



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

**SHORT- AND MEDIUM-TERM WORK PROGRAMMES FOR THE  
SUBREGIONAL OFFICES: DRAFT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK  
FOR THE BIENNIUM 2012-2013**

(Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda)

**DRAFT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE NEW ESCAP  
SUBREGIONAL OFFICES FOR THE BIENNIUM 2012-2013**

*Note by the secretariat*

**SUMMARY**

The Commission at its sixty-sixth session, in May 2010, will consider the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013, which presents the overall orientation of the programme of ESCAP and the results frameworks for its eight subprogrammes, including subprogramme 8, Subregional activities for development. The strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013, once approved by the General Assembly, will serve as the basis for developing the programme of work for the same period.

The meeting may wish to review the results frameworks and strategies for each of the three subregions, in the light of the outcome of the deliberations under item 4 of the agenda, and provide the secretariat with guidance.

**I. OVERALL ORIENTATION**

1. The mandate of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is to promote regional cooperation for inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, a dynamic region

\* Submission of the present document was delayed due to the need to submit it for review to the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission at its special session, which was held on 18 February 2010.

characterized by growing wealth, diversity and change, but also challenged with persistent poverty, environmental degradation, inequality and insecurity. The mandate is derived from Economic and Social Council resolutions 37 (IV) and 414 (XIII) by which the Commission was established. The role of the Commission was subsequently elaborated upon in various resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission itself. Most recently, in its resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure, the Commission further sharpened the focus of its intergovernmental machinery in order to more effectively address key issues pertaining to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the Asia-Pacific region.

2. Central to the strategy of the programme of work of ESCAP is the fostering of regional and subregional cooperation, including South-South cooperation. The subregional offices which have been established for East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia, South and South-West Asia, together with a strengthened office for the Pacific subregion, will enable ESCAP to provide better targeted and in-depth technical assistance to address the priorities of member States in the respective subregions.

## II. SUBPROGRAMME 8

### Subprogramme 8 Subregional activities for development

#### Component 1: subregional activities for development in the Pacific

**Objective of the Organization:** to better incorporate inclusive and sustainable development principles and practices in national planning and policy implementation processes in Pacific island developing countries

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased capacity of Pacific island governments to formulate and implement inclusive and sustainable development policies and practices	(a) Number of requests from Pacific island governments for policy advice on inclusive and sustainable development that are responded to by ESCAP and positively received
(b) Pacific island developing countries are better able to influence Asia-Pacific regional processes	(b) (i) Number of issues of concern to Pacific island countries that are addressed in ESCAP meetings, reviews and publications  (ii) Participation of Pacific island delegations in ESCAP meetings
(c) Regional cooperation mechanisms and institutional frameworks are strengthened in order to promote regional integration and equitable development	(c) Number of collaborative initiatives in regional integration and equitable development involving member States, civil society or other key development partners from the Pacific facilitated by ESCAP

**Component 2: subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia**

**Objective of the Organization:** to address effectively the priority areas of the East and North-East Asian subregion in the formulation and implementation of inclusive and sustainable development policies for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate and implement development policies and programmes, including those with a gender dimension, that address priority issues in East and North-East Asia, in particular in the areas of the environment, energy, infrastructure development and disaster risk reduction	(a) Increased percentage of participants who indicate that they found ESCAP activities relevant and useful in formulating and implementing policies and programmes, including those with a gender dimension, to address key priority areas in East and North-East Asia
(b) Strengthened knowledge sharing and partnerships among member States, civil society and other relevant development partners in order to address key priority areas in East and North-East Asia with the aim of supporting the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals	(b) (i) Percentage of member States indicating that collaboration on Millennium Development Goal achievement among member States, civil society and other relevant development partners in East and North-East Asia has increased  (ii) Increased number of partner institutions from East and North-East Asia participating in knowledge-sharing platforms that are facilitated by ESCAP

**Component 3: subregional activities for development in North and Central Asia**

**Objective of the Organization:** to address effectively the priority areas of the North and Central Asian subregion in the formulation and implementation of inclusive and sustainable development policies for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate and implement development policies and programmes, including those with a gender dimension, that address priority issues in North and Central Asia, in particular in the areas of energy, water, environment, transport, trade, gender equality, and statistics	(a) Increased percentage of participants who indicate that they found ESCAP activities relevant and useful in formulating and implementing policies and programmes, including those with a gender dimension, to address key priority areas in North and Central Asia

