



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Fifty-ninth session*
24-25 April 2003
Bangkok

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. *Opening of the session*

The session will be opened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP.

2. *Election of officers*

In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the Commission will elect a chairperson and two vice-chairpersons for the session.

3. *Adoption of the agenda*

- Provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/L.151/Rev.1)
- Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/L.152/Rev.2)

In view of the new arrangements for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, the provisional agenda has been revised as contained in document E/ESCAP/L.151/Rev.1. The Commission is invited to adopt the agenda.

4. *Admission of new members*

- Proposed amendment to the terms of reference of the Commission: admission of Timor-Leste as a member of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1265)

Timor-Leste has applied for membership in the Commission. The Commission will have before it document E/ESCAP/1265 concerning the admission of Timor-Leste to the Commission. It may wish to decide to submit to the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution recommending that it amend paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of the Commission to include Timor-Leste as a full member of the Commission.

* To be attended primarily by Bangkok-based delegations.

5. *Programme planning and evaluation*

- Report on the realignment and implementation of the programme of work, 2002-2003 (E/ESCAP/1285 and [Corr.1 and Add.1](#))
- Proposed programme changes for 2003 (E/ESCAP/1296 and [Corr.1](#))
- Draft programme of work, 2004-2005 (E/ESCAP/1284 and [Corr.1](#))
- Report on the evaluation of ESCAP publications (E/ESCAP/1286)

Document E/ESCAP/1285 and [Corr.1](#) provides a report on (a) the realignment of the programme of work, 2002-2003, with the new programme structure of ESCAP in accordance with the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 as approved by the General Assembly and (b) the status of the implementation of the programme of work, 2002-2003, as at 31 December 2002. At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission had requested the secretariat to realign the programme of work for 2002-2003 with the new programme structure. For reference, the reconfigured programme of work for 2002-2003 is contained in an addendum to the document.

Document E/ESCAP/1296 and [Corr.1](#) contains the proposed programme changes for 2003. The changes are necessitated by the Commission's directive, at its fifty-eighth session, that the secretariat realign the programme of work for 2002-2003 with the new programme structure as contained in the revised medium-term plan for 2002-2005. The Commission is invited to consider the proposed changes with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the programme of work, 2002-2003.

Document E/ESCAP/1284 and [Corr.1](#), containing the draft programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005, is presented for the Commission's review and endorsement. The document provides an overview of the direction of the secretariat's work for the biennium 2004-2005 as well as the expected accomplishments and outputs for each of the seven subprogrammes. The draft programme of work has been prepared in accordance with the framework of the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as approved by the General Assembly. [The secretariat has made every effort to rationalize and streamline its work to ensure that resources and activities are programmed in line with the new priorities of member States, particularly as reflected in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of Monterrey and Johannesburg.](#) The draft programme of work for 2004-2005 was initially reviewed by ACPR in early 2003, [after which suggested changes were incorporated.](#) The Commission is invited to review the document and provide guidance on the overall programme objective, strategy and expected accomplishments of the seven subprogrammes.

Document E/ESCAP/1286 presents the results of an evaluation by the secretariat of publications produced during the biennium 2000-2001. The evaluation was based on feedback obtained from a range of users of the secretariat's publications, as well as self-assessments by the

secretariat. The lessons learned from the evaluation of those publications have provided a basis for the formulation of technical publication outputs in the draft programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005. The Commission is invited to provide guidance to the secretariat for further improving its publications programme.

6. *Resource mobilization: technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions*

- Resource mobilization: technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions (E/ESCAP/1289)

Document E/ESCAP/1289 provides an overview of the secretariat's technical cooperation activities, including technical cooperation among developing countries. This document also contains an overview of extrabudgetary resources made available to the secretariat in 2002 for the implementation of its programme of work as related to technical cooperation. The Commission is invited to provide guidance to the secretariat on its technical cooperation activities.

7. *Transit transport issues in landlocked and transit developing countries*

- Transit transport issues in landlocked and transit developing countries (E/ESCAP/1282)

The secretariat has undertaken a series of case studies to identify the common issues and concerns related to physical and non-physical barriers that characterize the transit transport systems of landlocked and transit developing countries in the ESCAP region. The secretariat has also developed a methodology to help to identify and quantify bottlenecks, bringing stronger focus and greater clarity to a number of priority policy recommendations designed to assist landlocked developing countries in reducing the cost of imports, improving the competitiveness of their exports and attracting foreign direct investment.

The Commission is invited to review the issues, recommendations and action plan in document E/ESCAP/1282 (previously released as document E/ESCAP/SB/LDC(6)/1 for the sixth session of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries) with a view to their adoption as a regional platform to be considered by the intergovernmental preparatory committee and the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, to be held at Almaty on 28 and 29 August 2003.

8. *Election of the governing boards of regional institutions*

- (a) *Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific*
- (b) *Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery*

There will be elections for the governing boards of the CGPRT Centre and APCAEM, in

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accordance with their respective statutes. The secretariat has issued revised conference bulletins for this purpose.

9. *Date, venue and theme topic of the sixtieth session of the Commission*

- Date, venue and theme topic for the sixtieth session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1295)

At the fifty-eighth session of the Commission, the Government of China announced that it would host the sixtieth session of the Commission at Shanghai in 2004. Following consultations with the host Government, it is proposed that the sixtieth session of the Commission be held from 22 to 28 April 2004. "Meeting the challenges in an era of rapid change by strengthening regional economic cooperation" is proposed as the theme topic. [The Commission may wish to adopt a resolution on the holding of its sixtieth session at Shanghai.](#)

10. *Other matters*

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

11. *Adoption of the report of the Commission*

The Commission will consider and adopt the report and its resolutions.

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