special Body may wish to review key outcomes of the final regional review of the Almaty Programme of Action and provide the secretariat with further guidance on how the key outcomes can be transmitted as the Asia-Pacific regional input to the global conference on landlocked developing countries which is expected to be convened in 2014.

(b) Biennial review of the Istanbul Programme of Action**Documentation**

Summary of key outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (E/ESCAP/69/2)

The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries adopted the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), in May 2011. In the Istanbul Programme of Action, it was noted that, while the Brussels Programme of Action¹ played a positive role in the development process of least developed countries, its specific goals and action had not been fully achieved. Improved economic performance in some least developed countries had a limited impact on employment creation and poverty reduction. In many of these countries, structural transformation has been very limited, and their vulnerability to external shocks has not been reduced. Relevant United Nations regional commissions, including ESCAP, and agencies were tasked with undertaking biennial reviews of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action at the regional level in close coordination with the global-level and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations. The relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies were further requested to continue to ensure that the needs and challenges of least developed countries were addressed as part of their ongoing work.

As a follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and ESCAP resolution 68/2 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in the Asia-Pacific region, the secretariat, in cooperation with the Government of Cambodia, organized the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, which was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 17 to 19 December 2012. At the meeting, key stakeholders reviewed the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. The Special Body may wish to review the key outcomes of the Regional Meeting and provide the secretariat with further guidance on how least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific and their development partners can move the agenda forward in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action.

(c) 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 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.

¹ The Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (the Brussels Programme of Action) was adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001 (see A/CONF.191/13, chap. II).

Documentation

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/3)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/69/4)

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 2013; (e) the endorsement of the reports of the subsidiary bodies that have held sessions since the sixty-eighth session of the Commission; and (f) the identification of key issues to be taken up in meetings of subsidiary bodies in 2013.

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 2013. 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 2013.

(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/69/3, section I)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/69/4, resolutions 67/1, 68/2)

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/69/5)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/3, section I)

The document provides an overview of the policy challenges that member countries face in achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable development by promoting sustained and equitable economic growth, inclusive social development and environmental sustainability. These issues are discussed in the context of the ongoing global economic crisis and the need to accelerate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The document highlights the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and the work of the secretariat in support of those countries. It also contains a discussion on the vital role of sustainable agriculture in tackling food insecurity and rural poverty, and the work of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) in that regard.

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

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/69/4)

The document summarizes the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolutions 67/1 on the Ulaanbaatar Declaration: Outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries and 68/2 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in the Asia-Pacific region.

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 Governing Council of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/69/5)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat with 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/69/3, section II)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/69/6)

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/69/7)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/3, 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. Given the continued weak global economic conditions, the document examines key areas of policy action that countries in the Asian and Pacific region could pursue in order to strengthen their economies' resilience and ability to pursue inclusive and sustainable development. In particular, the document focuses on required policies and strategies in response to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) which promotes South-South cooperation, including through regional trade agreements and arrangements, regional/global supply chains and trade facilitation. It also summarizes the secretariat's initiatives to support countries in those efforts, including through initiatives undertaken by the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) (formerly known as the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM)), including the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Testing Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM).

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

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/69/6)

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

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/69/7)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat with 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/69/3, section III)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/69/4, resolution 64/4)

Report of the Committee on Transport on its third session (E/ESCAP/69/8)

Finalized draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports (E/ESCAP/69/8/Add.1)

Note verbale dated 24 December 2012 from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Thailand addressed to the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/24)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/3, section III)

The document provides a brief account of the major issues and challenges in the transport sector in the region. It describes progress in the realization of the Commission's long-term vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system, including the current status of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks and the development of an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports. It also describes the barriers faced by member States in making these networks operational, and the transport facilitation measures that are promoted by the secretariat to overcome them. Finally the document highlights the ways in which transport can contribute more effectively to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the communities it serves.

