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

(Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda)

**PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO
THE THEME OF MANAGING GLOBALIZATION**

Note by the secretariat

SUMMARY

The present document provides a succinct update to the Commission on the implementation of the resolutions relating to the theme of managing globalization, namely, resolution 48/11 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures, resolution 51/8 on the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, resolution 52/9 on intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges, resolution 56/1 on the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009, resolution 57/6 on implementation of the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme, Strategies and Implementation Modalities for the Asian and Pacific Region, 2001-2005, in support of the Bali Declaration on Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Energy and Sustainable Development, and resolution 58/5 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery.

The Commission is invited to review the progress achieved in implementing the resolutions and provide comments and recommendations to enhance their effective implementation.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACE	ASEAN Centre for Energy
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFFA	ASEAN Freight Forwarders Association
ALTID	Asian land transport infrastructure development
APCAEM	Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
GMS	Greater Mekong Subregion
IRF	International Road Federation
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPECA	Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
SRADP	Silk Road Area Development Programme
TRADP	Tumen River Area Development Programme
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WTO	World Trade Organization

Introduction

1. The present document provides a succinct update on the implementation of six resolutions under the theme of managing globalization.
2. The Commission is invited to review the progress achieved and provide comments and recommendations to enhance effective implementation of the resolutions.

I. RESOLUTION 48/11. ROAD AND RAIL TRANSPORT MODES IN RELATION TO FACILITATION MEASURES

3. In 2002-2003, a series of seminars and workshops were organized to promote the implementation of resolution 48/11 and the adoption of the seven international conventions listed therein. The seminars and workshops included the following: (a) UNDP-ESCAP workshop on transport and transit – “silk road” a way for integration, at Astana in June 2002, which highlighted the importance of the facilitation of international transport on the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway, (b) subregional seminar on international transit transport under the TIR system, at Kunming, China in September 2002, which considered an appropriate legal framework for transit transport in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) and (c) ESCAP/ADB seminar on cross-border transport in GMS, at Vientiane in January 2003, which helped to prepare countries for the first round of negotiations on annexes and a protocol to the Trilateral Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Transport of Goods and People between the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam. At the request of the GMS countries, a similar workshop (Bangkok, February 2004) will help to facilitate stage 2 negotiations on annexes and protocols. Moreover, an expert group meeting on legal arrangements for facilitation of international land transport among the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be convened (Urumqi, China, May 2004).

4. As a result of the joint secretariat/ECE assistance through seminars and discussions at various legislative meetings between 2002 and 2003, Azerbaijan acceded to the Convention on Road Traffic (1968) on 3 July 2002, and Mongolia acceded to the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) (1975) on 1 October 2002 and the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) (1956) on 18 September 2003.

5. In December 2003 and January 2004, the secretariat provided advisory services to China and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic on subregional agreements and international conventions related to facilitation of cross-border and transit transport, including TIR. Technical support was also provided to Thailand to assess the beneficial application of the CMR convention, which is now being considered by the Government.

6. Further initiatives to promote the implementation of resolution 48/11 include the joint formulation by the ESCAP Transport and Tourism Division, the Trade and Investment Division and the

Information, Communication and Space Technology Division of a comprehensive project to assist landlocked and transit countries in removing non-physical barriers to cross-border and transit through the adoption of international conventions, strengthening national trade/transport facilitation committees, providing facilitation tools, formulating legal frameworks and applying ICT.

7. The actual status of accession to the conventions listed in resolution 48/11 is given in the annex to the present document.

II. RESOLUTION 51/8. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW DELHI ACTION PLAN ON INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

8. Notable progress has been achieved in the development of the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway network and Euro-Asian transport linkages and facilitation of land transport, as reported under resolutions 48/11 and 52/9.

