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**EMERGING ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL:
MANAGING GLOBALIZATION**

(Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda)

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MANAGING GLOBALIZATION
ON ITS FIRST SESSION**

SUMMARY

The first session of the Committee on Managing Globalization was held at Bangkok from 19 to 21 November 2003. The Committee reviewed both selected cross-cutting issues and sectoral developments under the theme and provided guidance to the relevant four subcommittees on their future work. In so doing, the Committee identified matters calling for action by the Commission or to be brought to its attention, as outlined below.

The Committee noted with appreciation the efforts of the secretariat in addressing the cross-cutting issues in the context of globalization, namely, trade and transport facilitation, sustainable consumption and production, and regional cooperation for bridging the digital divide. It recommended that an integrated approach be taken in addressing trade and transport facilitation issues and requested the secretariat to assist countries interested in applying the Trade Facilitation Framework and the time and cost-distance model. It recognized the lead role of the secretariat in the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in the region and recommended that the secretariat continue its efforts to promote the involvement of multi-stakeholders in that regard. It stressed the importance of information and communication technology, including space technology, welcomed the secretariat's initiative in introducing the information, communication and space technology programme and requested it to focus its work to address the challenges of the digital divide.

The Committee commended the secretariat on its work in the area of trade and investment, with particular focus on the Doha Development Agenda. It noted that there was an urgent need for WTO talks to restart so that the primacy of the multilateral trading system could be re-established. It noted the dynamic regional liberalization in the ESCAP region and requested the secretariat to give high priority to an in-depth study on current regional trade arrangements and bilateral trade agreement initiatives. It also acknowledged the importance of foreign direct investment in the development process and requested the secretariat to accord high priority to relevant issues.

The Committee endorsed the ESCAP strategy on infrastructure development and transport facilitation and supported the revised Plan of Action for phase VI of the Asian land transport infrastructure development project. It recommended that a ministerial conference on transport be organized in 2006 and an intergovernmental meeting on sustainable tourism development in 2005. It urged the member countries to sign or accede to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network. It stressed the importance of the formalization of the Trans-Asian Railway network and encouraged the secretariat to pursue that issue.

The Committee endorsed the use of the regional road map towards an information society in Asia and the Pacific for the formulation of a regional plan of action. It appreciated that the secretariat was playing a leading and coordinating role in developing a regional consensus in the context of the preparations for the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and requested the secretariat to follow up on the regional implementation process as well as the preparations for the second phase. It recommended that positive steps be considered towards the preparations for the third ministerial conference on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

The Committee commended the efforts of the secretariat in the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. It urged the early convening of an intergovernmental meeting to analyse the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It requested the secretariat to continue its efforts in the areas of environment, energy and water as well as water-related disaster mitigation and preparedness. It supported the secretariat's efforts to promote environmental cooperation as well as energy cooperation in North-East Asia and called upon the secretariat to support efforts to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals.

The Committee endorsed the preliminary draft of the medium-term plan for the period 2006-2009 for the four subprogrammes and supported the secretariat's efforts to assess the value of its work and learn lessons for the implementation of future programmes.

The Commission is invited to consider and endorse the report of the Committee on Managing Globalization on its first session and provide the secretariat with guidance on implementation of the recommendations.

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
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| ALTID | Asian land transport infrastructure development |
| ASEAN | Association of Southeast Asian Nations |
| ECE | Economic Commission for Europe |
| ECO | Economic Cooperation Organization |
| FDI | foreign direct investment |
| ICT | information and communication technology |
| ICST | information, communication and space technology |
| RESAP | Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development |
| SAARC | South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation |
| SMEs | small and medium-sized enterprises |
| SPECA | Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia |
| UNCTAD | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| WTO | World Trade Organization |

I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION OR TO BE BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Managing globalization: selected cross-cutting issues

1. Trade and transport facilitation

1. The Committee recommended that an integrated approach be taken by members, associate members and the secretariat in addressing trade and transport facilitation issues. In that regard, the Committee encouraged the establishment of national trade and transport facilitation committees and requested the secretariat to assist through experience-sharing the establishment and functioning of the committees.

2. The Committee requested the secretariat to assist countries interested in applying the Trade Facilitation Framework and the time and cost-distance model as described in document E/ESCAP/CMG/1 and to provide training and advisory services to assist members and associate members in their application and to monitor their efficient application.

3. The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in document E/ESCAP/CMG/1. It stressed the importance of cooperation between ESCAP and other organizations at both the subregional and international levels with respect to facilitation.

4. The Committee requested the secretariat to organize subregional and national workshops to promote accession to the seven conventions recommended in resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures.

5. The Committee stressed the importance of the application of ICT to trade and transport facilitation.

6. The Committee requested the secretariat to focus attention on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Countries.

2. Sustainable consumption and production

7. The Committee endorsed the recommendations emerging from the Pre-session Consultation on Sustainable Consumption and Production, held on 18 November 2003, which had highlighted the proposed major action areas for Governments, industry and civil society to support the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in the region.

8. The Committee recommended that the secretariat continue efforts to promote the involvement of multi-stakeholders in the promotion of sustainable consumption and production through the implementation of programmes that demonstrated successful experiences of partnerships, such as the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment and the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation, and in the implementation of priority issues of the Phnom Penh Regional

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Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific, which were reflected in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

9. The Committee stressed the importance of improving the exchange of information and dissemination of best practices on sustainable consumption and production and requested the secretariat to establish a “Help Desk” in collaboration with UNEP to support national efforts on sustainable consumption and production.

10. The Committee emphasized the need to develop indicators and benchmarks to effectively measure the changes and achievements made towards sustainable consumption and production.

11. Recognizing that the secretariat could play a lead role in promoting sustainable consumption and production, the Committee requested it to provide technical assistance for capacity-building to Governments and civil society to support the shift towards sustainable consumption and production, in collaboration with other international organizations.