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

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/69/4)

The document contains a report on the implementation of Commission resolution 64/4 on the implementation of the Seoul Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the secretariat's initiatives in promoting the public-private partnership modality for infrastructure development through its activities and progress made by member States in implementing the resolution.

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 Transport on its third session (E/ESCAP/69/8)**Finalized draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports (E/ESCAP/69/8/Add.1)**

The Committee on Transport held its third session in Bangkok from 10 to 12 October 2012. It reviewed progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016), and considered ways to enhance the contribution of transport to the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development within the scope of the Regional Action Programme, phase II. The Committee approved the finalized draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports and recommended that it be adopted by the Commission at its sixty-ninth session in 2013.

With regard to the future programme of work, the Committee endorsed the draft programme of work for 2014-2015. It also welcomed the convening of the second session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport in 2013. In stressing the significance of the successful implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, the Committee took note of the preparations for the comprehensive ten-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in 2014, and welcomed the draft outlines of the background papers relating to transport, which were being prepared by the secretariat for the regional review meeting to be held in early 2013.

The Commission may wish to adopt the intergovernmental agreement on dry ports, as recommended by the Committee, and provide the secretariat with guidance on any other matter contained in the report of the Committee.

Note verbale dated 24 December 2012 from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Thailand addressed to the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/24)

The Third Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development was organized by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and held in Tehran in November 2012. Its outcome, the Tehran Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, has been submitted under a note verbale from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Thailand for the consideration of and possible endorsement by the Commission.

(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/69/3, section IV)

Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (E/ESCAP/69/INF/3)

Report of the Mekong River Commission (E/ESCAP/69/INF/4)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/3, section IV)

The document provides a brief overview 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 the secretariat with guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat in support of member States.

Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (E/ESCAP/69/INF/3)

Report of the Mekong River Commission (E/ESCAP/69/INF/4)

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/69/3, section V)

Report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology on its third session (E/ESCAP/69/9)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/69/10)

Report of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/69/INF/5)

Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/69/INF/6)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/3, section V)

The document provides an overview of major issues and policy challenges in the region in the areas of information and communications technology (ICT), including space applications and disaster risk reduction. It contains a discussion on key areas of policy action that countries in the region need to pursue in order to benefit from emerging technologies and reduce disaster risks, and highlights of the secretariat initiatives in support of countries in these endeavours, including through the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2012*, the Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Management, the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries and the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. The document also provides a review of the achievements of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) in the area of ICT capacity-building.

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

Report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology on its third session (E/ESCAP/69/9)

The Committee held its third session in Bangkok from 20 to 22 November 2012. It reviewed issues related to building regional connectivity for sustainable development: the creation of a seamless regional information space; and technological innovations that were providing new sources of sustainable and inclusive development, as well as their implications for creating knowledge-networked societies in the region. The Committee also considered issues related to measuring progress through targets and information and the communication technology indicators of the World Summit on the Information Society, and reviewed the work on capacity-building undertaken by APCICT. The Committee debated those issues and the outcome of the exchanges, including guidance for the secretariat, are reflected in the report of the Committee.

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 seventh session (E/ESCAP/69/10)

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

Report of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/69/INF/5)

Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/69/INF/6)

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/69/3, section VI)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/69/4, resolutions 66/9, 66/11, 67/7, 67/8, 67/9, 68/7)

Report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (E/ESCAP/69/11)

Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012 (E/ESCAP/69/12)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/3, section VI)

The document highlights issues and challenges in the area of social development, with a focus on the role of young people in Asia and the Pacific. The outcome of the Rio+20 summit provides an opportunity for the international community to bridge the intergenerational divide, address rising inequalities, and provide young people with opportunities to play a more meaningful role in the developments that shape their lives.

The ESCAP region contains 60 per cent of the world's youth population, or 750 million persons aged 15 to 24 years. The document contains a review of key issues affecting youth in the region, including employment, education and training to better prepare youth for the school-to-work transition, and threats to the health and well-being of young people. The secretariat identifies priority areas that need to be addressed in its future programme of work.

