



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
9 October 2013

Original: English

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and
Integration in Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, 17-20 December 2013

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

A. Senior officials segment (17-18 December 2013)

1. Opening of the senior officials segment:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. The importance of regional economic cooperation and integration for an inclusive and sustainable Asia-Pacific century.
3. Consideration of the preliminary text of the draft Bangkok declaration on regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific.
4. Adoption of the report of the senior officials.

B. Ministerial segment (19-20 December 2013)

5. Opening of the ministerial segment:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
6. Report on the senior officials segment.
7. Policy issues for regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific.
8. Other matters.

9. Adoption of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific.
10. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
11. Closing of the Conference.

II. Annotations

A. Senior officials segment (17-18 December 2013)

1. Opening of the senior officials segment

(a) Opening statements

The Conference will be opened by senior dignitaries of participating member States. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP will deliver an opening address.

(b) Election of officers

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

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/MCREI/L.1)

Annotation

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

2. The importance of regional economic cooperation and integration for an inclusive and sustainable Asia-Pacific century

Documentation

Towards a broader integrated market in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/MCREI/1)

Enhancing regional cooperation in connectivity and finance and in addressing shared vulnerabilities and risks in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/MCREI/2)

Annotation

Under the agenda item, the Conference will review the theme study prepared for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission, entitled *Growing Together: Economic Integration for an Inclusive and Sustainable Asia-Pacific Century*,¹ in accordance with Commission resolution 68/10 on enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific.

The Asian and Pacific region's rapid growth since the 1950s has been supported by a favourable external economic environment and opportunities

¹ ST/ESCAP/2629.

arising from globalization. However, in a dramatically altered scenario for the period following the global financial crisis, the region's dynamism, which is crucial for the elimination of poverty and hunger and for the realization of an Asia-Pacific century, will critically depend on its ability to harness the potential of regional economic cooperation and integration.

In particular, the Commission theme study *Growing Together* presents a comprehensive view of regional economic cooperation and integration based on four pillars: (a) an integrated market; (b) seamless connectivity; (c) financial cooperation; and (d) addressing shared vulnerabilities and risks. In this context, the theme study argues that deepening economic cooperation and integration in the region could be mutually beneficial to all countries and instrumental in the achievement of key development goals.

3. Consideration of the preliminary text of the draft Bangkok declaration on regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Preliminary text of the draft Bangkok declaration on regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/MCREI/WP.1)

Annotation

Under the agenda item, the Conference will review the preliminary text of the draft Bangkok declaration on regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific.

The initial version of the preliminary text was drafted during the first preparatory consultation, held in Bangkok from 20 to 22 August 2013 and will be subsequently revised in the second preparatory consultation, to be held in Bangkok on 13 and 14 November 2013. Comments and suggestions received at these meetings are incorporated, as appropriate, into the preliminary text presented for the consideration of the senior officials.

It is expected that, under this agenda item, the outcome of deliberations will be the endorsement of the preliminary text of the draft Bangkok declaration, for submission to the ministers during the ministerial segment for their consideration and possible adoption.

4. Adoption of the report of the senior officials

Documentation

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

Annotation

The senior officials will consider and adopt a report on the agenda items allocated to them for consideration by the ministers.

B. Ministerial segment (19-20 December 2013)

5. Opening of the ministerial segment

(a) Opening statements

The Conference will be opened by the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste and ministers and other senior dignitaries of participating member States. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP will deliver an opening address.

(b) Election of officers

The Conference will elect a bureau, which will comprise a chair, vice-chairs and a rapporteur.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/MCREI/L.1)

Annotation

The Conference will consider and adopt the provisional agenda, subject to any changes deemed necessary.

6. Report on the senior officials segment

Documentation

Report of the senior officials (E/ESCAP/MCREI/CRP.1/Rev.1)

Annotation

The Chair of the senior officials segment will report to the ministers the outcome of the senior officials segment.

7. Policy issues for regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Towards a broader integrated market in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/MCREI/1)

Enhancing regional cooperation in connectivity and finance and in addressing shared vulnerabilities and risks in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/MCREI/2)

Annotation

Under the agenda item, the Conference will review the theme study prepared for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission, entitled *Growing Together: Economic Integration for an Inclusive and Sustainable Asia-Pacific Century*,² pursuant to Commission resolution 68/10 on enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific.

The Asia and the Pacific region's rapid growth since the 1950s has been supported by a favourable external economic environment and opportunities arising from globalization. However, in a dramatically altered scenario for the period following the global financial crisis, the region's dynamism, which is crucial for the elimination of poverty and hunger and for the realization of an Asia-Pacific century, will critically depend on its ability to harness the potential of regional economic cooperation and integration.

In particular, the Commission theme study *Growing Together* presents a comprehensive view of regional economic cooperation and integration

² ST/ESCAP/2629.

based on four pillars: (a) an integrated market; (b) seamless connectivity; (c) financial cooperation; and (d) addressing shared vulnerabilities and risks. In this context, the theme study argues that deepening economic cooperation and integration in the region could be mutually beneficial to all countries and instrumental in the achievement of key development goals.

Prime ministers, ministers and heads of delegations will be invited to deliver their policy statements, which may highlight the achievements, challenges and opportunities in regard to enhancing regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific and introduce proposals or initiatives in one or more areas of the above four pillars as specified in the theme study *Growing Together*.

Representatives of United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations will be afforded the opportunity to make brief statements on measures and initiatives related to enhancing regional cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific.

8. Other matters

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

9. Adoption of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Draft Bangkok declaration on regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/MCREI/L.2)

Annotation

The Conference will consider for adoption the draft Bangkok declaration on regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific.

10. Adoption of the report of the Conference

Documentation

Draft report of the Conference (E/ESCAP/MCERI/L.3)

Annotation

The Conference will consider the draft report for adoption, which will be submitted for the consideration and endorsement of the Commission at its seventieth session, in 2014.

11. Closing of the Conference

Closing statements will be delivered.
