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#### **Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

Committee on Trade and Investment

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Implementation of Commission resolution 70/5: strengthening regional cooperation and capacity for enhanced trade and investment in support of sustainable development:

Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Trade and Investment

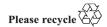
Consideration of terms of reference of a permanent bureau of the Committee

# Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Trade and Investment

#### Note by the secretariat

#### Summary

The present document contains a summary of and updates to the proposals made at the third session of the Committee on Trade and Investment on making the Committee more effective, relevant and visible in promoting regional trade and investment for inclusive and sustainable development and in shaping the post-2015 development agenda, while allowing it to be more engaged in the secretariat's work on trade and investment. The present document contains a recommendation that the Committee establish a permanent bureau to guide the work of the secretariat between sessions of the Committee and to formulate and monitor the implementation of regional action plans and decisions in trade, investment and related areas. A feasibility study on and draft terms of reference of the permanent bureau are included herein, as requested by the Committee. The present document also contains a proposal for a new strategic direction for the Committee, which would be closely associated with implementation of the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda and the formulation of the secretariat's strategic framework.



E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/L.1.

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#### I. Introduction

- The Committee on Trade and Investment, at its third session, reviewed document E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/7/Rev.1 on the strategic direction and functioning of the Committee. The Committee generally endorsed the proposals made by the secretariat regarding the strategic direction and functioning of the Committee but requested that they be implemented on a step-by-step basis and be duly coordinated with ongoing discussions and efforts to modify the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as mandated in its resolution 69/1. The Committee held the view that the proposals ideally should not involve additional financial commitments for member States.<sup>1</sup>
- The Committee further supported the establishment of a permanent bureau and requested the secretariat to undertake a feasibility study on such a bureau and prepare draft terms of reference for review by member States.<sup>2</sup>
- The present document contains updates to the recommendations on 3. the strategic direction of the committee presented in section IV of document E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/7/Rev.1.3 A review of the feasibility study is contained in section III of the present document and the draft terms of reference of a permanent bureau of the Committee are annexed hereto.

#### II. Recommendations on the role, functioning and strategic direction of the Committee

#### **Functioning and role of the Committee** Α.

The secretariat, in document E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/7/Rev.1, reviewed the current mandate, terms of reference, and current role and functioning of the

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Recirculated as E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/INF/4.

E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/10, para. 11.

Ibid., para. 12.

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Committee. Based on that review, the secretariat concluded that the level of participation in the Committee was relatively low and that there was scope to enhance the engagement of the Committee in the work of the secretariat in the area of trade and investment. The secretariat, therefore, made a series of proposals aimed at making the Committee more relevant and visible.

- In order to enhance the role and effectiveness of the Committee, the 5. secretariat proposed in 2013 that a permanent bureau be established. A discussion of the feasibility of such a bureau is contained in section III of the present document. In essence, the bureau would, in consultation with Committee members, provide input on the programme of work of the secretariat between Committee sessions. It would also consider the implementation of recommendations contained in E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/INF/4 on a step-by-step basis and decide on different modalities to effectively address the trade and investment issues relevant to the region, keeping in view the capacity of the secretariat as well as possible resource implications for member States. This includes the possible establishment of permanent and/or ad-hoc bodies under the Committee.
- 6. Given the importance of the private sector in development and in shaping the post-2015 development agenda, the secretariat had proposed that the ESCAP Business Advisory Council brief the Committee at its regular sessions on its views and activities, in particular activities undertaken within the context of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network. As a result, the Committee would benefit from insights from the business sector, which remains the driving force of economic growth. Between regular Committee sessions, the Council would support the bureau by providing inputs for its work, in particular the formulation of regional action plans. Initiatives to engage the business sector will be presented under agenda item 5(e), engaging the business sector, of the provisional agenda of the fourth session of the Committee.

