



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Fifty-ninth session (phase II)
1-4 September 2003
Bangkok

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. *Opening of the session*

(a) *Opening addresses*

The detailed programme for the opening ceremony will be announced in due course.

(b) *Election of officers*

Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Commission provides as follows: "The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election." If the plenary so decides, the rule may be applied differently to enable the Commission to elect more than two Vice-Chairpersons, as has been done at previous sessions, in which case the Commission may elect a bureau of officers comprising a Chairperson and several Vice-Chairpersons.

The plenary will elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission as well as a bureau of officers for the two committees of the whole and a working group on draft resolutions.

Special note:

Most pre-session documents issued for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, originally scheduled for 24-30 April 2003, remain valid, with the exception of the dates for the second phase of the session and the agenda items under which the documents are to be reviewed and discussed. For ease of reference, a list of documents for the second phase (showing the agenda item, the title of each document and its symbol) is annexed to this paper. All documents can be downloaded from the ESCAP web site at < www.unescap.org >.

(c) *Adoption of the agenda*

- Provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/L.153)
- Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/L.154)

Since the first phase of the Commission session, held on 24 and 25 April 2003, dealt mainly with programme and management matters, the second phase will consider the rest of the original provisional agenda contained in document E/ESCAP/L.151. The Commission will be invited to adopt the agenda of the second phase contained in document E/ESCAP/L.153.

2. *Policy issues for the ESCAP region*

(a) *Implications of recent economic and social developments*

- Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues (E/ESCAP/1266/Rev.1)

Under agenda item 2 (a), the Commission will have before it a report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues (E/ESCAP/1266/Rev.1), which draws on materials contained in the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2003*. The report reviews recent macroeconomic and other developments in the world economy and their implications for the region. It analyses trends in regional economic performance and prospects for the future. The underlying policy initiatives are examined and options to deal with the emerging economic problems and longer-term challenges are suggested.

The report analyses issues related to the environment-poverty nexus. The nature and importance of the interlinkages in the context of the countries of Asia and the Pacific are brought out. Policy options for simultaneously reducing poverty and improving the environment are reviewed and suggestions made for strengthening the implementation of the policies. The report also makes an attempt to evaluate the role of public expenditure in the provision of education and health services in countries of the region. Key policy issues relevant to expanding resources for education and health and improving their effectiveness are discussed.

(b) *Integrating economic and social concerns, especially HIV/AIDS, in meeting the needs of the region*

- Integrating economic and social concerns, especially HIV/AIDS, in meeting the needs of the region (E/ESCAP/1267)

The Commission will have before it document E/ESCAP/1267. The document examines the current and prospective trends and impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the Asian and Pacific region.

Overall economic and social concerns are covered, with an emphasis on investment in
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health for economic and social development. The document considers HIV/AIDS as an emerging development challenge. It discusses the costs of inaction, as well as resource needs and availability.

Furthermore, it underscores the need for an immediate, expanded and comprehensive response to help to prevent the number of people living with HIV/AIDS from soaring. Choices proposed for tackling the pandemic as a development issue highlight the cost-effectiveness of prevention, especially among youth, with special attention to drawing on good practices to strengthen the policy environment, resource generation and flow, institutional mechanisms and government processes.

3. *Management issues*

- (a) *Implementation of Commission resolution 58/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission*
 - Implementation of Commission resolution 58/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1283 and Corr.1)

Document E/ESCAP/1283 is in two parts. The first part presents a brief report on the implementation of the revised conference structure during the transitional period after the adoption of Commission resolution 58/1 in May 2002. The second part contains a report on the various innovative ways that have been explored, including possible changes to the format of Commission sessions, to bring about greater ministerial participation and more active exchanges among representatives at sessions of the Commission, as requested in paragraph 4 of the resolution. The Commission is invited to take action based upon the recommendations contained in the report.

- (b) *Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission*
 - Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1288 and Add.1 and 2)

Documents E/ESCAP/1288 and Add.1 and 2 contain the report of ACPR covering the period since the fifty-eighth session of the Commission (up to August 2003). ACPR has continued to provide valuable advice to the Executive Secretary on programme planning, implementation and monitoring, as well as on other work-related matters, including measures to improve Commission sessions. The Commission is invited to take note of the report and give further guidance to ACPR.

