



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific

### Sixth session

Astana, 27 September-2 October 2010

## Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development at its sixth session (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

### I. Provisional agenda

#### A. Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the Conference:
  - (a) Opening addresses;
  - (b) Election of officers;
  - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific: trends, challenges, opportunities and policy perspectives.
3. Review of implementation:
  - (a) The recommendations of the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (2005);
  - (b) The Seoul Initiative on Green Growth;
  - (c) The Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment.
4. In-depth review of critical environment and development challenges and response strategies in Asia and the Pacific.
5. Draft ministerial declaration.
6. Draft regional implementation plan for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015, and supportive initiatives.
7. Other matters.

8. Adoption of the report of the senior officials.

## **B. Ministerial segment**

9. Ministerial round table.
10. Policy perspectives in the Asian and Pacific region.
11. Consideration of the report of the senior officials.
12. Other matters.
13. Adoption of the ministerial declaration, the regional implementation plan for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015, supportive initiatives and the report of the Conference.
14. Closing of the Conference.

## **II. Annotations**

### **A. Senior officials segment**

#### **1. Opening of the Conference**

##### **(a) Opening addresses**

The Conference will be opened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. The inaugural address will be delivered by a representative of the host country, Kazakhstan.

##### **(b) Election of officers**

The Conference will elect a bureau, which will comprise a chairperson, several vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur.

##### **(c) Adoption of the agenda**

#### **Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/L.1)

The Conference will consider and adopt the annotated provisional agenda.

#### **2. Sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific: trends, challenges, opportunities and policy perspectives**

#### **Documentation**

Sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific: trends, challenges, opportunities and policy perspectives (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/1)

The Conference will review the rapid changes in the arena of environment and development in recent years, identify emerging challenges and opportunities, and discuss policy perspectives on achieving inclusive and sustainable

development in the region. To facilitate the review, the Conference will have before it a secretariat document (E/ESCAP/MCED/(6)/1) summarizing the key findings of the *State of Environmental Sustainability in Asia and the Pacific 2010*,<sup>1</sup> which presents relevant data and evidence and analyses the implications of a changing development context for informed policy- and decision-making.

The Conference may wish to consider the issues raised in the report and to reflect on priority actions to be incorporated in the draft ministerial declaration and the draft regional implementation plan for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015.

### **3. Review of implementation**

#### **(a) The recommendations of the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (2005)**

##### **Documentation**

Progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (2005) (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/2)

Document E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/2 provides a concise analysis of the implementation of the recommendations of the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific as a contribution to the implementation of international commitments related to sustainable development, including Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the recommendations of the fifth Ministerial Conference itself.

#### **(b) The Seoul Initiative on Green Growth**

##### **Documentation**

Progress in the implementation of the Seoul Initiative on Green Growth (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/3)

Document E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/3 analyses the implementation of the relevant outcomes of the Seoul Initiative on Green Growth, adopted by the fifth Ministerial Conference.

#### **(c) The Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment**

##### **Documentation**

Progress in the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/4)

Document E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/4 presents the achievements resulting from the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, which was adopted by the fourth Ministerial Conference (2000) and concluded its activities in February 2010.

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<sup>1</sup> ESCAP (United Nations publication, forthcoming).

The Conference may wish to review the progress made in the implementation of these regional commitments and initiatives and provide guidance on a future course of action, including the possible inclusion of priority issues in the draft regional implementation plan for consideration under item 5 of the provisional agenda.

**4. In-depth review of critical environment and development challenges and response strategies in Asia and the Pacific**

**Documentation**

Emerging challenges and trends in water resources management (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/5)

Emerging challenges and trends in energy resources management (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/6)

Emerging challenges in inclusive and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/MCED/(6)/7)

Investment in the sustainable management of natural resources: emerging opportunities and policies (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/8)

This agenda item will provide an opportunity for the Conference to undertake an in-depth review of critical issues confronting the region, as well as further deliberation on response strategies and measures for promoting inclusive and sustainable development. Four issue papers will analyse the scope for regional and international cooperation in: (a) water resources management; (b) energy resources management; (c) inclusive and sustainable urban development; and (d) investment in the sustainable management of natural resources. Cross-cutting issues—emerging trends and remaining gaps in terms of capacity-building, financing and investment, and technology development, transfer and deployment—will also be analysed.