#### B. Strategic direction of the Committee

- The Committee is expected to take a proactive role in shaping the 7. implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and in addressing the sustainable development goals with regard to issues related to trade and investment and enterprise development in Asia and the Pacific. The overarching goal of the Committee is to promote regional trade and investment for sustainable development. For that purpose a permanent bureau is recommended to help formulate the overall vision and strategic direction of the Committee and serve as a platform for consultation and communication between the secretariat and the Committee in the period between Committee sessions. In particular, the bureau would consult with Committee members to provide input on trade and investment issues for the region and recommend appropriate actions to address those issues, which could be taken at the national and regional levels by member States with support from the secretariat. Such actions would also contribute to the implementation of Commission resolution 70/5 in which the Commission encouraged member States to strengthen national and regional initiatives, programmes, projects and other efforts to promote sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region through enhanced trade and investment, and to, wherever appropriate, endeavour to strengthen regional cooperation among member States, the United Nations development system and other development partners in promoting sustainable development through enhanced trade and investment.
- 8. Issues for action are also reflected in the strategic framework of the secretariat to ensure that its work matches the initiatives of the member States

and meets their priorities and demands. The Committee may consider the following non-exhaustive focus areas for the development of regional action plans,<sup>4</sup> which would constitute its strategic direction for the foreseeable future:

- (a) Enhancing the role of trade and investment in achieving the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda;
- (b) Streamlining and consolidating regional trade and investment agreements; related proposed areas include simplifying rules of origin, reviewing regional agreement networks, especially investment agreements and trade liberalization in support of sustainable development;<sup>5</sup>
- (c) Enhancing regional supply chain efficiency; related proposed areas include harmonizing trade-related procedures, enabling cross-border paperless trade,<sup>6</sup> trade financing and e-commerce;
- (d) Promoting responsible business practices for inclusive and sustainable development; related proposed areas include regional cooperation for development of small and medium-sized enterprises; integration of small and medium-sized enterprises in global value chains and implementing the principles of the Global Compact;
- (e) Promoting foreign direct investment for sustainable development; related proposed areas include developing regional guidelines for responsible foreign direct investment and supporting enhanced levels of South-South foreign direct investment;
- (f) Promoting regional or intraregional trade and investment in environmentally sustainable goods and services;<sup>7</sup> related proposed areas include promoting intraregional trade in low-carbon goods and services;
- (g) Promoting regional or intraregional trade and investment in services;<sup>8</sup> related proposed areas include promoting regional or intraregional trade in products and services in support of industry.

# III. Feasibility and desirability of establishing a permanent bureau of the Committee

#### A. Background and rationale

- 9. As indicated earlier, the secretariat submitted a number of proposals to the Committee, at its third session, on enhancing its interaction, impact and relevance in shaping the post-2015 development agenda. One such proposal was the establishment of a permanent bureau, which would help the Committee to work more effectively and provide continuity between Committee sessions.
- 10. In its resolution 70/5 the Commission noted the support of the Committee for the establishment of a permanent bureau and its request that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Similar proposals, with the exception of the first item, were presented in document E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/7/Rev. 1 at the third session of the Committee.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> This work would be coordinated with that of the Working Group on Market Integration established in accordance with the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, which is annexed to resolution 70/1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> In relation to implementation of resolutions 68/3 and 70/6.

This issue is highlighted as an important emerging opportunity for trade and investment for the region in Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid.

the secretariat undertake a feasibility study on such a bureau and prepare draft terms of reference for review by member States.

### B. Feasibility and desirability

#### 1. Rules of procedure of the Committee

Feasibility can be understood to consist of legality and desirability. With regard to legality, a permanent bureau of an intergovernmental body within the conference structure of ESCAP is already legal in accordance with rule 13 of the Commission's rules of procedure. Rule 13 states the Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from its representatives a Chair and two Vice-Chairs who shall hold office until their successors are elected. In the case of the Committee, that would be at its next meeting. As indicated in resolution 71/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission with regard to the post-2015 development agenda, unless otherwise specified by the Commission, its rules of procedure, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, apply, mutatis mutandis, to the committees. As the Committee is a subsidiary body of the Commission, it is standard practice for the Committee's decisions and recommendations to be considered by the Commission. The Commission then may take a decision or action on those recommendations as appropriate. This means that the establishment of a permanent bureau of the Committee could be approved by the Commission upon completion of the review of the bureau's terms of reference by member States in accordance with the Committee's decision at its third session. This review will be undertaken by the Committee at its fourth session.