9. The secretariat conducted four case studies on transit transport in landlocked and transit developing countries. Four subregional meetings were organized and hosted by landlocked countries with the participation of all their transit neighbours. This work culminated in the preparation of the Asian Action Plan on Transit Transport Cooperation, which was considered and endorsed by the Commission at the first phase of its fifty-ninth session in April 2003. In this process, the members of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) adopted the specific Action Programme for Transit Transport Cooperation for SPECA Countries. Subsequently, 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, in August 2003, adopted the Almaty Programme of Action, taking into account the Asian Action Plan on Transit Transport Cooperation. The Almaty Programme of Action is a new global framework for the development of efficient transit transport systems in the interest of landlocked and transit developing countries, and is expected to strengthen the role of ESCAP in that area. At the request of the Government of Mongolia, the secretariat in October 2003 provided advisory services to that country on the preparation of a plan of action as a follow-up to the International Ministerial Conference.

10. The secretariat is implementing a project on integrated international transport and logistics systems for North-East Asia, in collaboration with the UNDP Tumen River Secretariat and the Korea Transport Institute, with financial support from the Government of the Republic of Korea. Under the project, a series of national workshops took place in Ulaanbaatar, Moscow, Seoul and Beijing. In addition, a study was undertaken to examine the beneficial impacts of the development of intermodal and logistics facilities in the subregion. The study provides an overview of challenges and successes as well as policy guidelines, which will be considered at a subregional policy-level meeting and country-level workshops scheduled for 2004.

11. Following a study on the commercial development of regional ports as logistics centres and a regional seminar on the subject held at Bangkok in July 2002, a set of strategies and guidelines for developing regional or national logistics centres in ports was published. At the request of Brunei Darussalam, in September 2003 the secretariat facilitated the Port Strategic Planning Workshop to assist in the formulation of a plan to develop Muara Port as a hub port for the East ASEAN Growth Area.

12. To assist countries in developing inland waterways, the secretariat developed a manual on the modernization of inland water transport for integration within the multimodal transport system. A subregional seminar on the integration of inland water transport infrastructure within intermodal transport networks was held at Phnom Penh in November 2003.

13. The secretariat continued to create awareness of the implications of the WTO/GATS negotiations on maritime transport services; for this purpose a subregional seminar was organized at Mumbai, India in March 2003. Similarly, as a follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the secretariat held a meeting at Bangkok in March 2003 to discuss the structure and functions of public-private partnership units and their potential to promote pro-poor policies in member countries.

14. The secretariat prepared the biennial review of developments in transport in the ESCAP region, and a statistical abstract on transport in Asia and the Pacific that is available on the ESCAP web site.¹

15. The secretariat's capacity-building and skills-development programme in multimodal transport and logistics included the publication of two training manuals, one related to logistics and supply-chain management and the other to operational aspects of multimodal transport. ASEAN member countries have agreed to use this training material within a common training programme, and the ASEAN Freight Forwarders Association (AFFA) has requested the secretariat to assist in its delivery through the conduct of joint training-of-trainer workshops, monitoring and quality-control processes and the issuance of joint AFFA-ESCAP certificates. In addition, in December 2003 advisory services were provided to the freight-forwarding industry and the Philippines training institutes to review training activities and examine the options for delivering the ESCAP training material. In November 2003, a regional meeting provided a forum for freight forwarders to share experience and develop specific mechanisms for sustainable dialogue. The freight forwarders decided that it was important to meet annually under the auspices of ESCAP, and the Federation of Freight Forwarders of India offered to host the next regional meeting in 2004.

¹ <<http://www.unescap.org/tctd/pubs/statabs02.htm>>.

16. The Regional Forum on Maritime Manpower Planning, Training and Employment, held at Bangkok in October 2003, contributed towards promoting dialogue among the participating organizations and enhancing cooperation.

III. RESOLUTION 52/9. INTRA-ASIA AND ASIA-EUROPE LAND BRIDGES

17. The Commission, at its fifty-ninth session (Phase II), held at Bangkok in September 2003, reiterated the importance of the Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID) project and endorsed the plan of action for phase VI of the project (2004-2005).