<p>(b) Strengthened knowledge sharing and partnerships among member States, civil society and other relevant development partners in order to address key priority areas in North and Central Asia with the aim of supporting the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals</p>	<p>(b) (i) Percentage of member States indicating that collaboration on Millennium Development Goal achievement among member States, civil society and other relevant development partners in North and Central Asia has increased</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of partner institutions from North and Central Asia participating in knowledge-sharing platforms that are managed by ESCAP</p>
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#### Component 4: subregional activities for development in South and South-West Asia

**Objective of the Organization:** to address effectively the priority areas of the South and South-West Asian subregion in the formulation and implementation of inclusive and sustainable development policies for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
<p>(a) Increased capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate and implement development policies and programmes, including those with a gender dimension, that address priority issues in South and South-West Asia, in particular in the areas of gender equality, poverty reduction, food security, trade, energy security, infrastructure development, connectivity, disaster risk reduction and environment</p>	<p>(a) Increased percentage of participants who indicate that they found ESCAP activities relevant and useful in formulating and implementing policies and programmes, including those with a gender dimension, to address key priority areas in South and South-West Asia</p>
<p>(b) Increased knowledge sharing and partnerships among member States, civil society and other relevant development partners in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in South and South-West Asia</p>	<p>(b) (i) Percentage of member States indicating that collaboration on Millennium Development Goal achievement among member States, civil society and other relevant development partners in South and South-West Asia has increased</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of partner institutions from South and South-West Asia participating in knowledge-sharing platforms that are managed by ESCAP</p>

**Component 5: subregional activities for development in South-East Asia**

**Objective of the Organization:** to address effectively the priority areas of the South-East Asian subregion in the formulation and implementation of inclusive and sustainable development policies for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate and implement development policies and programmes, including those with a gender dimension, that address priority issues in South-East Asia, including in the areas of early warning, disaster risk reduction and connectivity	(a) Increased percentage of participants who indicate that they found ESCAP activities relevant and useful in formulating and implementing policies and programmes, including those with a gender dimension, to address key priority areas in South-East Asia
(b) Strengthened partnerships, connectivity and knowledge sharing among member States, civil society and other relevant development partners in addressing key priority areas in South-East Asia in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals	(b) (i) Increased number of collaborative initiatives involving member States, civil society and other key development partners from South-East Asia facilitated by ESCAP  (ii) Increased number of partner institutions from South-East Asia participating in knowledge-sharing platforms that are managed by ESCAP

**Strategy**

3. The overall responsibility for coordinating the work of the subprogramme would lie with the Office of the Executive Secretary. Activities would be implemented by the ESCAP subregional offices for the Pacific, East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia, South and South-West Asia, and, for activities for the South-East Asian subregion, by the relevant substantive divisions at ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok. Internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Almaty Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States provide the mandates and strategic direction for the subprogramme. The subprogramme would also coordinate closely with the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

4. Given the vast coverage and diversity of the Asian and Pacific region, the subprogramme would strengthen the Commission's presence and strategic position at the subregional level, enabling better targeting and delivery of programmes that address specific key priorities of member States in the five subregions. The subprogramme would provide an important platform for strengthening regional cooperation on key economic and social development issues, ensuring that subregional needs and perspectives are reflected in the promotion of broader regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific.

5. The subprogramme would further operationalize the analytical and normative work of the Commission, supporting capacity development through technical cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, among ESCAP member States, and through the provision, on request, of advisory services. Emphasis would be placed on knowledge sharing and networking, including the dissemination of good practices for adaptation, experience sharing and replication. The subprogramme would collect data and produce subregional analyses on identified priority areas in order to ensure that the secretariat's knowledge products are characterized by greater depth and coverage.

6. Each component of the subprogramme reflects the specific needs of the relevant subregion within the context of the existing subregional cooperation frameworks and institutional landscape. In support of the implementation of the subprogramme, ESCAP would build strategic partnerships with other key intergovernmental institutions and development actors in the subregions, and develop and implement programmes in a coherent and coordinated manner in line with the efforts of the Organization to "deliver as one", utilizing the full assets of the United Nations development system at the subregional and national levels to bridge key development gaps.

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