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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development

Third session

Bangkok, 1-3 December 2015

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
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8. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme.
9. Consideration of draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-second session.
10. Dates and venue of and provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Committee.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

Documentation

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

Annotation

The tentative programme for the opening of the session will be made available in due course.

2. Election of officers

Documentation

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

Annotation

A chair, vice-chair and rapporteur will be elected for the session.

3. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CMP(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. Rethinking economic growth strategies and policies to achieve sustainable development goals: the role of productivity

Documentation

Rethinking economic growth strategies and policies to achieve sustainable development goals: the role of productivity (E/ESCAP/CMP(3)/1)

Annotation

Developed economies of the world are still struggling to revive their economic growth after the global financial and economic crisis of 2008. As a result, the developing economies of Asia and the Pacific will have to look more to domestic and regional demand as future drivers of their growth and less to extraregional trade. However, economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region seems to have plateaued at just below 6 per cent, and it is unlikely that domestic and intraregional demand will grow sufficiently to counteract the lower extraregional demand. At the same time, world leaders are set to agree on new comprehensive sustainable development goals later this year.

Document E/ESCAP/CMP(3)/1 provides an update on the economic growth outlook for the region and a discussion of main macroeconomic challenges. Additionally, it contains an analysis of the relevance of increasing levels of productivity to achieving the proposed sustainable development

goals and to breaking out of the export-led model of growth, which is reaching its limits in fostering further development in the region, and moving towards a more inclusive and sustainable approach that is driven by domestic and regional demand.

Member countries may share their perspective with respect to the post-2015 development agenda in the context of slower economic growth. The Committee may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on policy suggestions for promoting inclusive growth.

5. Regional financial cooperation

Documentation

Regional financial cooperation: recent developments and the way forward (E/ESCAP/CMP(3)/2)

Annotation

It is increasingly recognized that regional financial cooperation is critical for the successful implementation of the proposed sustainable development goals in Asia and the Pacific. Although the region has significant savings, financial markets and domestic public resources need to be further developed to fund necessary investments in infrastructure, the social sector, disaster preparedness and climate change mitigation and adaptation to meet the sustainable development goals. Regional financial cooperation is particularly important to support sustainable development in the countries with special needs in the region.

Document E/ESCAP/CMP(3)/2 provides an overview of the current state of regional financial cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, a discussion of recent developments and suggestions for ways to further financial cooperation in the region.

Member countries may wish to share their views on issues raised in the document and provide the secretariat with guidance on further work in this area.

6. Countries with special needs

Documentation

Supporting the achievement of sustainable development goals in countries with special needs (E/ESCAP/CMP(3)/3)

Annotation

Out of the 58 Asia-Pacific economies, 36 are considered countries with special needs. These include least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Their economies are characterized by persistent structural challenges, including remoteness and isolation from international markets, insufficient investment in connectivity infrastructure, lack of sufficient opportunities for productive employment and export concentration on a small set of commodities, which make poverty reduction and inclusive growth more difficult to achieve.

Document E/ESCAP/CMP(3)/3 provides an overview of progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals, an evaluation of specific indicators pertaining to the three global programmes of action for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, namely the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, the Vienna Programme of Action and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and a preliminary discussion of the preparedness of these countries to implement the sustainable development goals.

Member countries may wish to share their views on issues raised in the document and provide guidance on further work in the identified areas.

7. Reducing poverty through sustainable agriculture

Documentation

Reducing poverty through sustainable agriculture (E/ESCAP/CMP(3)/4)

Annotation

Agricultural growth over the previous four decades has enabled millions of poor people to escape from hunger and poverty. There is a growing recognition of the potential of smallholder agriculture to increase agricultural production and raise rural incomes and thus contribute to helping efforts to ensure food security and alleviate poverty. Utilizing the full potential of smallholder agriculture, however, will require increasing the pace of innovations and transfer of agricultural technologies and increasing the use of economies of scale. It will also require improving (a) the efficiency of value chains and consolidation of supply channels, (b) communication between technology innovators and farmers, (c) public-private partnerships and (d) the efficiency of markets for technology.

Document E/ESCAP/CMP(3)/4 contains a description of key areas where improvements are desired and actions are needed to improve the efficiency of existing agricultural innovation systems and modalities for the transfer of knowledge and technology.

Member countries may wish to share their views on issues raised in the document and provide the secretariat with guidance on further work in this area.

8. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme

The Committee may wish to provide guidance on the focus of the short- and long-term work of the secretariat in the area of macroeconomic policy and inclusive development, taking into account the programme direction and priorities outlined in the strategic framework for 2016-2017, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/17. The Committee also may wish to provide guidance on how the outcome of its deliberations can be integrated into the planning for the strategic framework and programme of work for 2018-2019.

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

Member States will be invited to circulate, in advance, proposals and/or texts of draft resolutions on priority issues relating to macroeconomic

policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development for consideration by the Commission at its seventy-second session.

10. Dates and venue of and provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Committee

The Committee may wish to deliberate on the tentative dates and venue of and provisional agenda for its fourth session, to be held in 2017.

11. Other matters

The Committee may raise any matter not covered under the items mentioned above.

12. Adoption of the report

Documentation

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

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its third session for submission to the Commission at its seventy-second session.