18. Development of the Asian Highway included the extension of the Highway's coverage to 32 countries through a road network of approximately 140,000 km. Major activities funded by the Government of Japan during the review period were the convening in November 2002 of a working group meeting to draft the intergovernmental agreement on the Asian Highway network, and the organization of four subregional seminars for: (a) the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Singapore in March 2003, (b) the Economic Cooperation Organization and Caucasus at Baku, Azerbaijan in March 2003, (c) North-East Asia at Ulaanbaatar in August 2003 and (d) the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at New Delhi in October 2003. Subsequently, an intergovernmental meeting held in November 2003 unanimously adopted the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, thereby laying the framework for coordinated development of the international highways in Asia, as well as between Asia and Europe.² The Agreement has been deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and a formal signing ceremony will take place during the sixtieth session of the Commission.

19. A joint ESCAP/UNDP Tumen Secretariat study on identification of the priority road network and investment needs in North-East Asia for development of the Tumen River area was undertaken. The draft study report was considered at a policy-level expert group meeting held at Ulaanbaatar in October 2002. The final study report and recommendations emanating from the expert group meeting were endorsed by the Tumen River Area Development Programme Transport Working Group Meeting held at Beijing in December 2002.

20. The secretariat undertook a comprehensive review of the Trans-Asian Railway network, resulting in the publication in December 2003 of the draft revised map of the network and posting of the map on the ESCAP web site.³

21. In pursuance of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Planning and Implementation of Demonstration Runs of Container Block-trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor,

² The full text of the Agreement is posted on the ESCAP web site <<http://www.unescap.org/ttd/IGM/AH-Agreement-E.pdf>>.

³ <<http://www.unescap.org/ttd/LatestTarMap.gof>>.

which was signed in November 2001, steering committee meetings took place at Vladivostok, Russian Federation in June 2002 and Ulaanbaatar in October 2003. The Ulaanbaatar meeting agreed on dates for demonstration runs on key sections of the Northern Corridor, reflecting the concerted efforts of the participating railway organizations. A demonstration run took place on 8 November 2003 between the Chinese port of Tianjin and Ulaanbaatar as a first step towards organizing a more ambitious 10-day run between Tianjin and Finland through Mongolia and the Russian Federation.

22. The eighth session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing, with Kazakhstan as the lead country, was supported by ECE and ESCAP. The ninth session is scheduled for March 2004.

23. Under the project on capacity-building in developing interregional land and land-cum-sea transport linkages, implemented by the five regional commissions and funded through the United Nations Development Account, an expert group meeting on developing Euro-Asian transport linkages will be held at Almaty in March 2004 to provide a forum for the 17 participating countries to review the development of the Euro-Asian transport corridors.⁴ Representatives of international and subregional organizations have also been invited to the meeting.

24. At the request of Kazakhstan, the secretariat provided advisory services in April and September 2003 on improving international rail transport corridors and setting up a container land-bridge with the involvement of the private sector, utilizing multimodal transport.

25. In implementing resolution 52/9, the tasks are being carried out in cooperation with ECE, ESCWA, ECA, TRADP, the UNDP Silk Road Area Development Programme, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), ASEAN, ECO, SAARC, the Intergovernmental Commission Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia, the International Road Federation, the International Road Transport Union, the International Union of Railways, the Organization for Cooperation of Railways, the Korea Railroad Research Institute and KOTI.

IV. RESOLUTION 56/1. DECADE OF GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, 2000-2009

26. Activities in implementation of the resolution focused mainly on human resources development in the priority sectors, as described below.

27. In the area of transport, the secretariat implemented projects on border trade facilitation and logistic development in the GMS, harmonization of navigation aids systems along the greater Mekong River, facilitation of international transit transport, intermodal transport systems along the greater Mekong River and ESCAP-ADB subregional seminars on facilitation of cross-border transport in GMS. These activities have strengthened cooperation among the countries of the subregion. Notable

⁴ The 17 countries are Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

outcomes have been the adoption of harmonized regulations for safe navigation and better preparedness of the countries to negotiate the operational annexes of the Greater Mekong Subregion Agreement for Facilitation of Cross-border Transport of Goods and People, including international conventions on transport, such as the TIR and CMR conventions.

28. To harness the full potential of tourism, ESCAP organized a number of training courses, seminars and workshops on the management of cultural tourism, sustainable tourism resource management and barrier-free tourism under the theme “Tourism development in GMS”. Two meetings of the Working Group on the Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Sector were convened and seven seminars organized on tourism issues. Progress has been made in strengthening national capacities and promoting coordinated efforts in creating an environment conducive to the sustainable growth of tourism and the application of best practices.