3. Role of ICT in bridging the digital divide in selected areas

12. The Committee recognized the importance of information and communication technology, including space technology, as enabling tools for development, and welcomed ESCAP’s initiative of introducing the ICST programme. The Committee stressed the importance for all countries of addressing the challenges of the digital divide between and within countries, and between various communities and groups of people. The Committee requested the secretariat to focus its programme of work on those two general issues, particularly through a special capacity-building programme for the least developed, landlocked, small island developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

13. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue the implementation of Commission resolution 57/4 of 25 April 2001 on regional cooperation in information and communication technologies for development, particularly with respect to assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the areas of policy and infrastructure, and to support capacity-building activities.

14. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Pre-session Expert Group Meeting on Regional Cooperation for Bridging the Digital Divide, and requested the secretariat to use those recommendations as a guide for its ICT-related technical cooperation activities in cross-cutting areas.

B. Managing globalization: sectoral issues and developments: overall directions for the work of the Subcommittees

1. International Trade and Investment

15. The Committee noted that the conversion of globalization into a positive force was possible through common and comprehensive efforts at both the regional and global levels. In that regard, it

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stressed that the effective management of globalization should be a key direction of ESCAP's future activities and requested the secretariat to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, particularly in the area of international trade and foreign investment. It endorsed the overall direction of work proposed in document E/ESCAP/CMG/4.

16. The Committee noted that while the failure to reach consensus at the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference was by no means a new phenomenon for the multilateral trading system, there was an urgent need for WTO talks to restart so that the primacy of the multilateral trading system could be re-established. It stressed that trade based on a regime that was open, non-discriminatory, predictable and rules-based was a preferred policy option for making trade work for development.

17. However, the Committee also noted that, through negotiations, some aspects of WTO rules would need to be improved to make the system fairer, including for those countries that were in the process of acceding to WTO.

18. The Committee noted that a dynamic process of regional liberalization characterized the ESCAP region. It stressed that in a post-Cancún trading environment, regional trade arrangements (RTAs) or bilateral trade arrangements (BTAs) should be consistent with WTO rules and complimentary to the multilateral trading system liberalization process, so that trade opportunities were created for common and rising prosperity in the region. In that connection, the Committee noted the efforts of the secretariat in revitalizing the Bangkok Agreement, including through expansion of its membership.

19. The Committee commended the secretariat on the work it had undertaken relating to the Doha Development Agenda, particularly with regard to the organization of regional policy dialogues and the WTO/ESCAP training programmes, and urged the secretariat to continue to accord high priority to that work.

20. The Committee requested the secretariat to give high priority to an in-depth study on current RTA and BTA initiatives, given the post-Cancún interest in such initiatives. The study should take stock of current initiatives and their future direction so that those initiatives evolved as building blocks to the multilateral trading system and contributed to trade, economic growth and development.

21. The Committee acknowledged the importance of FDI in the development process, as well as that of trade facilitation in ensuring that market access opportunities could be utilized effectively. It requested the secretariat to accord high priority to those issues.

2. Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism

22. The Committee endorsed the ESCAP strategy on infrastructure development and transport facilitation as outlined in table 1 of document E/ESCAP/CMG/5. It noted that the strategy provided

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useful guidance for the agenda of the Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism.

23. The Committee recommended that a ministerial conference on transport be organized in 2006 to review the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific and to further develop a strategy in the field of transport.

24. The Committee supported the revised Plan of Action for phase VI of the ALTID project (2004-2005).

25. The Committee supported the organization of a signing ceremony for the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network during the sixtieth session of the Commission, to be held at Shanghai, China, in April 2004 and urged the member countries to sign or accede to the Agreement.

26. The Committee supported the recommendations of the Second Steering Committee Meeting on the Planning and Implementation of Container Block Trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor, held at Ulaanbaatar in October 2003.

27. The Committee stressed the importance of the formalization of the Trans-Asian Railway network and encouraged the secretariat to pursue that issue.

28. The Committee urged members, associate members and the secretariat to support the activities of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing.

29. The Committee recommended that an intergovernmental meeting on sustainable tourism development be organized by ESCAP in 2005.

3. Information, Communication and Space Technology

30. The Committee endorsed the use of the regional road map towards an information society in Asia and the Pacific, along with the outcomes of the Millennium Development Goals, major global initiatives such as the World Summit on the Information Society and the World Summit on Sustainable Development for the formulation of a regional plan of action towards an information society. In that regard, the Committee felt that the road map took cognizance of the basic capability and capacity-building measures needed to prevent developing member countries from being further marginalized by the growing digital divide. The regional plan of action needed to be complemented by national action plans which should integrate the considerations of the Goals and the two Summits.

31. The Committee appreciated the fact that ESCAP was playing a leading and coordinating role in developing a regional consensus in the context of the preparations for the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held at Geneva, and requested the secretariat to continue to play that role in the implementation of the follow-up to the first phase of the Summit and the regional preparations for the second phase, to be held at Tunis.

32. The Committee recommended that the secretariat consider taking positive steps towards making preparations for the third ministerial conference on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, initiation for the preparation of which had been endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-ninth session.

33. The Committee recognized that the ESCAP Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development had strong commonality with the Millennium Development Goals and with the goals enunciated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and preparatory meetings for the Summit. It therefore recommended that the RESAP network be strengthened, which would help in reaching those goals in the region, adjusting as appropriate the programme which had been identified under that cooperative mechanism.

34. The Committee recommended that the Subcommittee on Information, Communications and Space Technology consider at its first session in 2004 the issues recommended in document E/ESCAP/CMG/6, in particular regional implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society, including an analysis of the progress made and benefits achieved from ICST, and indicators for the measurement of the information society in the region.

4. Environment and Sustainable Development

35. The Committee welcomed and supported the proposed areas of activities for the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation as contained in document E/ESCAP/CMG/7.