#### 2. Precedent: the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics

- 12. The rules of procedure make it clear that the establishment of a permanent bureau of any Committee under the Commission is certainly possible and legal and, hence, theoretically feasible. The question which is perhaps of greater importance is whether the establishment of such a bureau is also practical and desirable. In this regard, experiences with respect to the establishment and functioning of the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics provide valuable insights.
- At its first session, held in February 2009, the Committee on Statistics 13. decided to establish a bureau to assist it in conducting each session and in performing the functions of the Committee between the biennial sessions, in accordance with rule 13 of the Commission's rules of procedure. This decision was based on the options presented in a note by the secretariat, 10 with regard to whether the Committee wished to have a bureau continue its work between sessions. The other Committees did not take that decision at their first sessions, which makes the Committee on Statistics unique in the Commission's conference structure. The same decision that established the Bureau of the Committee also addressed its composition, role and functioning, effectively constituting its terms of reference. A similar set of terms of reference is proposed for the bureau of the Committee on Trade and Investment and is contained in the annex to the present document. At its second session in December 2010, the Committee on Statistics adopted principles and procedures for the election of the Bureau based on a proposal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> E/ESCAP/CST/10, para. 16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> E/ESCAP/CST/1 and Corr.1.

contained in a note prepared by the Bureau,<sup>11</sup> rather than in a note by the secretariat, which is normally the case. These principles and procedures provide a template for a similar set of principles and procedures for the election of the bureau of the Committee on Trade and Investment, which is contained in section D of the annex.

- The Bureau of the Committee on Statistics has been very active in 14. continuing the Committee's work between sessions. 12 in determining its strategic direction and in drafting various substantive notes. For instance, the Bureau presented a note on the strategic direction of the Committee at its second session.<sup>13</sup> The proposed strategic direction, including two overarching strategic goals for the Committee to be achieved by 2020, received the full support of the Committee.<sup>14</sup> Similarly, the Bureau prepared a note<sup>15</sup> for the third session of the Committee which reaffirmed the strategic goals for 2020 and proposed two additional areas of work of the Committee. At the fourth session of the Committee, the Bureau submitted a note on the strategic direction of the Committee<sup>16</sup> which presented 19 concrete proposals on strengthening data and statistics for the post-2015 development agenda in Asia and the Pacific. The Committee endorsed the general direction and focus of the strategic approach outlined in these proposals and they now provide the basis for the Bureau's objectives in the intersessional period.
- 15. As a result of the Bureau's work, the secretariat's work in statistics is to a large extent member driven. Therefore, it is more likely that this work meets the demands and requirements of member States. However, the effectiveness of the Bureau is dependent on its members' high levels of engagement and in particular on the involvement of the Chair. The election of a proactive Chair has been instrumental to its success.

### 3. Other precedents: Committee on Trade, Economic Commission for Europe

16. Among the United Nations regional commissions, the establishment of a permanent bureau is not unique to ESCAP Committees. In the case of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Committee on Trade normally meets once a year, but its Bureau meets three to five times a year as needed.<sup>17</sup> Its revised guidelines and procedures<sup>18</sup> serve as its terms of reference and address its role and functioning. The revised guidelines and procedures stipulate that the Bureau consist of the Chair and up to five Vice-Chairs, who are elected at every second session of the Committee, for a term of office lasting two sessions, approximately two years, in order to provide increased

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> E/ESCAP/CST(2)/1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> E/ESCAP/CST(4)/INF/13/Rev.1.

<sup>13</sup> E/ESCAP/CST(2)/2.

<sup>14</sup> See E/ESCAP/CST(2)/9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> E/ESCAP/CST(3)/1.

<sup>16</sup> E/ESCAP/CST(4)/CRP.2.

Though there is a Committee on Trade, Regional Cooperation and Integration in the Economic Commission for Africa, it meets only every two years and does not have permanent structures. In the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the Region meets every other year and is charged with organizing two expert group meetings in the intersessional period. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean does not operate regular committees.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> ECE/TRADE/C/2011/13.

continuity and stability. Elections are held at the end of the session. This allows the current officers to preside over the session they have planned.

