ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Managing Globalization

Fourth session, Part II
19-21 November 2007
Bangkok

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1.   Opening of the session

The programme for the opening of the session will be announced in due course.

2.   Election of officers

A chairperson, vice-chairperson(s) and rapporteur will be elected for the session.

3.   Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CMG(4/II)/L.1) will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as are deemed necessary.

4.   Consideration of issues relevant to environment and sustainable development

The Committee will review selected issues with respect to the environment and sustainable development and provide direction to the secretariat on further pursuit of those issues.

(a)   Asia-Pacific approaches to addressing climate change

Document E/ESCAP/CMG(4/II)/1 reviews possible impacts of climate change on economic growth in the region and explores mitigation and adaptation strategies for addressing climate change, including those that can promote environmentally sustainable economic growth. The document also identifies (a) policy options that link energy security with climate change action and (b) innovative mechanisms for enabling developing countries to participate proactively in the post-Kyoto climate change regime.

(b)   Status of, opportunities for and challenges to sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

Document E/ESCAP/CMG(4/II)/2 reviews the status of, opportunities for and challenges to sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific in following up the results of the Ministerial

Conference on Environment and Development, held in 2005. The document identifies issues addressed by activities that have been implemented by the secretariat to promote environmentally sustainable economic growth ("green growth"). They include (a) eco-taxation, eco-efficiency indicators, sustainable infrastructure, sustainable production and consumption patterns, and "green business"; (b) regional cooperation, including the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, the North-East Asia Subregional Programme on Environmental Cooperation, the Intergovernmental Collaborative Mechanism on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia, a trans-Asian energy system, and the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia; (c) other issues concerning environmental sustainability in the region as well as sustainable development of energy and water resources; and (d) issues relevant to disaster management and access to energy services, including the implementation plan for resolution 63/6 of 23 May 2007 on the implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

5.   Consideration of information, communication and space technology issues

Two documents on item 5 will be submitted to the Committee for its consideration and guidance. In addition, the secretariat will circulate an information document (E/ESCAP/CMG(4/II)/INF.1) outlining the major outcomes and recommendations of the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 23 October 2007.

(a)   Globalization and information, communication and space technology: current issues and future directions in the Asian and Pacific region

The digital revolution has been fuelled by the rapid development, widespread deployment and increased affordability of information, communication and space technology (ICST) and has impacted all sectors of the economy and all layers of society. It has fundamentally changed the way people think, behave, communicate, work and earn their livelihood by enabling greater connectivity, integration and interdependence among nations. It has become not only a tool for sustainable socio-economic growth and poverty reduction but also a driving force for managing globalization and, with it, the increasing flow of international capital, the growing volume of global transactions in goods and services, and the rapid and wide diffusion of cultural influences.

There is growing acceptance that the ability to access and use information is an essential element in economic and social development. Indeed, global society is fast moving towards an information society that places great value on the creation, use and sharing of information. Consequently, ICST applications, through appropriate policy measures, and through information-sharing, can be targeted to confront regional challenges in a number of areas. Accordingly, document E/ESCAP/CMG(4/II)/3 provides a brief overview of some emerging developments related to ICST

infrastructure in the Asian and Pacific region, taking into account technology trends, the various broadband initiatives and efforts to facilitate Pacific connectivity. It focuses on information-sharing across borders, examining issues that have major regional implications, such as disaster management, pandemic disease, climate change and e-business and the role of ESCAP in addressing those issues through regional mechanisms and knowledge networks. In conclusion, the document highlights the directions that can be taken by the secretariat and invites the guidance of the Committee.

(b) **The knowledge economy and information, communication and space technology policy: regional strategy in Asia and the Pacific**

Document E/ESCAP/CMG(4/II)/4 addresses the newly emerging issues of ICST policy and strategy in the ESCAP region, where economic growth has been buoyant recently despite significant disparities within and among countries. The paper focuses on four key themes of ICST policy: (a) Asia and the Pacific in a new global economy and the implications for ICST development; (b) major convergence issues in the development of a knowledge economy in Asia and the Pacific; (c) the role of ICST policy in the knowledge economy of the region; and (d) the role of ESCAP in addressing those issues.