36. The Committee commended the efforts of the secretariat in providing assistance to countries in the implementation of the Plan, particularly in the areas of environment, energy and water, and requested the secretariat to continue its work in that direction.

37. The Committee stressed the importance of regional implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including the early convening of an intergovernmental meeting to analyse its outcome and determine the mechanisms for regional implementation.

38. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue to provide technical assistance and training to enhance the capacity of countries to negotiate and implement multilateral environmental agreements as well as to develop national sustainable development strategies and sustainable development indicators.

39. The Committee acknowledged the importance of cooperation between the secretariat and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. It encouraged the two secretariats to develop joint Global Environment Facility projects to seek funding from the US\$ 500 million allocated for alleviating land degradation.

40. The Committee stressed that the secretariat should continue its efforts to promote the North-East Asian Subregional Programme on Environmental Cooperation as well as the ongoing dialogue on energy cooperation, with the participation of all the countries of North-East Asia.

41. The Committee called upon the secretariat to continue to support the efforts of the countries concerned in achieving the internationally agreed water-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. In particular, it recommended that the secretariat should continue its work on capacity-building for developing integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans, as well as water-related disaster mitigation and preparedness policies. The suggestion was made that an appropriate item be included in the agenda of the first session of the Subcommittee.

II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE SESSION

A. Managing globalization: selected cross-cutting issues

1. Trade and transport facilitation

42. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/CMG/1. The conclusions and recommendations of the Pre-session Expert Group Meeting on Trade and Transport for the Committee, held at Bangkok on 18 November 2003, were also distributed.

43. The Committee recognized that trade and transport facilitation could enhance regional economic development through increasing the total value of trade by reducing costs and shortening delays. It also considered that facilitation could assist in ensuring that the potential benefits provided by globalization could be enjoyed by all countries.

44. Recognizing the complexity and necessary involvement of various government agencies, as well as the private sector, the Committee recommended that an integrated approach be taken by members, associate members and the secretariat in addressing trade and transport facilitation issues. In that regard, it endorsed the establishment of national trade and transport facilitation committees and requested the secretariat to assist through experience-sharing the establishment and functioning of the committees, noting that the organizational form of the committees should be flexible so as to meet the specific conditions of individual countries. The Committee also requested the secretariat to collate information on trade and transport facilitation and publish the information and guidelines to promote the exchange of information.

45. The Committee requested the secretariat to assist countries interested in applying the Trade Facilitation Framework and the time and cost-distance model, as described in document E/ESCAP/CMG/1, to help them in formulating comprehensive facilitation strategies. It requested the secretariat to consider the integration of the Framework and the model and to provide training and advisory services to assist members and associate members in their application and to monitor their efficient application.

46. In view of the above, the Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in document E/ESCAP/CMG/1. Further, noting the progress being achieved by subregional organizations such as ASEAN, ECO and SAARC, the Committee stressed the importance of cooperation between ESCAP and other organizations, at both the subregional and international levels, with respect to facilitation.

47. The Committee noted with satisfaction the progress reported by several delegations on the conclusion of bilateral and subregional agreements on the facilitation of international trade as well as inter-State and transit transport. It emphasized the importance of the agreements in the facilitation process and in meeting specific needs. It also noted the studies being undertaken by several countries in the process of considering accession to the seven conventions referred to in resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures adopted by the Commission in 1992. The Committee requested the secretariat to organize subregional and national workshops to promote accession to the relevant conventions.

48. The Committee stressed the importance of the application of ICT to trade and transport facilitation to streamline and simplify documentation, formalities and procedures for international trade and transport and requested the secretariat to promote a harmonized approach. It also invited the secretariat to provide additional information on the progress and results of the TradeNet system in Singapore.

49. Noting the specific concerns of the landlocked and transit countries, the Committee requested the secretariat to focus attention on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, which had been adopted by the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, held at Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 28 and 29 August 2003. In that regard, the Committee noted with satisfaction that bilateral cooperation between landlocked and transit countries was being accorded increasing priority.

50. The Committee noted with satisfaction the assistance that had been provided by UNCTAD in the formulation of subregional framework agreements in the ASEAN and ECO subregions and initiatives being taken by UNCTAD to promote trade and transport facilitation through the implementation of the Automated System for Customs Data and the Advance Cargo Information System, as well as country-level programmes of assistance.

51. The Committee noted that the international conventions and recommendations on trade and transport facilitation developed by ECE could serve as a model to facilitate international trade and transport in the ESCAP region and welcomed the offer of ECE to provide assistance in assessing their potential application.

52. The Committee noted that the corridor-based studies spanning the countries were required to formulate trade and transport policies and strategies, in particular for landlocked and transit countries. Such studies could be undertaken at the request of concerned members and associate members. The

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Committee also noted the offer by the Asian Institute of Transport Development to share its experience and expertise.

2. Sustainable consumption and production

53. The Committee considered secretariat document E/ESCAP/CMG/2.

54. The Committee noted the importance of sustainable consumption and production for the Asian and Pacific region, inter alia, in view of its large population and the trend towards rapid urbanization. It therefore appreciated the ongoing Marrakech Process and the follow-up regional processes towards the development of the 10-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production.

55. The Committee supported the recommendations emanating from the Asia-Pacific regional expert meetings on sustainable consumption and production, held at Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in May 2003 and at Seoul in November 2003, which had identified priority issues at the national and regional levels.

56. The Committee, while endorsing the recommendations of the Pre-session Consultation held on 18 November 2003, requested Governments to adopt policies on sustainable green procurement; promote various environmental management tools, including regulatory and market-based instruments; encourage recycling and waste minimization; develop national labelling schemes for selected products to promote sustainable consumption and production; fully mobilize civil society and the media in information, education and communication campaigns for sustainable consumption and production; integrate energy efficiency and renewable energy into programmes on transport, industry and agriculture; support eco-friendly technology; and promote research and development on cleaner production technology. The Committee also recommended strengthening government regulations for consumer protection; enhancing the availability of information, education and communication for various consumer groups; and supporting consumer movements.