- 17. Its revised guidelines and procedures also state that to facilitate intersessional communications and decision-making, member States should, when possible, nominate a focal point for the Committee. Thus the guidelines highlight the importance of interaction with the Committee between meetings.
- 18. The revised guidelines stipulate that the Bureau shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Committee's programme of work and the open, transparent and efficient functioning of the Committee between sessions as well as for the intersessional decision-making process. With regard to intersessional decision-making, they further stipulate that (a) it is the Bureau's responsibility to oversee the implementation of the Committee's decisions between sessions, to plan the annual sessions and to oversee the organization of the annual sessions; (b) the Bureau reports at each session about its intersessional work; and (c) in the case of any changes in the allocation of resources available to the trade subprogramme, the Bureau is entrusted with agreeing upon the changes to be made, in consultation with the secretariat.

#### C. Conclusions

- 19. There is wide agreement in the secretariat that the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics has made a valuable contribution to the work of the Committee and has enhanced its relevance for member States. The question is whether a permanent bureau of the Committee on Trade and Investment would have a similar effect. It has been argued that statistics is unique in that every country has clear national focal points, the issues are well defined and there are common objectives among countries. An evaluation report commissioned by the secretariat and submitted to the sixty-ninth session of the Commission for review found that there was inadequate support among countries for the establishment of standing committees and/or bureaux to facilitate communication and interaction between the stakeholders during the intersessional period, that they would add another layer of bureaucracy and that the secretariat could fulfil this role. The success of the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics was attributed to special circumstances, since participants in Committee and Bureau meetings were leading statisticians; this was unlikely to be replicable in other committees. 19
- 20. As argued by the secretariat in its note on the strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Trade and Investment,<sup>3</sup> since trade, investment and enterprise development issues are inextricably interlinked and constantly evolving, and issues related to these areas are therefore not easily separated for discussion in other or additional, more specific, committees, a case could be made for a permanent bureau of the Committee which could consist of representatives from the various ministries (in particular, trade and industry, which are often separate) of countries at different levels of development. Such a bureau would ensure continuity of the work of the Committee and a deeper level of engagement of the member States with the secretariat's work on trade and investment and related areas. It would also facilitate the formulation of resolutions, as appropriate, that meet the needs and priorities of member States as well as the implementation of those resolutions, both as regards the action required of the countries as well as that of the secretariat.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/INF/9, p. 27.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/7/Rev.1, para. 15.

- 21. It is therefore proposed that a permanent bureau be established for the ESCAP Committee on Trade and Investment, to consist of a chair, two vice-chairs and four members representing, as far as possible, the areas of trade, investment and enterprise development and the five subregions of ESCAP, namely East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia, the Pacific, South-East Asia and South and South-West Asia. Whatever the composition of the bureau, members would remain in continual contact with the secretariat, with the Trade and Investment Division acting as focal point, and meet outside regular Committee sessions with the aim of providing feedback on the secretariat's programmes on trade and investment and participate in events organized by the secretariat as key speakers and/or panellists. The bureau would formulate the strategic goals of the Committee (for example, goals to be achieved by 2020) and, in consultation with Committee members, monitor the implementation of the provisions of relevant resolutions in the area of trade and investment, in particular resolution 70/5.
- 22. The above analysis indicates that the establishment of a permanent bureau of the Committee is not only feasible but also desirable as an important modality to strengthen the commitment and engagement of member States to the Commission's work in this area and to ensure that this work meets the needs and requirements of member States. However, in order for such a bureau to be effective, it requires political will on the part of all Committee members and a proactive and willing chair. It is also important that member States increase their engagement with the secretariat in the area of trade and investment through the Committee by sending high-level delegations to Committee sessions and submitting their nominations well before the start of each Committee session. To facilitate this process, the Committee may wish to determine the date of its next session. This would also help the secretariat to approach possible bureau members in a timely manner and to have a pool of suitable candidates.
- 23. Bureau members would have to review the budget implications of their increased engagement in terms of time allocation to the work of the bureau and the cost of attending meetings. However, it is understood that the establishment and functioning of a permanent bureau would not have any additional budget implications for the secretariat.

