



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Committee on Trade and Investment

Third session

Bangkok, 20-22 November 2013

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the third 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 2013:
 - (a) Review of recent trends and developments;
 - (b) Promoting inclusive trade and investment.
5. Reports on activities of the regional institutions:
 - (a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;
 - (b) Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization.
6. Regional cooperation initiatives under the subprogramme.
7. Global initiatives with implications for the subprogramme.
8. Collaboration with other global and regional organizations and initiatives.
9. Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Trade and Investment.
10. Consideration of the future focus of the trade and investment subprogramme:
 - (a) Programme of work and strategic framework 2016-2017;
 - (b) Resource mobilization;
 - (c) Private sector engagement.

11. Implementation of Commission resolution 68/3 and consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventieth session.
12. Other matters.
13. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

Documentation

Tentative programme (E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/INF/3)

Annotation

The tentative programme furnishes the time plan for the session.

2. Election of the bureau

Documentation

List of participants (E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/INF/2)

Annotation

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

3. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/L.1)

Annotation

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

4. Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2013

(a) Review of recent trends and developments

(b) Promoting inclusive trade and investment

Documentation

Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2013 (E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/1)

Annotation

A summary of the *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2013* will serve as general background document for the session. The *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 2013 *Report* is inclusive trade and investment. In the publication, issues are highlighted and policy recommendations made that are aimed at enhancing the contribution of trade and investment to inclusive development, that is, their contributions to job creation, poverty reduction and economic engagement of marginalized groups, including women. After the secretariat has made a presentation on the publication, a panel of 4-5 experts from government, academia and the private sector will present their views and will discuss policies for enhancing inclusive trade and investment and the role of ESCAP in this regard.

5. Reports on activities of the regional institutions

- (a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology**
- (b) Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization**

Documentation

Report on activities of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/2)

Report on activities of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/3)

Annotation

The Committee will have before it reports on activities of both Centres. The Committee may wish to take note of the reports.

6. Regional cooperation initiatives under the subprogramme

Documentation

Overview of the secretariat's activities in promoting regional cooperation in trade and investment, including issues for consideration by the Committee (E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/4)

Annotation

Within the core mandate of ESCAP relating to promotion of regional cooperation, the secretariat has pursued various initiatives to advance trade and investment through regional cooperation and integration initiatives, including the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade, the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum, the Asia-Pacific Business Forum and the Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment Network for Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries. In addition, the ESCAP Trade and Investment Division serves as the secretariat for the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement. The secretariat maintains the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Agreements Database for tracking the development of regional trade agreements. In addition, the regional institutions that function under the subprogramme are also pursuing regional initiatives, such as the renewable energy technology bank of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, and the Asia-Pacific Network for Testing Agricultural Machinery of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization. The Committee will be invited to review these regional initiatives and to provide

the secretariat with guidance on their future direction. The Committee will also be invited to propose other regional initiatives which would help member countries pursue trade and investment for inclusive and sustainable development.

7. Global initiatives with implications for the subprogramme

Documentation

Global initiatives with implications for the subprogramme (E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/5)

Annotation

The implementation of the subprogramme is closely linked to and dependent on global developments in trade and investment, including developments in the World Trade Organization and the multilateral trading system; achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and formulation of the follow-up development goals under the development agenda beyond 2015; implementation of the provisions contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”; and mandates related to South-South cooperation in trade and investment emanating from the General Assembly. The work under the subprogramme is also guided by global action plans for selected groups of countries, in particular 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, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The Committee will be invited to review these developments and their implications for the subprogramme and to provide the secretariat with guidance concerning the proper role for ESCAP in responding to these developments and implementing United Nations mandates at the regional level.

8. Collaboration with other global and regional organizations and initiatives

Documentation

Collaboration with other global and regional organizations and initiatives (E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/6)

Annotation

The secretariat implements the subprogramme on trade and investment in collaboration with various partners to achieve synergies and avoid duplication. For that purpose, various memorandums of understanding have been signed with selected regional and global organizations. In addition, United Nations agencies are coordinating their work in trade and investment under the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity. The Committee will be invited to review these collaborative efforts and to provide the secretariat with guidance on modalities to strengthen inter-agency partnerships in particular areas for specific purposes.

9. Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Trade and Investment

Documentation

Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Trade and Investment (E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/7)

Annotation

The Committee will be provided with a note by the secretariat assessing the functioning and role of the Committee since its inauguration. The Committee will be invited to review (a) its current role and functioning with a view to making it more effective and engaged in the secretariat's work, reflecting the need for timely decisions, and for improving integration and coordination among national ministries and government agencies involved in trade and investment, enterprise development, technology transfer and agricultural mechanization, and (b) the reporting line of the Governing Councils of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization. The Committee may wish to discuss and decide on issues related to its functioning, as inputs to the deliberations of the Commission at its seventieth session.

10. Consideration of the future focus of the trade and investment subprogramme

- (a) Programme of work and strategic framework 2016-2017**
- (b) Resource mobilization**
- (c) Private sector engagement**

Documentation

Proposed strategic framework for 2016-2017 for the subprogramme on trade and investment (E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/8)

Annotation

Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the focus of short- and long-term work in the area of trade and investment, taking into account the programme direction and priorities outlined in the draft programme of work for 2016-2017 and the draft strategic framework for 2016-2017. The Committee may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance to enable the outcome of deliberations at the third session to be fully integrated into the planning and implementation of the secretariat's programme of work.

Donor funding for technical assistance activities in the area of trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region is lacking, a situation which is affecting the effective implementation of selected outputs under the subprogramme on trade and investment. This can be partly explained by the observation that trade and investment in many countries of the region is booming and therefore not in need of assistance compared with the development needs in other areas and in other regions of the world. However, in the secretariat note, it is observed that the Asia-Pacific region is home to the largest number of least developed countries in the world, that income and wealth discrepancies between countries and between groups of people within countries are rising as many fail to benefit from trade and investment and that

the incidence of poverty in many Asia-Pacific countries remains high. In this regard, there is a need for enhanced technical assistance to promote regional cooperation through enhanced intraregional trade and investment flows to prevent marginalization of disadvantaged countries and reduce the poverty rate in many countries, in particular the least developed countries. The Committee will be invited to consider various options for enhanced resource mobilization for the subprogramme, including the role of the private sector.

11. Implementation of Commission resolution 68/3 and consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventieth session

Documentation

Implementation of Commission resolution 68/3 (E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/9)

Annotation

Under this agenda item, the Committee will review the implementation of ESCAP resolution 68/3 on enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable intraregional trade facilitation, which was adopted by the Commission at its sixty-eighth session in 2012. The Committee may also wish to circulate, in advance, proposals or texts of draft resolutions on priority issues relating to trade and investment, enterprise development, technology transfer and sustainable agricultural mechanization for the consideration of the Commission at its seventieth session.

12. Other matters

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

13. Adoption of the report

Documentation

Draft report (E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/L.2)

Annotation

The Committee will be invited to consider and adopt the report on its third session for submission to the Commission at its seventieth session, to be held in 2014.