29. In trade and investment, the secretariat has focused mainly on assisting the private sector, which is still in a nascent stage of development in GMS owing to the relatively late transition to a market-oriented economy in some countries. Much of this work has been implemented within the framework of the Forum for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China, the Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum, the Indo-China Investment Biennium, and training on WTO-related issues, including investment promotion and facilitation, institutional capacity-building for trade policy reforms and trade efficiency, including ICT applications.

30. In the area of natural resources management and protection of the environment, the secretariat has implemented projects on capacity-building in strategic planning and management of natural resources in Asia and the Pacific, increased access for rural population to clean and affordable energy and capacity-building for strengthening public-private partnerships for improving the provision of water supply and sanitation services to the poor. Positive results have been achieved, in particular through the application of guidelines established under the projects to strengthen national and institutional capacities in formulating environmentally sound strategic policies for sustainable development.

31. The alleviation of poverty is a critical challenge in GMS and the secretariat has implemented projects specifically to support initiatives in this area including those on regional poverty alleviation programme: replication of best practices on rural community development, poverty reduction through rural-urban linkages of secondary towns in least developed countries and support to the formulation of urban housing policy.

32. In the field of ICT, the secretariat has implemented activities including the e-Mekong project on ICT development for enterprises, IT programme for private sector development in GMS and towards the development and application of a multi-purpose environmental and natural resources information base for food security and sustainable development. These projects have produced guidelines and a series of policy recommendations to serve as decision-making support tools and to

help in the adoption and use of ICT for development, including the establishment and harmonization of legislation to promote e-business and e-commerce.

33. In formulating and implementing ESCAP technical cooperation activities, the secretariat has worked within various frameworks, such as the Forum for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China, the Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum, the Working Group on the Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Sector and the Mekong Tourism Forum. It has also established close working relationships with bilateral and multilateral donors and international and regional organizations that have contributed to the design and implementation of subregional cooperation activities and strategies for the implementation of the resolution. These agencies include the ASEAN Secretariat, ADB, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, the Mekong River Commission, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNIDO and the World Bank.

34. The secretariat recently expanded its technical assistance to new areas such as gender, health, disaster reduction and youth protection. It also continues its efforts to foster socio-economic development in GMS, initiating new projects and keeping in view the changing needs of the GMS countries.

V. RESOLUTION 57/6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ACTION PROGRAMME, STRATEGIES AND IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES FOR THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION, 2001-2005, IN SUPPORT OF THE BALI DECLARATION ON ASIA-PACIFIC PERSPECTIVES ON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

35. Since 2002, the secretariat has implemented capacity-building projects to promote the concept of strategic planning and management in the energy sector, which enables policies to capture cross-cutting issues necessary to support sustainable development. Applying the concept to national policy-making enables countries to identify priority areas as well as strategic action plans to achieve their respective goals for national energy development. Following the development of guidelines on strategic planning and management for the energy sector, three subregional workshops, held in 2002 in South Asia, the Pacific, and South-East and North Asia respectively, trained trainers from countries of each subregion. In 2003, national-level activities were carried out to strengthen capacities in seven countries. Similar activities will continue in at least three additional countries in 2004, with the aim of developing sound energy policies with clear objectives and strategies in support of sustainable development.

36. In the Pacific subregion, a project to improve the provision of training on renewable energy is under implementation in collaboration with Pacific organizations. The main result of the project will be a strategic plan for meeting long-term training needs on renewable energy in the Pacific island developing States, developed in close consultation with the stakeholders concerned.

37. Within the framework of a memorandum of understanding between UNEP and ESCAP, a joint project has been developed to mobilize financial resources to promote the utilization of renewable energy.

38. Within the project framework of strategic planning and management, often the analysis includes identification of measures to strategically promote energy efficiency and renewable energy. Based on specific requests, additional assistance focusing on these issues has been provided in some cases.

