



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Committee on Trade and Investment

### Fifth session

Bangkok, 31 October-2 November 2017

### Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Committee on Trade and Investment (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the bureau.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2017:
  - (a) Review of recent trends and developments;
  - (b) Channelling trade and investment into sustainable development.
5. Reviewing the role of trade and trade policy as drivers of regional integration and prosperity in an era of economic uncertainty.
6. Promoting trade facilitation, paperless trade and electronic commerce for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
7. Investment and enterprise development for sustainable development.
8. Consideration of the future focus of the trade and investment subprogramme:
  - (a) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2020-2021;
  - (b) Private sector engagement.
9. Consideration of draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-fourth session.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Opening of the session**

The tentative programme furnishes the time plan for the session.

### **2. Election of the bureau**

The Committee will elect a chair, two vice-chairs and a rapporteur.

### **3. Adoption of the agenda**

#### **Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CTI(5)/L.1)

#### **Annotation**

The annotated provisional agenda will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

### **4. Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2017**

#### **(a) Review of recent trends and developments**

#### **(b) Channelling trade and investment into sustainable development**

#### **Documentation**

Summary of the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2017 (E/ESCAP/CTI(5)/1)

#### **Annotation**

The Committee will have before it the summary of the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2017, which will serve as a general background document for the session. The *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report* is an annual publication that contains descriptions of recent trends in trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region and highlights of issues that require the attention of policymakers. In the years that the Committee does not meet, only a trend analysis is provided, which is published online. In the years that the Committee meets, a printed publication is made available; it contains a section in which a particular focus area is addressed.

The focus area of the *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2017: Channelling Trade and Investment into Sustainable Development* is trade and investment as a means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The *Report* contains highlights and a review of the role of trade and investment as principal sources of external financing for development and for achieving various Sustainable Development Goals, in particular those Goals which make a specific reference to trade and/or investment-related topics, namely Goals 8, 9 and 17. The *Report* contains various policy recommendations for national level action and for regional cooperation on making trade and investment work for sustainable development, in particular with reference to current global protectionist tendencies.

After a presentation by the secretariat, a panel of four to five experts from Government, academia and the private sector will present their views and

discuss policies for enhancing trade and investment for sustainable development and the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in this regard.

**5. Reviewing the role of trade and trade policy as drivers of regional integration and prosperity in an era of economic uncertainty**

**Documentation**

Reviewing the role of trade and trade policy as drivers of regional integration and prosperity in an era of economic uncertainty (E/ESCAP/CTI(5)/2)

**Annotation**

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CTI(5)/2, in which the role of trade and trade policy as drivers of regional integration and prosperity in an era of economic uncertainty is reviewed in some detail with a focus on the work of the secretariat, in particular with regard to the implementation of the relevant provisions of Commission resolution 70/1 on the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (including relevant provisions of the Bangkok Declaration regarding market integration), resolution 70/5 on strengthening regional cooperation and capacity for enhanced trade and investment in support of sustainable development, and resolution 73/3 on advancing integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. The document will include a review of recent developments with regard to the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement and other regional trade agreements, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, and regional trade integration initiatives at the subregional level. The document will also include an overview of research, analysis and capacity-building work conducted by the secretariat under the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade and other modalities and within the framework of cooperation with partner organizations such as the World Trade Organization.

**6. Promoting trade facilitation, paperless trade and electronic commerce for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**

**Documentation**

Promoting trade facilitation, paperless trade and electronic commerce for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (E/ESCAP/CTI(5)/3)

**Annotation**

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CTI(5)/3, in which the role of trade facilitation, paperless trade and electronic commerce in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is reviewed in some detail. In particular, the document contains a review of the work of the secretariat undertaken within the framework of the implementation of the relevant provisions of Commission resolution 70/5, resolution 68/3 on enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable intraregional trade facilitation, resolution 70/6 on the implementation of the decision of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade, and resolution 72/4 on the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. In this context, the document includes an update on the current status

of the Framework Agreement. The document also includes a review of the role of electronic commerce in promoting trade and of policies required to do so, as well as activities of the secretariat within the framework of the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific.

## **7. Investment and enterprise development for sustainable development**

### **Documentation**

Investment and enterprise development for sustainable development (E/ESCAP/CTI(5)/4)

### **Annotation**

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CTI(5)/4, in which the role of foreign direct investment and of enterprise development, in particular the development of sustainable micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and their effective integration into global and regional value chains for sustainable development, is reviewed. The work of the secretariat is also reviewed, in particular the implementation of the relevant provisions of resolution 70/5 and in the areas of research, analysis and capacity-building as well as regional cooperation, including the sixth meeting of the Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment Network for Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, which was held in 2016.

The secretariat will also make a presentation on the *Handbook on Policies, Promotion and Facilitation of Foreign Direct Investment for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*. Subsequently, the *Handbook* will be discussed by a panel of policymakers and/or specialists in the field.

## **8. Consideration of the future focus of the trade and investment subprogramme**

### **(a) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2020-2021**

Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the focus of the future work of the secretariat on the trade and investment subprogramme for the planning of the strategic framework for the period 2020-2021. The Committee may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on modalities to solicit resources from multiple sources, including the private sector, to meet the goals of the strategic framework.

### **(b) Private sector engagement**

#### **Documentation**

Effectively engaging the business sector in achieving the sustainable development agenda: the role of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and the Asia-Pacific Business Forum (E/ESCAP/CTI(5)/5)

#### **Annotation**

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CTI(5)/5, in which the work and revised terms of reference of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council and the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network are reviewed. The results and organization of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum are examined for their potential as modalities that ESCAP could use to effectively engage

the private sector in the Commission's work to achieve the sustainable development agenda. As these modalities are currently under review with a view to strengthen them, the Committee is invited to propose measures to make them more effective and visible, both within and outside ESCAP. A brief presentation on the work of the Sustainable Business Network may be made by one of its members.

**9. Consideration of draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-fourth session**

Under this agenda item, member States are invited to circulate, in advance, proposals and/or the text of draft resolutions on priority issues relating to transport development for consideration by the Commission at its seventy-fourth session.

**10. Other matters**

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

**11. Adoption of the report**

**Documentation**

Draft report (E/ESCAP/CTI(5)/L.2)

**Annotation**

The Committee will be invited to consider and adopt the report on its fifth session for submission to the Commission at its seventy-fourth session, to be held in 2018.

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