- (c) *Outcome of the evaluation of the regional institutions and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre*

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- Outcome of the evaluation of regional institutions (APCTT, SIAP and CGPRT Centre) (E/ESCAP/1299)
- Outcome of the evaluation of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (E/ESCAP/1300)
- Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/1278)
- Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/1270)
- Report of the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/1272)

Under this agenda item, the Commission will review the findings of the evaluations conducted by four independent evaluators of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre and the following regional institutions: (a) APCTT; (b) the CGPRT Centre; and (c) SIAP. The objectives of the evaluation exercise, which was conducted as part of the ESCAP revitalization, were to review the operational, institutional and programming needs of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre and the three regional institutions. Three main issues were considered in the evaluations, namely, the relevance, performance and sustainability of the institutions. The Commission is invited to review the outcome of the evaluations with a view to providing guidance on the future needs of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre and the respective regional institutions.

Document E/ESCAP/1278 provides a brief review of the major activities undertaken by the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology since the fifty-eighth session of the Commission. It also contains the major recommendations made by the Governing Board of the Centre at its seventeenth session, held in October-November 2002. It focuses on measures required to further strengthen the institutional base of the Centre and the activities in its five thrust areas: technology transfer support services for small and medium-sized enterprises; capacity-building in technology management and innovation; the provision of information on environmentally sound technologies and management; emerging technologies (such as information and communication technology, biotechnology and nanotechnology); and women's entrepreneurship development.

The Governing Board of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific held its eighth session at Chiba, Japan, on 30 and 31 October 2002. Document E/ESCAP/1270 includes the annual report of the Governing Board to the Commission on the implementation of the Institute's programmes since the fifty-eighth session of the Commission and provides information pertaining to statistical training and other developments at the Institute. The Commission may wish to comment on the document and provide guidance for the future work of the Institute, taking into account the subsequent evaluation reported in E/ESCAP/1299.

Document E/ESCAP/1272 contains a report on substantive and organizational issues relating to the programmes and plans of the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of

Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may wish to comment on the document and provide guidance for the future work of the Centre.

4. *Theme topic for the sixtieth session of the Commission*

- Theme topic for the sixtieth session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1301)

At the first phase of its fifty-ninth session, the Commission welcomed the generous offer by the Government of China to host the sixtieth session of the Commission and decided that it should be held at Shanghai in April 2004. The Commission also agreed that the theme topic for the sixtieth session would be "Meeting the challenges in an era of rapid globalization by strengthening regional development cooperation", subject to a final decision during the second phase of the fifty-ninth session. Document E/ESCAP/1301 reports on the matter in greater detail. The Commission is invited to make a final decision on the theme topic for its sixtieth session.

5. *Emerging issues and developments at the regional level*

(a) *Poverty reduction*

- Poverty reduction: developments, issues and strategies (E/ESCAP/1268/Rev.1)
- Report of the Committee on Statistics on its thirteenth session (E/ESCAP/1269)

The secretariat will prepare a synthesis paper for discussion under this agenda item (E/ESCAP/1268/Rev.1). The paper will highlight key issues relating to poverty in the region and the secretariat's strategy to assist the members in enhancing the pace of poverty reduction and will draw on the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Statistics at its thirteenth session. Activities undertaken in connection with the implementation of Commission resolution 58/2 of 22 May 2002 on poverty reduction for sustainable development will also be reported.

The Commission will have before it the report of the Committee on Statistics on its thirteenth session, held at Bangkok from 27 to 29 November 2002 (E/ESCAP/1269). The report covers priority issues in the fields of statistics as discussed by the Committee. These include statistical indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, poverty statistics, gender statistics, the non-observed economy, the International Comparison Programme, measuring the knowledge-based economy and statistical capacity-building. The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the Committee's conclusions and recommendations.

(b) *Managing globalization*

- Regional developments and issues (E/ESCAP/1273)

- Progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of managing globalization (E/ESCAP/1297)
- Report of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development on its fourth session (E/ESCAP/1274)
- Report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development on its fourth session (E/ESCAP/1275)
- Report on the regional follow-up to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (E/ESCAP/1302)
- Report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its fourteenth meeting (E/ESCAP/1276)
- Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (E/ESCAP/1277/Rev.1)

For its discussion under this agenda item, the Commission will have before it a synthesis paper prepared by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1273) which provides a brief overview of national and regional developments in addressing the challenges of globalization in the areas of trade and investment, transport and tourism, information, communication and space technologies and environment and sustainable development. It also focuses attention on selected cross-cutting issues and related opportunities and challenges. It presents some important substantive issues and modalities for the Commission's consideration and direction to the Committee on Managing Globalization.