57. The Committee emphasized that industry should play an active role in promoting sustainable consumption and production by developing partnerships with Governments to achieve environmental goals; undertaking local waste exchange programmes and integrated waste management strategies; promoting the greening of supply chain initiatives; undertaking and supporting research and development; and developing demand-side management. The Committee also underscored the role of industry in awareness-building programmes, including the dissemination of information and communication strategies for engaging SMEs in sustainable consumption and production issues and green consumer campaigns, as well as in the promotion of voluntary initiatives and the adoption of green codes of conduct and good corporate governance.

58. Recognizing the important role of civil society in sustainable consumption and production, the Committee stressed that there was a need to develop regional networks and partnerships with

centres of excellence for exchange of information and experiences to support efforts towards capability-building and technology transfer, as well as to undertake and implement demonstration projects. In order to assist civil society in promoting sustainable consumption and production, the Committee stressed that concerned United Nations agencies and programmes, as well as multilateral and bilateral donors, non-governmental organizations and business organizations, should provide technical and financial assistance, in addition to information and training materials to raise awareness.

59. The Committee accorded priority to the implementation of programmes related to the capacity-building of Governments and civil society; fostering partnerships and regional networks; exchange of experience and best practices; the development of sustainable development indicators, which could also be used for sustainable consumption and production; and raising public awareness at the national and regional levels and across various social groups and sectors.

60. The Committee endorsed the importance given to sustainable energy development in the recommendations of the Pre-session Consultation and the Phnom Penh Regional Platform for Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific, and recommended that further work of the secretariat should include the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation as well as the use of renewable energy technologies as a means to shift towards a sustainable consumption and production pattern. In that respect, it noted with interest a specific recommendation made by the Pre-session Consultation on the need to integrate energy efficiency and conservation into industrial policies as a part of demand-side management.

61. The Committee noted with appreciation the active role that the secretariat was playing in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the 10-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production with regard to providing access to clean water resources and promoting efficient water resource management and use. It requested the secretariat to continue those efforts.

62. The Committee noted that the transport sector had a considerable impact on sustainable consumption and production patterns. It further noted that two methods through which that impact might be addressed were pricing and appropriate choices of transport modes. Hence, from the perspective of developing countries, where energy resources and access to technologies were both limited, there was a need for sound objective research in those areas.

3. Role of ICT in bridging the digital divide in selected areas

63. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/CMG/3.

64. The Committee recognized the importance of ICT, including space technology, as enabling tools for development that promised unprecedented opportunities for growth. ICT served as a very important catalyst for development and long-term growth, particularly for developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing countries. In that regard, the

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Committee supported the efforts of the secretariat in bridging the digital divide to promote digital opportunities.

65. The Committee recognized the strategic importance of creating knowledge-based societies through innovative ICT applications. It agreed that owing to the rapid rate of change in technologies, applications, policies, business and organizational models, continuous expert advice was needed in those areas. It requested the secretariat to explore innovative ICT-based mechanisms, including knowledge management and knowledge networks, and encouraged the sharing of best practices in those areas among members and associate members. The Committee acknowledged the request of the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements for assistance in the area of knowledge networks and e-business promotion.

66. The Committee appreciated the offers of India, Thailand and others to share their experience and expertise as well as lessons learned from ICT applications, including space technology applications, towards addressing the digital divide and poverty alleviation. It also urged that the relevant recommendations made at the Expert Group Meeting on the Use of Space Technology for Poverty Alleviation, organized by ESCAP and held in August 2003, be followed up.

67. The Committee considered the various opportunities and challenges of ICT applications and services, issues of empowerment through information and knowledge, as well as ICT for poverty alleviation, and disaster management. It considered and adopted the suggestions contained in document E/ESCAP/CMG/3, including those related to ESCAP's role in the development of enabling policies, human resources development, institutional capacity-building and the sharing of best practices. The Committee also took note of the usefulness of the advisory services provided by the secretariat.

68. The Committee recognized the importance of fostering equal access to knowledge and information by the rural community at the grass-roots level in development. However, it noted that the success of community e-centres depended largely on socially relevant applications, including those addressing multilingualism, cultural diversity in the local context, access to the global information network and empowerment of the local community. Community e-centres should include applications such as education (distance learning), health care (telemedicine), government services (e-governance), rural employment, services and the marketing of community products and tourism.

69. The Committee recognized that connectivity and content creation were equally important and noted that access, which was a means to an end, affordability and skills development were the prerequisites for optimizing the utilization of ICT. It noted that space technology could provide last-mile connectivity, particularly to remote or isolated areas which were underserved or not serviced by terrestrial systems. It recognized that the use of ICT was particularly successful when socio-economic applications were carried out in an operational and sustained manner.

70. The Committee noted that ICT applications had significant potential to enhance the efficiency of international transport, trade and tourism and recognized the need to extend ICT applications to other economic and social development areas. It recognized the importance of providing technical support for substantive ICT applications and agreed that those activities could include the promotion of community-based information services and public-private partnerships.

71. The Committee noted that wireless and satellite technologies offered many advantages in that they did not require the installation of fixed networks and that there was a need to explore innovative approaches to ensure broadband connectivity. Appropriate facilities should be installed where communication was acutely needed, such as in remote, rural and isolated areas, and the secretariat was requested to promote greater awareness in that regard.

72. The Committee recognized the importance of ICT applications in supporting informed decision-making in sustainable economic and social development and encouraged the secretariat to develop relevant regional cooperation mechanisms to operationalize those applications. In that context, the Committee encouraged the continuous implementation of RESAP at both the regional and national levels.

73. In addition to formal and vocational ICT training for the formal economic sectors, the Committee acknowledged the need for the implementation of special capacity-building programmes in developing countries, economies in transition and small island developing countries, to ensure that the spread of ICT education and opportunities reached women, youth and disadvantaged groups such as the rural poor and people with disabilities.

