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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

**Report of the sixth Ministerial Conference on  
Environment and Development****I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or  
brought to its attention**

1. The sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific adopted the following outcome documents: Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2010 (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/11);<sup>1</sup> Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015 (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/12);<sup>2</sup> and the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/13).<sup>3</sup>

**II. Proceedings of the Conference****A. Ministerial round table: Building bridges for Low Carbon Green  
Growth: Developing One Regional Voice in Preparation for the  
Sustainable Development Summit, Brazil, 2012**

(Agenda item 4)

2. The round table featured eminent speakers, such as H.E. Ms. Khempheng Pholsena, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, H.E. Mr. Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi, Minister of Environment of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Lee Maanee, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea, and H.E. Mr. Nickel Lee Hang, Minister of Finance of Samoa. It was moderated by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who, in her opening remarks, emphasized the fact that

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<sup>1</sup> See paragraph 9.

<sup>2</sup> See paragraph 10.

<sup>3</sup> See paragraph 11.

disparities remained despite economic progress in many countries of the region, and some countries were not on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, signs that changes in the approach to development were required. H.E. Mr. Karim Kazhymkanovich Massimov, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, pointed out that climate change was one of the most significant challenges for all countries, and that many were revising traditional development policies. The Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan was highlighted, as was the need for regional cooperation to achieve sustainable development.

3. During the course of the discussion, the Vice-Chairman of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the following delegations took the floor: Iran (Islamic Republic of) Samoa<sup>4</sup> and Timor-Leste.

4. The discussions centred on national programmes of sustainable development and on mainstreaming environmental concerns into national development policies and expressed interest in developing a stronger voice for Asia and the Pacific.

## **B. Policy perspectives in the Asian and the Pacific region**

(Agenda item 5)

5. The following delegations took the floor: Afghanistan; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Fiji; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kiribati;<sup>5</sup> Kyrgyzstan; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Maldives; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Republic of Korea; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Turkmenistan; and Uzbekistan. The following organizations also addressed the meeting: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

## **C. The multi-stakeholder round table on “the pursuit of inclusive and sustainable development – engaging stakeholders”**

6. The multi-stakeholder round table on the theme “the pursuit of inclusive and sustainable development – engaging stakeholders” was moderated by Mr. Rae Kwon Chung, Director of the Environment and Development Division of ESCAP and featured representatives of side and parallel events held during the Conference. The panellists were H.E. Ms. Bakhyt Sultanov, Special Economic Advisor to the President of Kazakhstan; Ms. Nicola Steuer, Programme Director, New Economics Foundation; Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Director of Strategic Resource Mobilization, UNEP, representing the Rio+20 preparatory process; Mr. Masanori Kobayashi, Senior Coordinator APFED, IGES; Mr. Thomas Schneider, Chief Executive Officer and President of ISA Industrial Ltd.; Mr. Daniele Ponzi, Lead Environment Specialist, ADB; Mr. Young-Woo Park, Director and Representative, UNEP/ROAP; and Dr. Marta Bonifert, Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Center (REC) for Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). Those events provided a unique platform for wide stakeholder discussions and deliberations on the main themes of the Conference and resulted in constructive recommendations to

<sup>4</sup> On behalf of Pacific small island developing States.

<sup>5</sup> On behalf of Pacific small island developing States.

policymakers on the way forward to advancing the green growth and sustainable development agendas in the Asian and Pacific region. The summary of the conclusions and recommendations was distributed at the Conference and would be posted on the website of ESCAP.

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

(Agenda item 6)

7. The Conference endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the senior officials (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/9).

**E. Other matters**

(Agenda item 7)

8. The Conference noted that various side and parallel events had been held.

**F. 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**

(Agenda item 8)

9. The Conference adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2010 (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/11).

10. The Conference also adopted the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015 (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/12). It recommended that appropriate steps be taken to implement the Plan at the regional, subregional and national levels, noting that the Plan should also provide guidance to the ESCAP, its partners, and other interested parties in providing support for countries in the region.

11. The Conference welcomed and endorsed the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan (E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/13) as an outcome of the Conference. The Conference called on the international donor community and the private sector to support the implementation of the Initiative. It also requested the secretariat to take the necessary action to support its implementation as an interregional initiative.

12. The Conference also requested that ESCAP assist the countries of the region by providing technical assistance in the execution of the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015, and national environmental strategies and action. It emphasized that regional and subregional cooperation would be required to identify and share appropriate and tested policy solutions and would complement the efforts of member countries.

13. In the light of the significance of the challenges faced by the region and the role of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific as a forum for constructive dialogue and for formulating specific follow-up related to those challenges, the Conference requested the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to convene the seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2015, pursuant to paragraph 6 of the Ministerial

Declaration. At that meeting, the final review report on the implementation of the Regional Implementation Plan should be submitted.

14. The sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific adopted the present report on 2 October 2010.

### **III. Organization of the Conference**

#### **A. Opening, duration and organization**

15. The Meeting was opened by H.E. Mr. Karim Kazhymkanovich Massimov, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan.

16. The special message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Conference was delivered by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. In his statement, the Secretary-General noted the significant growth rates of economies in the Asian and Pacific region despite the Asian financial crisis of 1997 and the recent triple (food, fuel and financial) crisis. The Secretary-General pointed out, however, that more work was needed to assist the hundreds of millions of people who still lived in poverty, without access to water, sanitation, health or education. He stressed that development and environment needed to be addressed simultaneously and praised countries that had taken steps to implement green growth approaches since the Conference's previous session, in 2005. He expressed the hope that, at the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the Asian and Pacific region could show the way for developing countries all over the world and usher in a new era of sustainable development.