The Commission will also have before it a document prepared by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1297) reporting on the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of managing globalization that must be reported on at the fifty-ninth session.

The Commission will have before it the report of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development on its fourth session, held at Bangkok from 13 to 15 November 2002 (E/ESCAP/1274). The report highlights the Committee's deliberations and recommendations on the implementation of phase II of the Regional Action Programme (2002-2006) of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, particularly in relation to Asian land transport infrastructure development and the integration and facilitation of transport in the ESCAP region. The report also incorporates the Committee's deliberations and recommendations on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region, including the networking of tourism training institutes. The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the Committee's conclusions and recommendations. It may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on implementing the recommendations and call upon members to participate actively in the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan and the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the Committee on Environment and
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Natural Resources Development on its fourth session, held at Bangkok from 19 to 21 November 2002 (E/ESCAP/1275). The report highlights the Committee's deliberations and recommendations on regional implications of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and regional implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Summit relating to water and energy resources. The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the Committee's conclusions and recommendations. It may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on implementing the recommendations and call upon member countries to participate actively in the regional follow-up to the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit.

At its eleventh session, held in New York from 28 April to 9 May 2003, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) deliberated on its functions and work plan. Inter alia, it reviewed the initiatives and steps taken by the regional commissions, as presented at the regional implementation forums organized within the framework of the high-level segment of the session. Among its various decisions, the Commission has invited the regional commissions to consider organizing regional implementation meetings and provide inputs to the CSD process. The purpose of document E/ESCAP/1302 is to inform the Commission of the latest developments in the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and seek its guidance on the active involvement of ESCAP in the CSD process, especially in organizing regional implementation meetings as well as preparing and contributing regional inputs to CSD sessions in partnership with Governments, other United Nations bodies and agencies, subregional organizations and other stakeholders.

The Commission will have before it the report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its fourteenth meeting, held at Bangkok from 2 to 4 December 2002 (E/ESCAP/1276). The report contains the Steering Group's conclusions and recommendations on the following issues: (a) trade and investment in South Asia and the Islamic Republic of Iran: issues and policies at the national and subregional levels; (b) intrasubregional and interregional cooperation for enhanced trade and investment flows within the context of the development of South Asia and the Islamic Republic of Iran; and (c) private enterprise development for export promotion. The Commission may wish to consider and endorse the conclusions and recommendations of the Steering Group.

Document E/ESCAP/1277/Rev.1 deals with the progress made on the hosting of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery at Beijing. The document also contains the outcome of the first session of the Governing Board of the Centre and draws attention to actions requiring the attention and decision of the Commission.

(c) *Emerging social issues*

- Emerging social issues: trends and approaches: the rights-based approach to social development (E/ESCAP/1279)

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- Report of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (E/ESCAP/1271 and Corr.1)
- Shanghai Implementation Strategy: Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 and the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific 1999 (E/ESCAP/1280)
- Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 (E/ESCAP/1281)

The Commission will have before it a synthesis paper prepared by the secretariat for discussion under this item (E/ESCAP/1279), which highlights the increasing emphasis on a rights-based approach that Governments are giving to social development issues, particularly with respect to vulnerable groups. These groups include people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons and persons with disabilities. The rights-based approach is also integral to developing policies and programmes for gender equality and the empowerment of women, and for population and development. The paper also presents information on the implementation of the various Commission resolutions related to social development issues.

The Commission will have before it the report of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held at Bangkok from 11 to 17 December 2002 (E/ESCAP/1271 and Corr.1). The report highlights the Conference's deliberations and recommendations on (a) reviewing the population and development situation with a particular focus on population-poverty linkages, (b) assessing the status of implementation and realization of the goals contained in the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, focusing particularly on reproductive health and gender equality, and the Millennium Declaration, (c) identifying emerging and priority issues, such as ageing, the impact of HIV/AIDS and migration, and (d) adopting a set of recommendations to further strengthen population programmes and thereby contribute to the reduction of poverty in the Asian and Pacific region. Under this item, the Commission is invited to review the report as it relates to the theme of emerging social issues and may wish to decide on matters calling for action or brought to its attention with regard to the issues dealt with.