74. Regional cooperation would share the benefits of space-based ICT and improve access by least developed countries to ICT opportunities. The Committee requested the secretariat to lead and coordinate regional cooperation activities in ICT in Asia and the Pacific, while working closely with and involving other regional and subregional international bodies, such as ASEAN, SAARC, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity and other relevant United Nations organizations, particularly the International Telecommunication Union. The Committee suggested that ESCAP coordinate space activities in the region towards implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with other international organizations, such as the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations.

**B. Managing globalization: sectoral issues and developments: overall directions
for the work of the Subcommittees**

1. International Trade and Investment

75. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/CMG/4. It endorsed the findings and conclusions in the document as well as the overall direction of the work proposed for 2004-2005. It

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also commended the secretariat on the work undertaken thus far, particularly with respect to activities related to the Doha Development Agenda.

76. The Committee commended the secretariat on its WTO-related training programme, which had proved to be of great benefit to a large number of government officials. It requested the secretariat to continue to accord high priority to that training programme in its future activities. It further requested the secretariat to expand its WTO training programme to include chambers of industry and commerce and other private sector-related support institutions, business sector operators and non-governmental organizations that supported SMEs.

77. The Committee noted that the core aspect of WTO negotiations should continue to be to ensure better market access for all its members. It further noted the high priority placed by the Doha Declaration on development as a centrepiece of negotiations; it also noted that improved market access for agriculture, non-agricultural products and services could potentially give the agenda a tangible development-related outcome. At the same time, implementation issues and making the special and differential treatment provisions more precise, effective and operational remained among the top priorities of the development dimension of the agenda.

78. The Committee noted that at Cancún no consensus had been reached on the so-called Singapore issues under the Doha Development Agenda. It requested the secretariat to continue its technical assistance and capacity-building work in the area of trade facilitation, in particular. It also expressed appreciation of the work of the secretariat in investment promotion and facilitation and recommended that such work be continued with a focus on capacity-building for investment promotion and facilitation of least developed countries and countries with economies in transition.

79. While noting with appreciation the initiatives that various countries had taken to strengthen their investment climate, including the strengthening of the national legal and regulatory framework for investment and the conclusion of bilateral investment and double taxation agreements, it observed that the investment climate in some countries could be made more conducive to ensure sustained FDI inflows.

80. The Committee also emphasized the importance of forging investment links, such as those that existed within the framework of the ASEAN Investment Area, for promoting FDI in the region, and requested the secretariat to play an active role in that regard.

81. The Committee expressed support for the proposal to set up an Asia-Pacific research and training network on trade (ARTNET), with the support of interested donors and partner institutions, so that specialized trade research and development of training programmes for research institutions and policy makers in the region could be undertaken.

2. Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism

82. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/CMG/5.
83. The Committee endorsed the ESCAP strategy in transport infrastructure and facilitation as outlined in table 1 of the document. It noted that the strategy had provided useful guidance for the agenda of the Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism.
84. The Committee recommended that a ministerial conference on transport be organized in 2006 to review the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan and further develop a strategy in the field of transport. The conference would be convened in lieu of the meeting of the Subcommittee scheduled for that year. It was envisaged that the conference could be held at Bangkok. It was also proposed that a series of subregional meetings be organized during the conference.
85. The Committee supported the revised Plan of Action for phase VI of the ALTID project (2004-2005), as contained in the annex to document E/ESCAP/CMG/5.
86. The Committee urged member countries to consider acceding to the seven conventions listed in Commission resolution 48/11 and requested the secretariat to provide training and advisory services to promote awareness and understanding of the benefits of acceding to the conventions. It also reiterated the importance and high priority of Commission resolution 52/9 of 24 April 1996 on Intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges.
87. The Committee noted with appreciation the advisory services provided in the field of transport and requested the secretariat to continue to provide such advisory services, giving increased attention to the specific needs of landlocked and transit countries.
88. The Committee noted with interest the information provided by the Russian Federation on the Third International Euro-Asian Conference on Transport, held at St. Petersburg in September 2003. The Committee called for early implementation of the ESCAP/ECE programme on Asia-Europe land bridges.
89. The Committee commended the success of the Intergovernmental Meeting to Develop an Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, held at Bangkok on 17 and 18 November 2003, which had adopted the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network. The Committee supported the organization of a signing ceremony during the sixtieth session of the Commission, which would be held at Shanghai, China, in April 2004, and urged the member countries to sign or accede to the Agreement. The Committee was pleased to note that the Government of Japan would continue to extend its support to the project.
90. The Committee welcomed the decision of the Government of Japan to join the Asian Highway by extending Asian Highway route AH1 to include the Tokyo-Fukuoka section in the Asian Highway network.

91. Further to the conclusion of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, the Committee recognized the need for improved facilitation measures at border-crossing points. It noted the importance of bilateral discussions and agreements to promote cross-border facilitation.

92. The Committee noted the importance of private sector participation in the provision of transport infrastructure and services and urged the secretariat to continue its work in that area. It noted the progress being made by India in that regard.

93. The Committee noted the request of Nepal for secretariat assistance in the area of road safety in the Asian Highway in Nepal.

94. The Committee noted the progress made in reconnecting the railways of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea on the Gyeongui and Donghae lines.

95. The Committee supported the recommendations of the Second Steering Committee Meeting on the Planning and Implementation of Container Block Trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor, held at Ulaanbaatar in October 2003. It welcomed news of the successful implementation of a demonstration run of a container block train between Tianjin, China, and Ulaanbaatar, and noted that demonstration runs on other routes of the Corridor were planned during the first half of 2004. It also noted that, pending the beginning of rail operations through the trans-Korean route, the Republic of Korea had agreed on the implementation of demonstration runs of container block trains along the other routes of the Northern Corridor and from Busan, subject to the arrangements specified in the report of the Meeting. The Committee stressed the importance of Busan as one of the starting and destination points of the Corridor. The Committee called upon the countries concerned and the secretariat to encourage the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to participate in the project.