The Commission may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat in support of member States, in particular to promote the full participation of youth in the social and economic life of those States.

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/69/4)

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

- (a) 66/9: Full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its regional and global outcomes in the Asia-Pacific region;
- (b) 66/11: 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;
- (c) 67/7: Role of cooperatives in social development in Asia and the Pacific;
- (d) 67/8: Strengthening social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific;
- (e) 67/9: Asia-Pacific regional review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;
- (f) 68/7: Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.

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 Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (E/ESCAP/69/11)

The report of the Intergovernmental Meeting is submitted for the consideration and endorsement of the Commission.

The key outcome of the Meeting was the adoption by Governments of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, which constitutes the Asia-Pacific input for the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action to be conducted in 2013. The Bangkok statement identified, among other things, regional priorities and areas for regional cooperation within the framework of the three pillars of the Madrid Plan of Action: (a) older persons and development; (b) advancing health and well-being into old age; and (c) ensuring enabling and supportive environments.

Report of High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012 (E/ESCAP/69/12)

The report of the Meeting is submitted for the consideration and endorsement of the Commission.

The key outcome of the meeting was the adoption by Governments of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. The Incheon Strategy

provides the Asian and Pacific region, and the world, with the first set of regionally agreed disability-inclusive development goals.

The Commission is also requested to decide on the composition of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, which shall comprise 15 members and associate members of the Commission, as well as 15 civil society organizations that meet the criteria in paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Working Group, as the number of members and associate members and civil society organizations that expressed interest in serving on the Working Group exceeds the allocated seats on the Working Group.

(h) Statistics

Documentation

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/3, section VII)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/69/4, resolution 67/12)

Report of the Committee on Statistics on its third session (E/ESCAP/69/13)

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/69/14)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/3, section VII)

The document contains an overview of the issues and challenges in the field of statistics and the secretariat's current and planned actions to follow up on the decisions and recommendations of the Committee on Statistics. It highlights the secretariat's efforts to support improvement of national capacity to provide an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environmental statistics and to create through collaboration a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices.

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

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/69/4)

The document summarizes the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolution 67/12 on improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved, including the outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, which was convened in Bangkok on 10 and 11 December 2012.

The Commission may also wish to provide its members, the secretariat and development partners with guidance on further implementation of the resolution. The Commission may in particular wish to recommend pathways

for strengthening and sustaining wide commitment by the highest level of government in the region for improving civil registration and vital statistics, bearing in mind the decisions and recommendations made by the Committee on Statistics in that regard, as reflected in the report of the Committee on Statistics on its third session.

Report of the Committee on Statistics on its third session (E/ESCAP/69/13)

The Committee on Statistics held its third session in Bangkok from 12 to 14 December 2012. It reviewed and decided on a range of issues of strategic importance to statistics development in the Asian and Pacific region. It also provided inputs to the review of the conference structure by reflecting on the functioning of the Committee on Statistics.

The Committee endorsed longer-term regional implementation or action plans and strategies to improve: (a) economic statistics; (b) agricultural and rural statistics; (c) population and social statistics; (d) civil registration and vital statistics; and (e) regional coordination of statistical training. The Committee also provided recommendations on regional approaches to: (a) improving environment statistics; (b) modernizing national statistical systems; and (c) contributing to the development agenda beyond 2015.

The Committee supported the submission of draft resolutions on civil registration and vital statistics, and population and social statistics.

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 Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/69/14)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat with 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/69/3, section VIII)

Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/69/15)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/3, section VIII)

Component 1 The Pacific

In the subprogramme overview, there is a review of the multidimensional and interrelated challenges facing the Pacific subregion, which, despite being made up of some of the smallest and most vulnerable of member States, remains a significant global (ocean) ecosystem and economic asset. In drawing on the outcome of the sixty-eighth session of the

Commission, Rio+20 and the joint statement made by the Pacific Islands Forum leaders and the Secretary-General on 26 September 2012, the document highlights the policy options for the subregion and the potential for green economic policies and other measures to achieve sustainable economic growth while enhancing prosperity and maintaining the healthy functioning of the Earth's ecosystem. This overview also sets out an agenda for the work of the subregional office.