17. In her opening remarks, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP expressed gratitude to the Government of Kazakhstan for generously hosting the Conference and for the excellent hospitality shown. Highlighting that the Conference had gathered a record number of ministers, she proceeded to underline some of the region's challenges with respect to poverty, inequality, access to water, electricity and sanitation, urban development and natural disasters. To respond to those challenges, she said, the region needed to depart from the development path of growing first and cleaning up later. Changes needed to be made to both physical infrastructure and the socio-economic underpinnings of the economy. The Executive Secretary highlighted the strong political support and mutually supportive partnerships that were needed to achieve that transformation. She noted that the ESCAP secretariat could assist member States by documenting and transferring concrete policies, undertaking research and developing national and regional road maps.

18. The Prime Minister of Kazakhstan extended a warm welcome to participants in the Conference, which he noted was an important forum for Kazakhstan and for the whole region. Noting the efforts by his Government to promote international, in particular regional and interregional, cooperation in the area of sustainable development, he informed the Conference of the forthcoming summit of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, which would be held in Astana in 2011. He highlighted the great importance of strengthening Eurasian cooperation, bearing in mind common environmental challenges in both regions. In that regard, he highlighted the Zhasyl Damu "green development" initiative being

implemented in his country. The Prime Minister expressed his wishes for a successful Conference.

## **B. Attendance**

19. The Ministerial Conference was attended by the following members and associate members of ESCAP: Afghanistan; Armenia, Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China, Fiji; Georgia; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; United States of America; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam.

20. Observers from the Czech Republic, Germany and Switzerland were present.

21. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies also attended: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; World Health Organization; and World Meteorological Organization.

22. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended: Asian Development Bank; European Union; and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

23. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, other entities and observers also attended: Society for Conservation and Protection of Environment; Global Green Growth Institute; Institute for Global Environmental Strategies; Commonwealth of Independent States; and Eurasian Economic Community Secretariat of the Integration Committee.

## **C. Election of officers**

24. The Conference elected the following officers:

- (a) Chairperson:  
H.E. Ms. Eldana Sadvakassova (Kazakhstan)
- (b) Vice-Chairpersons:  
H.E. Mr. Novruz Guliyev (Azerbaijan)  
H.E. Mr. Mohammed Hasan Mahmud (Bangladesh)  
H.E. Mr. Pema Gyamtsho (Bhutan)  
H.E. Mr. Pehin Dato Suyoi Haji Osman (Brunei Darussalam)  
H.E. Mr. Khong Sam Nuon (Cambodia)  
H.E. Mr. Ilyas Asaad (Indonesia)  
H.E. Mr. Muhammad Javad Mohammadi Zadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran)  
H.E. Mr. Reza Maknoon (Islamic Republic of Iran)  
H.E. Mr. Ghorban Seifi (Islamic Republic of Iran)  
H.E. Mr. Hikaru Kobayashi (Japan)  
H.E. Mr. Natan Teewe (Kiribati)

H.E. Ms. Khempheng Pholsena (Lao People's Democratic Republic)  
H.E. Mr. Aslam Mohamed Shakir (Maldives)  
H.E. Mr. Akram Kamaludeen (Maldives)  
H.E. Mr. Mattlan Zackhras (Marshall Islands)  
H.E. Mr. Luvsandash Zorig (Mongolia)  
H.E. Mr. Luvsandoo Dashpurev (Mongolia)  
H.E. Mr. Min Thein (Myanmar)  
H.E. Mr. Riddel Akua (Nauru)  
H.E. Mr. Dominic Tabuna (Nauru)  
H.E. Mr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota (Nepal)  
H.E. Mr. Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi (Pakistan)  
H.E. Ms. Margarita Songco (Philippines)  
H.E. Mr. Lee Maanee (Republic Korea)  
H.E. Mr. Mikhail N. Bocharnikov (Russian Federation)  
H.E. Mr. Nickel Lee Hang (Samoa)  
H.E. Mr. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa Appuhamillage (Sri Lanka)  
H.E. Mr. Chalernpol Thanchitt (Thailand)  
H.E. Mr. Rui Manuel Hanjam (Timor-Leste)  
H.E. Mr. Abilio de Deus de Jesus Lima (Timor-Leste)  
H.E. Mr. Francisco da Costa Soares (Timor-Leste)  
H.E. Mr. Makhtumkuli Akmuradov (Turkmenistan)  
H.E. Mr. Aunese Makoi Simati (Tuvalu)  
H.E. Mr. Paul Telukluk (Vanuatu)  
H.E. Mr. Bui Cach Tuyen (Viet Nam)

- (c) Rapporteur:  
Mr. Mohammed Shaheduzzaman, Bangladesh

#### **D. Agenda**

25. The Conference adopted the following agenda:
1. Opening of the Conference.
  2. Election of officers.
  3. Adoption of the agenda.
  4. Ministerial round table.
  5. Policy perspectives in the Asian and Pacific region.
  6. Consideration of the report of the senior officials.
  7. Other matters.
  8. 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.
  9. Closing of the Conference.

## Annex

### List of documents

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E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/4 and Corr.1	Review of the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment	3c
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