96. The Committee welcomed information on the activities undertaken by the railways of the Russian Federation to simplify customs procedures for transit cargo in ports and at border crossings, and also the implementation of new tariffs.

97. The Committee noted the important role played by Kazakhstan in providing transit for the movement of containers by rail from the port of Nakhodka in the Russian Federation to locations in the countries of Central Asia. In that respect, the Committee acknowledged the recent improvements made by Kazakhstan to its railway along the routes Port of Aktau-Makat-Kandagach-Druzba for rail movements to China and Druzba-Aktogai-Mointy-Petropavlovsk and the Russian Federation.

98. The Committee stressed the importance of the formalization of the Trans-Asian Railway network as part of the Euro-Asia land bridges and the promotion of the Asian Highway, shipping and port development as significant components of an integrated intermodal transport system for the ESCAP region, and encouraged the secretariat to pursue that issue.

99. The Committee urged members, associate members and the secretariat to support the activities of the SPECA Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing.

100. The Committee recognized the importance of enhancing cooperation between ESCAP and other regional and subregional organizations dealing with transport issues, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

101. The Committee recognized the importance of tourism as a contributor to economic growth through the generation of foreign exchange, employment and income and suggested that high priority be placed on the secretariat's tourism programme.

102. The Committee was pleased to note that a series of capacity-building seminars related to the sustainable development of tourism were being organized by ESCAP within the framework of the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region (1999-2005).

103. The Committee recommended that an intergovernmental meeting on sustainable tourism development be organized by ESCAP in 2005 to review the Plan of Action and consider launching a second phase of the Plan that could focus on the promotion of transport linkages from a tourism perspective and the promotion of tourism as a means to reduce poverty. It also suggested that the secretariat organize activities focusing on tourism product development and marketing at the national and regional levels.

3. Information, Communication and Space Technology

104. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/CMG/6.

105. The Committee welcomed the establishment of the Information, Communication and Space Technology Division to implement the relevant subprogramme and recognized its potential for synergizing resources and creating conditions conducive to a win-win situation for all stakeholders, addressing the interests of all members and associate members in ICT, including space technology, and in particular offering opportunities for leapfrog development to the less developed member countries.

106. The Committee recognized the importance of formulating national strategies vis-à-vis supportive and predictable policy and legal and regulatory frameworks and noted the problems and issues faced by members and associate members in terms of readiness for the digital era. It recommended that the secretariat provide technical assistance in those areas, including developing relevant indicators and creating awareness of those problems and issues in order to assist countries in targeting areas where action was needed to bridge the digital divide, depending on the particular situation of each country.

107. The Committee recognized the importance of examining the best ways of promoting broadband deployment in member countries and welcomed ongoing initiatives, such as the regional Asia Broadband Programme proposed by Japan and others. The Committee also stressed the importance of looking for alternative technology solutions, especially for remote areas.

108. The Committee noted that ICST was expanding rapidly and noted the emerging convergence environment which provided opportunities for the countries of the region to have access to adequate and necessary information and to address societal applications such as distance education, telemedicine, e-governance and effective natural resources and environment management.

109. The Committee recommended that subregional and regional cooperative mechanisms be developed in various fields of ICT and space technology applications to foster international sharing of resources in order to help, for example, to overcome national gaps in the capability to mitigate natural disasters such as floods and drought. The Committee also encouraged the strengthening of regional cooperation to share the benefits of space-based ICT and improve access by least developed countries to ICT opportunities. Such opportunities could include regional networking on telemedicine among countries in the region.

110. The Committee welcomed the formulation of the regional road map towards an information society in Asia and the Pacific, which took stock of the major regional ICT initiatives. It took note of the priority action formulated in the regional road map, which highlighted the orientation of pro-poor, pro-nature programmes with due regard to the local culture, linguistic diversity and local context of the countries in the region, as well as the necessity to address specific needs of least developed countries and small island developing countries, and called for the early implementation of such action. The Committee further suggested that ESCAP take the lead role in supporting and building the capacity of developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, in implementing their action, so that countries could reap the benefits of ICT, including space technology, for bridging the digital divide and creating an information society.

111. The Committee recognized that RESAP and its cooperative network was a unique arrangement which benefited the region. In that respect, it appreciated the active participation and offers of contributions of some member countries in its implementation and, in view of the emerging priorities of ESCAP, recommended that the programme be reoriented to address those priorities effectively.

112. The Committee recalled that the Commission, at its fifty-ninth session, had requested the secretariat to initiate preparations for the third ministerial conference on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. It noted with appreciation the kind offer of some member countries to associate themselves with the preparatory activities for the conference. The Committee suggested that the ministerial conference consider space technology applications and ICT-related issues in an integrated manner.

4. Environment and Sustainable Development

113. In considering document E/ESCAP/CMG/7, the Committee noted the importance of the major issues relating to environmental protection and the sustainable development of water and
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energy resources and the secretariat's initiatives and activities to address them, in particular proposed activities for the regional implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

114. While recognizing the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development in coordinating the implementation of the Plan, the Committee strongly emphasized the importance of regional implementation and in that context the important role of the regional commissions in the implementation of the Plan at the regional level. It emphasized the importance of strengthening national capacity for implementing the Plan, and expressed support for the secretariat's activities to enhance national capacity in the strategic planning and management of energy, environment and water resources. It also appreciated the usefulness of the advisory services provided by the secretariat.

115. The Committee noted with appreciation the efforts of the countries in implementing the Plan at the national and local levels, through the development of national sustainable development strategies and the involvement of stakeholders, the empowerment of the people and the promotion of good governance. It also noted the progress made at the national level in the areas of environmental protection, energy sector development and integrated water resources management.

116. The Committee noted that there was a need to explore the mobilization of new and additional financial resources to support activities at the regional and national levels for the implementation of the Plan.