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

Component 2 East and North-East Asia

In the subprogramme overview, there is a review of recent socioeconomic trends and developments in the subregion. The document also highlights related work being done by the secretariat in support of member States. In particular, it elaborates on 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 the secretariat with guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat in support of member States.

Component 3 North and Central Asia

The subprogramme overview 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, including the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and those that will be set for beyond 2015, by: (a) promoting inclusive and sustainable economic and social development; (b) improving regional connectivity by encouraging transport infrastructure development and facilitating regional trade; and (c) addressing water, energy, disaster risk reduction and environmental issues by strengthening cooperation and integration.

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

Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/69/15)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Programme.

Component 4 South and South-West Asia

The subprogramme overview highlights the implementation of subregional initiatives by the secretariat in priority thematic areas identified

by member States to support the inclusive and sustainable development of the subregion. The document describes the strategies and policies implemented in the subregion to address the significant challenges of poverty and hunger, rising inequality, wide infrastructure gaps and narrow bases for high value-added products and exports, as well as policies to address food and energy security, disaster risk reduction and the need for additional support for least developed and landlocked developing countries in the subregion. Furthermore, it highlights the role that regional cooperation and regional integration can play in South and South-West Asia as a key strategy to generate more inclusive growth and help drive poverty alleviation to ensure the sustainable future of the subregion.

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

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 2014-2015

Documentation

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 (E/ESCAP/69/16)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/69/4, resolution 68/8)

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 (E/ESCAP/69/16)

The document 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 2014-2015, as endorsed by the Commission at its sixty-eighth session, in May 2012, and by the United Nations Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-second session, held in New York in June 2012. 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 2014-2015 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 the preparation of 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 Transport, the Committee on Information and Communications Technology and the Committee on Statistics provided the secretariat with 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 was

reviewed in its entirety by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/69/4)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in implementation of Commission resolution 68/8 on enhancing coordination within the United Nations system and cooperation with regional organizations for promoting regional development.

The Commission may wish to comment on the information presented in the document with a view to identifying measures to further enhance the coordination and cooperation capacity and effectiveness of ESCAP both within the United Nations system as well as in partnership with other regional organizations.

(b) Programme changes for the biennium 2012-2013

No programme changes requiring the approval of the Commission have been identified for the remainder of the biennium 2012-2013, subsequent to the latest revision of the programme of work adopted by the Commission at its sixty-eighth session.²

(c) Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

Documentation

Overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions (E/ESCAP/69/17)

The document summarizes the secretariat's technical cooperation activities in 2012, in accordance with the programme of work of ESCAP for the biennium 2012-2013 and Commission resolution 60/3 on work of ESCAP in implementing its technical cooperation projects. The document also provides an overview of the extrabudgetary resources mobilized in 2012 for implementing technical cooperation activities.

The Commission is invited to provide the secretariat with guidance on future technical cooperation activities and to announce intended contributions for 2013.

5. Final review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its subsidiary structure, pursuant to resolutions 64/1 and 67/15

Documentation

Final review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its subsidiary structure, pursuant to resolutions 64/1 and 67/15 (E/ESCAP/69/18)

The document contains an analysis on the functioning of the conference structure in accordance with the relevant provisions of resolutions 64/1 and 67/15. The document is based on the findings and recommendations of an evaluation undertaken by a team of external consultants to facilitate the

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 19* (E/2012/39-E/ESCAP/68/24), paras. 246-249.

final review of the conference structure by the Commission at its sixty-ninth session. A review of survey questionnaires distributed at ESCAP intergovernmental meetings held from 2008 to 2012, a new survey questionnaire developed by the evaluation team and focus group interviews with multiple stakeholders provided input for the evaluation.