The first theme introduces the emerging dimension of the Asian and Pacific region as a new engine of economic growth in a world economy characterized by globalization, technology development and new dynamics of governance. The theme highlights emerging issues of ICST policy arising from a rapid change in factors of production, market and industry, especially in China and India, as well as a persisting disparity in ICST access and affordability in the region.

The second theme raises issues of convergence in the knowledge economy in four different but mutually reinforcing areas: (a) economic forces; (b) science and technology; (c) ICST; and (d) rules. Next, it looks closely into the role of the knowledge economy as a main driver of growth in the Asian and Pacific region that has spin-off effects on the production of goods, services and intellectual capital, accompanied by an increase in productivity and efficiency in multiple sectors, in addition to human resources development. It also addresses main challenges of the knowledge economy for poverty reduction in the context of the Millennium Development Goals.

The third theme builds on the earlier themes, emphasizing the renewed role of ICST policies and strategies in the Asian and Pacific economies. It stresses the need for a regional e-strategy to develop a knowledge economy in the region, with the introduction of an appropriate e-governance system supported by enabling regulatory frameworks as key components for addressing those issues.

Finally, the fourth theme describes the role of ESCAP as a forum for addressing the main issues of the knowledge economy in the Asian and Pacific region, with its current multisectoral platforms for normative, analytical and capacity-building activities. It illuminates the key areas of ESCAP ICST policy initiatives to develop a knowledge economy, strongly emphasizing inter-agency

and intergovernmental cooperation within the framework of the World Summit on the Information Society and other relevant global summits and international forums.

The Committee on Managing Globalization is invited to provide the secretariat with guidance for future action.

6.   Programme planning and evaluation:

(a)   Perspectives on "managing globalization" as a theme for regional intergovernmental dialogue on environment and information, communication and space technology

Document E/ESCAP/CMG(4/II)/5 provides background on the past functioning of the Thematic Committee on Managing Globalization in terms of the quality, timing and appropriateness of technical advice and guidance provided to the secretariat in the areas of environment and sustainable development and information, communication and space technology. The Committee is invited to provide its perspectives.

(b)   Programme delivery for the biennium 2006-2007 in respect of subprogramme 6, Environment and sustainable development, and subprogramme 7, Information, communication and space technology

The progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007 in respect of subprogramme 6, Environment and sustainable development, and subprogramme 7, Information, communication and space technology, is presented in documents E/ESCAP/CMG(4/II)/6 and E/ESCAP/CMG(4/II)/7, respectively.

The Committee is invited to review the programme delivery status and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future development of the subprogrammes.

(c)   Prioritization and selection of projects for evaluation

Document E/ESCAP/CMG(4/II)/8 lists a number of projects proposed for evaluation during the biennium 2008-2009 in the areas of environment and sustainable development and information, communication and space technology.

The Committee is invited to provide the secretariat with guidance on the prioritization and scope of projects for evaluation to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the subprogrammes.

(d)   Priority areas for the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in respect of the subprogrammes on environment and sustainable development and information, communication and space technology

The Committee is invited to review recent mandates and provide the secretariat with guidance on the priority areas for the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in respect of the subprogrammes on (a) environment and sustainable development and (b) information, communication and space technology.

7.   Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session

Members are encouraged to circulate, in advance, proposals and/or texts of draft resolutions on priority issues relating to managing globalization. The Committee will be invited to review the proposals and/or texts of these draft resolutions, from a technical perspective, for submission to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session.

8.   Other matters

The Committee may raise any matter not covered under the preceding items.

9.   Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fourth session

The Committee will adopt the report on its fourth session for submission to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session.

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