117. Noting the operationalization of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, the Committee invited the secretariat to provide technical assistance in the development of subregional and national plans.

118. The Committee welcomed the secretariat's project addressing trade and environment issues and acknowledged its importance for enhancing national capacity in negotiation processes and understanding the linkage between multilateral environment agreements and trade regulations.

119. The Committee noted with appreciation the successful efforts of the Russian Federation in organizing the World Climate Change Conference in 2003.

120. The Committee acknowledged the importance of cooperation between the secretariat and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. It encouraged the two secretariats to develop joint Global Environment Facility projects to seek funding from the US\$ 500 million allocated for the alleviation of land degradation.

121. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the activities of the secretariat to promote increased utilization of renewable energy and enhancement of energy efficiency through capacity-building and exchange of experiences. It also welcomed the continuing efforts of the secretariat in promoting subregional energy cooperation in North-East Asia and recognized the need for increased dialogue among all countries of the subregion as a useful means to tap the potential for energy development.

122. The Committee noted the activities carried out at the national level in several countries of the region to identify priority areas for action and enhance national capacity in protecting and managing freshwater resources as well as to promote subregional and international cooperation in water-related natural disaster reduction as part of their efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals in the water sector.

123. The Committee noted with satisfaction that ESCAP, in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Headquarters, had organized a regional meeting to review the progress in implementing the Plan of Implementation in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements so as to prepare the regional input to the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

C. Programme planning and evaluation

1. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2006-2009: subprogrammes on trade and investment, transport and tourism, environment and sustainable development, and information, communication and space technology

124. The Committee considered the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2006-2009, pertaining to (1) trade and investment, (2) transport and tourism, (3) environment and sustainable development and (4) information, communication and space technology, as contained in document E/ESCAP/CMG/8. The medium-term plan was based on a results-based format as required by General Assembly resolution 55/231 of 23 December 2000 to ensure a more meaningful assessment of the impact and more effective use of resources. The objectives and expected accomplishments of each subprogramme were based on ESCAP's organizational priorities, existing legislative mandates and comparative advantage. The ultimate objective of the exercise was to develop accurate, realistic and time-bound performance indicators to measure the impact of subprogrammes.

125. The Committee expressed appreciation to the secretariat and endorsed the preliminary draft medium-term plan, prior to consideration of the plan in its entirety by the Commission at its sixtieth session in April 2004. In so doing, it noted the secretariat's advice that modifications might need to be introduced to the medium-term plan, in the event that the General Assembly decided to introduce a shorter medium-term plan covering two years rather than four.

126. The suggestion was made that the medium-term plan should include exchanges of information, technical assistance and efforts at regional and international cooperation, especially in the area of trade and investment. The Committee expressed appreciation of the focus on enhancing capacity-building for multilateral and regional trade agreements.

127. The Committee suggested that a strategy statement on sustainable consumption and production be explicitly included in the medium-term plan for environment and sustainable development to serve as a basis for ESCAP support for regional and national initiatives in that area.

128. The Committee proposed that ESCAP enhance its role by providing technical assistance through the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology to assist member States in expanding access to, and optimizing the use of, ICT to support national development.

129. The Committee appreciated the results-based approach, but suggested that expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement should be more focused to assess the actual impact of results. It was informed that ESCAP would include further details of activities in biennial programme budget proposals, which would be developed within the framework of the medium-term plan. Longer-term assessment of results would then be addressed through periodic evaluations.

130. The Committee emphasized that ESCAP activities should be demand-driven and geared to the priority needs of member States. It noted with appreciation that that was an existing key criterion in the assessment of all project activities.

2. Evaluation of selected projects on managing globalization: “WTO/ESCAP joint training programme for developing countries”, “Promotion, development and formalization of the Asian Highway” and “Providing basic services to the poor through public-private partnerships: ESCAP follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development”

131. The Committee considered the reports on the evaluation of the three ESCAP flagship projects, as contained in documents E/ESCAP/CMG/9-11.

132. The Committee noted that the evaluations had been undertaken as part of the secretariat’s efforts to assess the value of its work and to learn lessons for the improvement of future programmes.

133. The Committee expressed appreciation of the reports and requested the secretariat to continue and intensify its monitoring and evaluation work so that the lessons learned from those exercises would be taken into account in effective programme and project planning and implementation.

134. The Committee noted that enhancing the monitoring and evaluation of programme activities as part of ESCAP’s revitalization would enhance confidence on the part of donors, which would be beneficial for both donors and ESCAP in the long term.

135. The Committee recognized the significant value of the three flagship projects that had been evaluated. It also agreed with the findings of the three reports and encouraged the secretariat to enhance work under those programmes accordingly.

136. The Committee noted with appreciation that the WTO/ESCAP technical assistance programme had been very responsive to the needs of Governments, including least developed countries working towards WTO accession. One representative expressed the view that ESCAP should work closely with WTO and UNCTAD to update and further develop curricula for training courses under the programme.

137. The Committee noted that the Asian Highway network had had a positive impact on all participating countries. Among other things, countries were using Asian Highway routes as reference

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points for bilateral road transport agreements with their neighbours. Although significant progress had been made, much work remained to be done. On the basis of the current evaluation report, some representatives believed that there should be a rational allocation of available resources for regional efforts at transport facilitation for the effective movement of people and goods across international borders.

138. The Committee noted the support expressed for the continued planning of the Asian Highway programme as an integral part of the ALTID programme, including activities on financing infrastructure development through public-private partnerships.

139. One delegation expressed satisfaction that the project on providing basic services to the poor through public-private partnerships was taking into consideration, among other things, aspects of “good practices”, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability. That delegation expressed the view that, in the future, the project should consider developing technical guidelines at the operational level, based on a multisectoral approach, which would help countries to replicate identified good practices.