39. The secretariat is implementing a project to integrate energy with rural development policies and programmes, which is based on the concept of strategic planning and management. The project is designed to enhance national capacities to identify linkages between energy and rural development in order to promote long-term, integrated and well-coordinated rural energy development planning.

40. The secretariat has been implementing a number of training programmes on energy efficiency with energy managers in collaboration with government agencies, with a view to eventually strengthening energy efficiency policies. Subregional and national workshops and advisory services to identify opportunities for and promote the mobilization of financial resources for energy efficiency improvement projects are provided on a continuous basis, mostly on direct request by member Governments.

41. A pilot project is being implemented in Indonesia to demonstrate the concept of public-private partnerships in providing basic services, including energy, for the poor; this project also addresses issues relating to the development of institutional capacity on financing rural electrification projects and documented best practices. The results of this project will be disseminated for possible replication in the region. In addition, the secretariat continued its support for energy policy review and provides advice to member Governments through advisory services in various fields, such as institutional mechanisms and renewable energy policies and technologies.

42. The secretariat cooperates with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, particularly the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP and UNEP in designing and implementing various projects in the region. Cooperation and collaboration continue with ADB and subregional organizations such as SAARC, the ASEAN Centre for Energy and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission. Because enhanced capacity of member Governments in effectively promoting stakeholders' involvement is pivotal in promoting sustainable development, the secretariat also actively involves the private sector and civil society in its efforts to implement the Bali Declaration and the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme. In particular, in implementing capacity-building projects to apply the concept of strategic planning and management, multistakeholder national teams have been established in each participating country. National team members include representatives of Government, civil society and the private sector.

43. The secretariat has taken steps towards regional implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation through a number of technical cooperation projects. Within the framework of the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, a theme cluster, which includes energy for sustainable development, will be addressed during the biennium 2006-2007 (fourteenth and fifteenth sessions) as decided at the eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2003. Regional preparations for the theme cluster will include an assessment of the degree of implementation of Plan of Implementation in 2005. The secretariat, together with other bodies and agencies concerned such as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNDP, plans to facilitate the process by preparing a regional review for discussion at the fourteenth session.

VI. RESOLUTION 58/5. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING AND MACHINERY

44. The first host country headquarters agreement on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery at Beijing was signed by ESCAP and the Government of China in November 2003. A supplementary agreement on financial and administrative arrangements was concluded at the same time. The Centre is now operational under the leadership of its first Director. Full details, including the decisions of the APCAEM Governing Board at its second session, held at Beijing on 26 and 27 November 2003, are given in document E/ESCAP/1320.

Annex

Status of ESCAP member countries' and areas' accession or being a party to international conventions listed in Commission resolution 48/11, as of August 2003

Country or area	Convention on Road Traffic (1968)	Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968)	Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) (1975)	Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)	Customs Convention on Containers (1972)	International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goods (1982)	Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) (1956)
Group I: Mainland Asia							
Afghanistan			x	x			
Armenia			θ			θ	
Azerbaijan	θ		θ	θ		θ	
Bangladesh							
Bhutan							
Cambodia				x			
China					x		
Democratic People's Republic of Korea							
Georgia	θ	θ	θ		θ	θ	θ
Hong Kong, China				x			
India		x					
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	x	x	x				θ
Kazakhstan	θ	θ	θ				θ
Kyrgyzstan			θ	θ		θ	θ
Lao People's Democratic Republic							
Malaysia							
Mongolia	θ	θ	θ				
Myanmar							
Nepal							
Pakistan	x	x					
Republic of Korea	x	x	x		x		
Russian Federation	x	x	x		x	x	x
Singapore				x			
Tajikistan	θ	θ	θ				θ
Thailand	x	x					
Turkey			x		x		θ
Turkmenistan	θ	θ	θ				θ
Uzbekistan	θ	θ	θ	θ	θ	θ	θ
Viet Nam							
Group II: Island countries							
Brunei Darussalam				x		..	..
Indonesia	x	x	x		x	..	..
Japan						..	..
Maldives						..	..
Philippines	x	x				..	..
Sri Lanka						..	..

Notes: Two dots (..) indicate that data are not applicable.
x - party/acceded.
θ - acceded after adoption of resolution 48/11.