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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005

28-29 March 2005
Seoul

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Conference

The Conference will be opened by a dignitary from the Government of the Republic of Korea. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP will deliver a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and make an opening statement. Statements will also be made by collaborating organizations: the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Asian Development Bank.

2. Election of officers

The Conference will elect a chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur to serve as the bureau.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The Conference will consider and adopt the provisional agenda.

4. Round table of major stakeholders

An interactive round table will be organized in order to start up the ministerial discussions on the theme of the Conference, "Achieving environmentally sustainable economic growth (Green Growth) in Asia and the Pacific". The round table will be composed of the representatives of major stakeholders and will deliberate on the following topics:

(1) How to improve environmental sustainability while pursuing economic growth.

(2) How to maximize the positive synergies between environment and economy and the role of the private sector.

The collaborating organizations and the representatives of associated events organized by civil society, the private sector, multi-stakeholders and the Eminent Scientists Symposium will make brief interventions on their perspectives on the suggested topics. Ministers and heads of delegations can engage in interactive dialogue with the panel.

The Executive Secretary will sum up the discussions of the round table.

5. Policy perspectives in the Asian and Pacific region

The Conference will review the state of the environment in the region and examine the traditional and emerging challenges to sustainable development, with a focus on achieving environmentally sustainable economic growth ("Green Growth").

The ministers or heads of delegations are invited to deliver their formal country policy statements, with a focus on their experiences, difficulties and strategies in pursuing environmentally sustainable economic growth ("Green Growth"). Representatives of United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental bodies will make brief statements on their role and plans in this process.

The Conference is expected not only to review the achievements and progress made thus far, but also to offer guidance on various issues and challenges in moving towards a new "Green Growth" paradigm, including concrete and practical measures to be taken at the national, subregional and regional levels, taking into consideration Agenda 21, the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the priority initiatives of the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific as included in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

6. Report of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials

The Conference will consider and adopt the report of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials. The report is expected to reflect the discussions on the state of the environment and development in the region and present the highlights of the deliberations on substantive issues and concerns raised.

7. Consideration and adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2006-2010, and the Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth: "Green Growth"

The Ministerial Declaration is expected to elaborate the vision for achieving environmentally sustainable economic growth ("Green Growth") and a strategy for a shift towards a new paradigm of "Green Growth" from the conventional "Grow First, Clean Up Later" paradigm. It will also show the commitment of the region to the pursuit of improved environmental sustainability and enhanced environmental performance as well as to the promotion of a win-win strategy for the synergy between

environment and economic growth. The Conference will consider the draft Declaration, as recommended by the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials, for adoption.

The Conference will review and adopt the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2006-2010, in line with the recommendations of the senior officials. The Regional Implementation Plan will elaborate on the policy measures to be taken in order to pursue the vision of the Ministerial Declaration. The Conference is expected to provide guidance on the implementation of the Plan in terms of the policy framework, initiatives and activities that may be adopted at the national, subregional and regional levels. It may also discuss ways and means of promoting regional cooperation and international support for its implementation.

The Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth: "Green Growth", as one of the regional follow-up initiatives of the 2005 Ministerial Conference, aims to promote green economic growth in the region through the dissemination and sharing of information, experience and lessons from concrete policy measures in pursuing the new paradigm of "Green Growth". The Seoul Initiative will identify and support priority actions and supportive measures which may promote environmentally sustainable economic growth and will aim to enable possible replication at the national, subregional and regional levels. The Conference will consider adoption of the Seoul Initiative as a regional initiative for implementation in the region with the participation of members and associate members of ESCAP.

8. Other matters

Any other matters to be raised by the representatives and/or the secretariat will be considered under this item.

9. Adoption of the report

The Conference will consider and adopt its report.

10. Closing of the Conference

Closing statements will be delivered.

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