140. The Committee noted with appreciation the generous support provided by the donors, particularly the Government of Japan, as well as other Governments, to Asian Highway development projects, the Government of the Netherlands to the project on providing basic services to the poor through public-private partnerships and WTO and the Government of Japan to the WTO/ESCAP technical assistance programme.

D. Other matters

141. No other matters were raised in the Committee.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

142. The first session of the Committee on Managing Globalization was held at Bangkok from 19 to 21 November 2003.

143. In his opening statement, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP emphasized the importance of the first session, particularly in addressing the major challenge faced by the region to manage the globalization process effectively. The Committee underscored the need to formulate and implement coherent policies to seize new opportunities and minimize associated costs. It had the onerous task of reviewing selected cross-cutting issues in the context of globalization as well as providing direction to the four Subcommittees related to the theme.

144. The Executive Secretary outlined some of the major issues and challenges confronting the developing countries in a globalizing world in the areas of trade and investment; transport and tourism; information, communication and space technology; and environment and sustainable

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development. He highlighted the secretariat's initiatives and key activities and reaffirmed its continuous efforts to address those challenges.

145. His Excellency Mr. Sorajak Kasemsuvan, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Royal Thai Government, in his opening address, stated that the importance of managing globalization for the developing countries was not just to survive but indeed to thrive. The issues to be addressed at the session would therefore be of critical importance in their efforts to respond effectively to the challenges of globalization. He highlighted Thailand's concerted endeavours in the four relevant areas to benefit from the globalization process. He believed that the vital role of ESCAP in creating a regional vision and strengthening the growth impulse for managing globalization would continue to provide a framework in which countries in the region could develop and prosper.

B. Attendance

146. The session was attended by the following members and associate members of ESCAP: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Macao, China.

147. Representatives of Germany, Hungary, South Africa and Spain also attended the session, in accordance with paragraph 9 of the terms of reference of the Commission.

148. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Environment Programme, International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, International Telecommunication Union and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

149. Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other agencies also attended: European Commission Asia Information Technology and Communication Programme – EuropeAid, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, European Commission, International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, South Pacific Tourism Organization, Asian Institute of Transport Development, Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements, Centre for Energy Environment Resources Development, Colombo Plan Secretariat, National Electronics and Computer Technology Center, Shin Satellite Public Company Limited, Thai Shipowners' Association, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises.

C. Election of officers

150. The Committee elected Mr. Wu Hequan (China) Chairperson, Mr. Zuiten Tsukamoto (Japan), Mr. Oleg V. Skvortsov (Russian Federation), Mr. Ahurov Abdurakhim (Tajikistan) and Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Sinh (Viet Nam) Vice-Chairpersons and Mr. Josua Boselawa Turaganivalu (Fiji) Rapporteur.

D. Agenda

151. The Meeting adopted the following agenda as contained in document E/ESCAP/CMG/L.1:
1. Opening of the session.
 2. Election of officers.
 3. Adoption of the agenda.
 4. Managing globalization: selected cross-cutting issues:
 - (a) Trade and transport facilitation;
 - (b) Sustainable consumption and production;
 - (c) Role of ICT in bridging the digital divide in selected areas.
 5. Managing globalization: sectoral issues and developments: overall directions for the work of the Subcommittees:
 - (a) International Trade and Investment;
 - (b) Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism;
 - (c) Information, Communication and Space Technology;
 - (d) Environment and Sustainable Development.
 6. Programme planning and evaluation:
 - (a) Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2006-2009: subprogrammes on trade and investment, transport and tourism, environment and sustainable development, and information, communication and space technology;
 - (b) Evaluation of selected projects on managing globalization: "WTO/ESCAP joint training programme for developing countries", "Promotion, development and formalization of the Asian Highway" and "Providing basic services to the poor through public-private partnerships: ESCAP follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development".
 7. Other matters.
 8. Adoption of the report.

E. Adoption of the report

152. The Committee adopted the report on its first session on 21 November 2003.

Annex
List of documents

| <i>Symbol</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|
| E/ESCAP/CMG/L.1 | Provisional agenda | |
| E/ESCAP/CMG/L.2 | Annotated provisional agenda | |
| E/ESCAP/CMG/1 | Managing globalization: selected cross-cutting issues: trade and transport facilitation | 4 (a) |
| E/ESCAP/CMG/2 | Managing globalization: selected cross-cutting issues: sustainable consumption and production | 4 (b) |
| E/ESCAP/CMG/3 | Managing globalization: selected cross-cutting issues: role of ICT in bridging the digital divide in selected areas | 4 (c) |
| E/ESCAP/CMG/4 | Managing globalization: sectoral issues and developments: overall directions for the work of the Subcommittees: International Trade and Investment | 5 (a) |
| E/ESCAP/CMG/5 | Managing globalization: sectoral issues and developments: overall directions for the work of the Subcommittees: Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism | 5 (b) |
| E/ESCAP/CMG/6 | Managing globalization: sectoral issues and developments: overall directions for the work of the Subcommittees: Information, Communication and Space Technology | 5 (c) |
| E/ESCAP/CMG/7 | Managing globalization: sectoral issues and developments: overall directions for the work of the Subcommittees: Environment and Sustainable Development | 5 (d) |
| E/ESCAP/CMG/8 | Programme planning and evaluation: proposed medium-term plan for the period 2006-2009: subprogrammes on trade and investment, transport and tourism, environment and sustainable development, and information, communication and space technology | 6 (a) |
| E/ESCAP/CMG/9 | Programme planning and evaluation: evaluation of selected projects on managing globalization: WTO/ESCAP joint training programme for developing countries | 6 (b) |
| E/ESCAP/CMG/10 | Programme planning and evaluation: evaluation of selected projects on managing globalization: promotion, development and formalization of the Asian Highway | 6 (b) |
| E/ESCAP/CMG/11 | Programme planning and evaluation: evaluation of selected projects on managing globalization: providing basic services to the poor through public-private partnerships: ESCAP follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development | 6 (b) |