### IV. Issues for consideration by the Committee

- 24. The Committee is invited to deliberate on the following issues:
- (a) The role of the Committee in shaping the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda;
- (b) The need to strengthen the role, function and visibility of the Committee and modalities for that purpose, including proposals made by the secretariat in this regard, and in particular with regard to subparagraphs c and d below;
- (c) The desirability and feasibility of the establishment of a permanent bureau, which would continue to function between sessions of the Committee:
- (d) The strategic direction proposed above with a focus on particular subject areas for regional cooperation;
- (e) Modalities for closely involving the business sector in the work of the Committee, including through the ESCAP Business Advisory Council.

#### Annex

## Draft terms of reference of the proposed permanent Bureau of the Committee on Trade and Investment

#### A. Composition

- 1. To assist the Committee in performing its functions over the period between each formal session, a bureau shall be elected at each formal session of the Committee.
- 2. The elected Chair of the Committee will serve as the Chairperson of the Bureau. There will be two Vice-Chairs and four other members, one of whom will act as the Rapporteur of the Committee during the formal session.<sup>a</sup> The Bureau will be elected at each formal session of the Committee with due consideration to geographic representation, gender equality and coverage of substantive areas (i.e., trade, investment and enterprise development).<sup>b</sup>
- 3. If the Chairperson can no longer perform the functions of the office, the Bureau of the Committee shall designate one of the Vice-Chairpersons as interim Chairperson to perform those functions pending the election of a new Chairperson. The Bureau may also decide to ask the Committee to elect an interim Chairperson via the intersessional decision-making process. The interim Chairperson shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairperson.
- 4. All members of the Bureau are eligible for re-election.

#### B. Role

- 5. The Bureau shall be responsible for overseeing the open, transparent and efficient functioning of the Committee in the course of the intersessional period, as well as for intersessional decision-making.
- 6. The Bureau shall be further responsible for engaging with and providing feedback on the activities of the Trade and Investment Division of the ESCAP secretariat related to the implementation of the decisions, proposals, recommendations and requests of the Committee and, where appropriate, the Commission.
- 7. The Bureau will represent the Committee, through its Chairperson or such other Bureau member as may be designated by the Chairperson at meetings, workshops or other forums for which invitations might be received and which the Bureau considers of particular relevance and importance to the Committee.
- 8. The Bureau will consider updates from the secretariat on the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and other relevant United Nations agencies, bodies and programmes, and will highlight issues of particular importance to the ESCAP region for the consideration of the Committee, making appropriate recommendations.

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The exact composition of the bureau will be decided by the Committee. It may decide on a different composition, i.e., a Chairperson and up to four Vice-Chairpersons.

b The Committee may decide whether the bureau will be elected at the beginning of each session or at the end.

- 9. The Bureau will guide the ESCAP secretariat in the development of the provisional agenda, including the scope of documentation, for each Committee session.
- 10. The Bureau will give recommendations to the Committee to establish additional structures under the Committee as are deemed necessary to appropriately address and discuss specific issue areas within the broader area of trade and investment and for furtherance of the functions of the Committee and implement its decisions in these areas through the secretariat.
- 11. The Bureau will keep the Committee informed of all significant steps taken and proposed by the Bureau and, in the event of objections or differences, resolve matters through electronic communication.
- 12. The Bureau shall submit a report on its intersessional activities to each session of the Committee.
- 13. Between Committee sessions, the Bureau may decide to use a special approval process if waiting until the next Committee session would either make the decision irrelevant or delay the work unnecessarily. The intersessional approval process would be as follows:
  - (a) Distribution of the document by e-mail to heads of delegation;
- (b) A 30-day comment period, which any delegation may request to be extended for an additional 30 days (to allow for adequate consultation);
- (c) Approval will take place if no substantive objections are raised by a delegation (delegations must indicate whether or not they believe their objection to be substantive);
- (d) If a substantive objection is raised, the document/proposal must be submitted for consideration to the next session of the Committee.

