



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on the New ESCAP Subregional Offices
for East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia,
and South and South-West Asia

2-4 March 2010
Bangkok

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

**A. Overview of the role of the subregional offices in addressing
the priority needs of the subregions**

1. The meeting recommends a phased prioritization of the work of the subregional offices in order to ensure balanced and effective delivery of services to member States.
2. The meeting recommends that the work of the subregional offices be closely guided by ESCAP mandates. This could include periodic evaluation of the results of the work of the subregional offices, which would be carried out in relevant intergovernmental forums, including sessions of the Commission. Consultations with member States on budgetary considerations are an important step towards balancing the allocation of resources among the subregional offices.
3. In addition, the meeting recommends that the subregional offices avoid duplicating the work of other United Nations entities and partner organizations.
4. The meeting recommends that the subregional offices be placed in a position to strengthen studies of the subregions and that those studies be, to the extent possible, demand-driven.
5. The meeting recommends that ESCAP headquarters carry out coordination functions to facilitate interactions among the subregional offices and headquarters as well as other entities. The substantive divisions located at ESCAP headquarters could work closely with the subregional offices and monitor the relevant work areas to ensure that quality outputs are delivered.

**B. Role of the subregional office in addressing the priority needs
of East and North-East Asia**

6. The meeting recommends that the subregional office assist member States in the following priority areas:

- (a) Sustainable development, taking into account the green growth approach, and energy efficiency, including the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC);
- (b) Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management;
- (c) Poverty reduction, including food security;
- (d) Infrastructure, trade and transport facilitation, including connectivity.

7. Taking into consideration the fact that the subregion hosts three ESCAP regional institutes—the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), and the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM)—the meeting recommends that synergy should be built in order to avoid duplication of efforts. This approach would be relevant when engaging in collaborative activities with relevant United Nations agencies, intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other entities.

C. Role of the subregional office in addressing the priority needs of North and Central Asia

8. The meeting recommends that the subregional office assist member States in the following priority areas:

- (a) *Transport and trade facilitation*: developing better transport links, including Euro-Asian transport corridors; transit and transport cooperation, including improved border crossing; the introduction of trade facilitation measures; and the reduction of trade barriers;
- (b) *Water, energy and environment*: management of water and energy resources, protection of the environment and climate change adaptation.

D. Role of the subregional office in addressing the priority needs of South and South-West Asia

9. The meeting recommends that the subregional office assist member States in the following priority areas:

- (a) Gaps in the Millennium Development Goals (poverty and related areas);
- (b) Infrastructure development with a focus on transport; trade and transport facilitation, including connectivity;
- (c) Disaster risk reduction, including drought and earthquakes;
- (d) Energy and food security.

**E. Short- and medium-term work programmes for the subregional offices:
draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013**

10. The meeting expresses its general support for the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013¹ and requests that the secretariat inform the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission of the outcome of the meeting, in particular the priority programme areas identified for the three subregional offices under agenda item 4, to facilitate the further review of the draft strategic framework by ACPR, prior to its consideration by the Commission. In this regard, the meeting requests that the priority areas identified under that agenda item for each of the three subregions be aligned with the list of priority areas included in the respective expected accomplishments (a) under components 2, 3 and 4.

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¹ E/ESCAP/SRO/IGM/1/8.