The Commission may wish to consider the recommendations contained in the report and adopt a resolution on the conference structure.

6. 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/69/19)

The document covers the main activities of the Advisory Committee since the sixty-eighth 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 regarding its work.

7. Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventieth session of the Commission (2014)

Documentation

Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventieth session of the Commission (2014) (E/ESCAP/69/20)

Unless the Commission decides otherwise, the seventieth session of the Commission will be held in Bangkok in 2014. Under this agenda item, the Commission may also wish to select a theme topic for that session.

B. Ministerial segment

8. 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 2013

Documentation

Sustainable development and the development agenda beyond 2015 (E/ESCAP/69/21)

Summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013 (E/ESCAP/69/22)

Sustainable development and the development agenda beyond 2015 (E/ESCAP/69/21)

The document discusses the increased role of member States in articulating and operationalizing sustainable development, particularly in

formulating the sustainable development goals as outlined in the Rio+20 outcome document. It also stresses the need to accelerate progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and notes that developing countries have expressed their desire to play a more active role in formulating the development agenda beyond 2015. The Secretary-General has appointed a high-level panel on the development agenda beyond 2015 and an open working group on the sustainable development goals. In the Rio+20 outcome document, Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives resolved to strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development to promote the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and emphasized that the United Nations regional commissions should be supported in their role of assisting countries in the effective operationalization and implementation of sustainable development. The document discusses options for promoting the development agenda beyond 2015 and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific and the role of the Commission in this process.

The Commission may wish to review the document and provide the secretariat with further guidance on options for articulating Asia-Pacific regional perspectives in the formulation of the development agenda beyond 2015 and sustainable development, and on the role of the Commission in this process.

Summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013 (E/ESCAP/69/22)

The document provides a review of the region's progress in sustainable development as it contends with the ongoing global economic crisis, and assesses and suggests policy recommendations to address remaining and emerging vulnerabilities. Areas of economic, social and sustainable development to be considered include growth, inflation, trade, capital flows, remittances, employment, poverty, inequality, social protection, resource constraints and related environmental pressures. The document analyses the policy challenges that member States face in achieving sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth as advocated in the Rio+20 outcome document. In doing so, the document discusses the current approach of macroeconomic policymaking and critically assesses whether this approach has served development adequately. It explores and estimates the fiscal cost of an alternative policy framework, grounded in the principle of the right to development, which enables Governments to finance the implementation of social protection, employment guarantee, "Health for All", "Education for All" and "Sustainable Energy for All" initiatives, with a view to addressing poverty and vulnerability, inequality and climate risks while sustaining economic growth.

The Commission may wish to review the key policy options identified in the Survey and provide the secretariat with further guidance on how it can promote these policy options in Asia-Pacific countries for advancing sustainable, inclusive and resilient development.

**9. Theme topic for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission (2013):
“Opportunities to build resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises”**

Documentation

Opportunities to build resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises (E/ESCAP/69/23)

The document reviews the effects of natural disasters and major economic crises in Asia and the Pacific, highlights the increasing trend of natural disasters affecting the region through disruptions to production and supply chains of goods and services as economies of the region become more integrated, and examines the links between the impact of natural disasters and economic shocks.

The document examines the whole spectrum of policies and processes that are associated with building resilience, including mainstreaming the building of resilience into development strategies, and putting in place appropriate institutions to promote adequate public, private and community-based structures to respond to and cope with various forms of crises. It also identifies potential mechanisms to add value to existing regional and global cooperation efforts in order to broaden the scope and outreach of those efforts for addressing the building of resilience. The document pays particular attention to policy options that protect and empower the poor and vulnerable, prevent them from falling deeper into poverty and empower them to withstand all forms of crises.

The Commission may wish to review the analysis and provide the secretariat with guidance on how to enhance regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific in order to put in place an effective strategy to build resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises to protect hard-earned development gains made thus far, including progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

10. Other matters

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

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission

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