Document E/ESCAP/1280 contains the Shanghai Implementation Strategy: Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 and the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific 1999, which was adopted by the Asia-Pacific Seminar on Regional Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held at Shanghai, China, from 23 to 26 September 2002. The Shanghai Implementation Strategy is presented to the Commission for endorsement.

The report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, held at Otsu City, Shiga, Japan, from 25 to 28 October 2002

(E/ESCAP/1281), reflecting the adoption of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, will be presented to the Commission for endorsement.

6. *Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries*

- Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its sixth session (E/ESCAP/1303)

Document E/ESCAP/1303 will contain the report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its sixth session, to be held at Bangkok on 1 and 2 September 2003. The Special Body will (a) hear an oral report on the outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, scheduled to be held at Almaty on 28 and 29 August 2003, and (b) consider the implications of the post-Doha trade agenda for the integration of the least developed countries into the global economic system. A report on the Commission's activities in the least developed and landlocked developing countries will also be submitted to the Special Body. The Commission may wish to endorse the recommendations contained in the report of the Special Body.

An oral report will be made on the secretariat structure for implementing activities for the benefit of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as ongoing activities for Pacific island developing countries.

7. *Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies*

- Report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre (E/ESCAP/1290)
- Report of the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (E/ESCAP/1291/Rev.1)
- Report of the Mekong River Commission (E/ESCAP/1292)
- Report of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/1293)
- Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/1294)

The Executive Secretary will transmit the above-mentioned reports for information. The Commission may wish to take note of them.

8. *Other matters*

The Commission may wish to consider any other matter that may be brought to its attention.

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9. *Adoption of the report of the Commission*

The Commission will consider and adopt its report and resolutions.

Annex

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION (phase II)**

Agenda item	Title	Symbol
1(c)	- Provisional agenda - Annotated provisional agenda	E/ESCAP/L.153 E/ESCAP/L.154
2(a)	Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues	E/ESCAP/1266/Rev.1
2(b)	Integrating economic and social concerns, especially HIV/AIDS, in meeting the needs of the region	E/ESCAP/1267
3(a)	Implementation of Commission resolution 58/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission	E/ESCAP/1283 and Corr. 1
3(b)	Report of ACPR	E/ESCAP/1288 and Add.1 and 2
3(c)	- Outcome of the evaluation of regional institutions (APCTT, SIAP and CGPRT Centre) - Outcome of the evaluation of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre - Report on APCTT - Report on SIAP - Report of the CGPRT Centre	E/ESCAP/1299 E/ESCAP/1300 E/ESCAP/1278 E/ESCAP/1270 E/ESCAP/1272
4	Theme topic for the sixtieth session of the Commission	E/ESCAP/1301
5(a)	- Poverty reduction: developments, issues and strategies - Report of the Committee on Statistics on its thirteenth session	E/ESCAP/1268/Rev.1 E/ESCAP/1269
5(b)	- Regional developments and issues - Progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of managing globalization - Report of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development on its fourth session - Report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development on its fourth session - Report on the regional follow-up to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development	E/ESCAP/1273 E/ESCAP/1297 E/ESCAP/1274 E/ESCAP/1275 E/ESCAP/1302

Agenda item	Title	Symbol
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its fourteenth meeting - Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery 	<p>E/ESCAP/1276</p> <p>E/ESCAP/1277/Rev.1</p>
5(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emerging social issues: trends and approaches: the rights-based approach to social development - Report of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference - Shanghai Implementation Strategy: Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 and the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific 1999 - Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 	<p>E/ESCAP/1279</p> <p>E/ESCAP/1271 and Corr.1</p> <p>E/ESCAP/1280</p> <p>E/ESCAP/1281</p>
6	Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its sixth session	E/ESCAP/1303
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre - Report of CCOP - Report of the Mekong River Commission - Report of the Typhoon Committee - Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones 	<p>E/ESCAP/1290</p> <p>E/ESCAP/1291/Rev.1</p> <p>E/ESCAP/1292</p> <p>E/ESCAP/1293</p> <p>E/ESCAP/1294</p>

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