#### C. Working methods

- 14. The Bureau shall hold consultations periodically, as needed, during the intersessional period. In principle, the Bureau would meet at least twice a year.
- 15. The functioning of the Bureau will have no budget implications for ESCAP.
- 16. In order for the Bureau to perform its role effectively, the Committee may advise the Bureau to consider pursuing the following in the intersessional period and to report to the Committee at its next session on the progress made:
- (a) Engage with, and provide technical support to, the other seven committees of ESCAP on any trade- and investment-related matters that may arise in the course of their work;
- (b) Propose common regional positions to the Committee regarding the negotiations, formulation, review and implementation of international frameworks and agreements in the area of trade and investment and related areas as and when appropriate;

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> This clause is taken from the revised guidelines and procedure for the Committee on Trade of UNECE; ECE/TRADE/C/2011/13, op. cit.

- (c) Review and analyse progress in intraregional trade and investment and regional cooperation mechanisms for promotion and development of inclusive and sustainable trade and investment and business in the Asian and Pacific region, and identify issues requiring the attention of member States in this area and other trade- and investment-related areas for consideration by the Committee;
- (d) Assist in the development of the strategic goals of the Committee and formulate regional action plans in trade and investment to engender inclusive and sustainable development, which would be implemented by ESCAP member States with support from the secretariat;
- (e) Facilitate the formulation of resolutions mandating work in the area of trade and investment and related areas that meet the needs and priorities of member States as well as implementation of these resolutions, both as regards the action required of the countries as well as that of the secretariat;
- (f) Provide the secretariat with guidance on coordination and collaboration with relevant regional and subregional entities and other members of the United Nations system and other international organizations concerning trade- and investment-related work in the Asian and Pacific region;
- (g) Identify, within the strategic framework and the programme of work, areas for technical assistance, training, education and research in the area of trade and investment, business and development, technology transfer and sustainable agricultural mechanization, in the Asian and Pacific region;
- (h) Give suggestions to the Governing Councils of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on the nature of and priorities in the work of these regional institutions within their respective mandates.

### D. Principles and procedures for the election of the Bureau of the Committee on Trade and Investment

- 17. All ESCAP members and associate members shall be eligible for membership in the Bureau of the Committee on Trade and Investment.
- 18. Members of the Bureau shall commit to devoting the time required for adequate discharge of their duties.
- 19. The election of the Bureau shall take place at the beginning of each session of the Committee.
- 20. The Bureau membership should, to the extent possible, reflect balanced subregional representation, gender balance and balance by substantive area (i.e. trade, investment, enterprise development).
- 21. The Bureau shall consist of a Chair, two Vice-Chairs and four other members, one of whom will act as the Rapporteur during the formal Committee session and bureau meetings.
- 22. The term of a Bureau member shall run from the beginning of a Committee session to the beginning of the following session.
- 23. If an elected member of the Bureau vacates a seat, a representative of the same country as the elected member will be co-opted for the remainder of his/her term. If the elected Chair leaves the Bureau, the remaining Bureau

members shall elect a new Chair from among the Vice-Chairs and the seat so vacated shall be filled by co-opting in the above manner.

#### 24. Possible re-election of Bureau members:

- (a) A member can be re-elected, but can only serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms, of two years each. Subsequent re-election is permitted after a break of at least one term of two years;
- (b) To ensure rotation and continuity, up to three members shall be re-elected at each session.

#### 25. Election procedure:

- (a) The election of the Bureau shall be a dedicated agenda item at the beginning (or end) of each regular session and the election shall be carried out on the basis of a proposal prepared by the outgoing Chair of the Bureau. The proposal should be prepared in consultation with all Committee members, in an appropriate manner, to maximize the chances of it being adopted by consensus;
- (b) The outgoing Chair should contact all Committee members (via e-mail or by other means), seeking their nominations to the Bureau, prior to making his or her proposal. If more than one member from a given subregion is interested in serving on the Bureau, the Chair should consult with all interested members before making a proposal;
- (c) Nominations shall be proposed to the Committee at the formal session and shall be seconded by two different Committee members who are not candidates for election to the Bureau. The proposal should consist of nominations for a Chair, two Vice-Chairs and four other members, one of whom will act as the Rapporteur during the formal session.