The Conference may wish to consider the issues raised in these documents and to develop effective strategies and concerted actions that will be incorporated into the draft ministerial declaration and the draft regional implementation plan for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015.

**5. Draft ministerial declaration**

**Documentation**

Draft ministerial declaration (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/WP.1)

A draft ministerial declaration will be submitted for review by the senior officials before submission to the ministerial segment of the Conference.

The draft ministerial declaration under consideration will reaffirm the commitment of ESCAP members and associate members to achieving sustainable development. The declaration will also demonstrate the commitment of the countries of the region to pursuing environmentally sustainable development.

**6. Draft regional implementation plan for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015, and supportive initiatives**

**Documentation**

Draft regional implementation plan for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015 (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/WP.2)

Under this agenda item, the Conference will review and discuss the draft regional implementation plan for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015 (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/WP.2), which is intended to provide a focused and concrete framework for action aimed at bolstering efforts to achieve sustainable development.

The modalities for implementing the regional implementation plan, such as regional cooperation, the financing of technology transfer, fiscal reform, and the monitoring and review of the plan, are highlighted in the draft. ESCAP, together with partner United Nations bodies and agencies and other international, regional and subregional organizations, would be called upon to collaborate and to facilitate implementation of the plan and associated initiatives, in partnership with Governments, civil society and the private sector.

The senior officials will consider and finalize the draft regional implementation plan for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015 and recommend it for adoption by the ministers.

**7. Other matters**

The Conference may consider other matters raised by the senior officials and/or the secretariat.

**8. Adoption of the report of the senior officials**

**Documentation**

Draft report of the senior officials (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/WP.3)

The senior officials will consider and adopt a report for consideration by the ministers (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/WP.3).

**B. Ministerial segment**

**9. Ministerial round table**

An interactive round table will be organized in order to initiate ministerial discussions on measures to address critical challenges related to sustainable development in the region and the views of the ministers regarding the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which is scheduled to be held in Brazil in 2012.<sup>2</sup> The collaborating organizations and representatives of selected organizers of side events will make brief interventions giving their perspectives on the topics under discussion. Ministers and heads of delegations will be able to engage in interactive dialogue with the panel. The Executive Secretary will sum up the discussions of the round table.

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution 64/236 of 24 December 2009, paras. 20-29.

**10. Policy perspectives in the Asian and Pacific region**

This agenda item will provide an opportunity for the ministers to share their perspectives on the emerging and persistent challenges to sustainable development. Ministers and heads of delegations are invited to deliver their formal country policy statements outlining their perspectives on national, subregional and regional sustainable development challenges, their achievements, and their strategic and policy approaches. The Conference may also wish to offer guidance on 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 preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

**11. Consideration of the report of the senior officials**

The Conference will consider the report of the senior officials (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/9), which is expected to include the revised texts of the draft ministerial declaration and the draft regional implementation plan, both of which will reflect the discussions on trends, challenges, opportunities and policy perspectives related to sustainable development in the region, on progress in the implementation of the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2006-2010, and on the in-depth review of critical environment and development challenges and response strategies in the region. The report will also present the highlights of the deliberations on substantive issues and the concerns raised.

**12. Other matters**

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

**13. Adoption of the ministerial declaration, the regional implementation plan for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015, supportive initiatives and the report of the Conference**

The Conference will consider for adoption the draft ministerial declaration and the draft regional implementation plan for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015, as contained in the report of the senior officials (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/9). The ministerial declaration is meant to reaffirm the commitment of ESCAP members and associate members to achieving sustainable development, while the regional implementation plan is meant to elaborate on the policy measures to be taken in order to pursue the vision articulated in the declaration. The Conference will also consider supportive initiatives designed to facilitate action on the regional implementation plan. The Conference will subsequently consider for adoption the draft report (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/L.2).

**14. Closing of the Conference**

Closing statements will be delivered.

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