



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Subcommittee on Socially Vulnerable Groups

First session
13-15 September 2004
Bangkok

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

**Agenda item 1
OPENING OF THE SESSION**

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

**Agenda item 2
ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

A chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur will be elected for the session.

**Agenda item 3
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The provisional agenda will be considered and adopted by the Subcommittee, subject to such changes as may be agreed.

**Agenda item 4
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE
WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE
OUTCOME OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- (a) Regional review
- (b) Social development in the Pacific

The Subcommittee is invited to provide information on the national implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995, and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, held at Geneva in 2000. Document E/ESCAP/SVG/1 summarizes the achievements and challenges in the implementation of the Programme of Action and Document E/ESCAP/SVG/2 provides specific information on social development in the Pacific. The Programme of Action focuses on the three key areas of poverty alleviation, employment generation and social integration. While the region has made steady progress in poverty reduction, it is likely that not all countries will achieve the goal of

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reducing the percentage of the population living in poverty by half by 2015. Overall employment in the region has not kept pace with the growth of the labour force, and the rate of youth unemployment is a major issue for both young women and men. The region has continued to strengthen social integration through improved governance and by increasingly adopting a rights-based approach to development. However, the different abilities of economies to create employment, the prevalence of people with disabilities, persistent gender inequalities and the HIV/AIDS epidemic, among other things, continue to exclude certain populations from the benefits of economic and social development.

Agenda item 5
EMERGING DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
AND POPULATION AGEING

Document E/ESCAP/SVG/3 will discuss international migration and population ageing.

International migration within the region is increasing in volume owing to continued disparities in the levels of economic and social development. Significant migration flows are undocumented or irregular because the demand for labour is greater than what is provided for in the laws and administrative regulations. A consequence is that many migrants are vulnerable and lack access to basic social services and social protection. Women constitute the majority of international migrants in many migration streams, particularly for specific occupations. Migrants employed as domestic workers are in many cases particularly vulnerable owing to their isolation in private households and to a lack of legal protection for the work that they perform.

Population ageing in the more developed economies of the region will produce a greater demand for migrants to work as caregivers and health-care providers. Rapid population ageing in many countries of the region calls for strengthened policies and programmes. The secretariat is implementing a series of activities to assist countries in implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

The Subcommittee is invited to provide the secretariat with guidance in planning its activities in the areas of international migration and population ageing.

Agenda item 6
EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Document E/ESCAP/SVG/4 summarizes the current overall situation of persons with disabilities in the ESCAP region at the inception of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012. It describes the programme strategies and activities of the secretariat to assist members and associate members in implementing the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. The Subcommittee is invited to provide feedback and guidance on the proposed activities of the secretariat.

Agenda item 7
**REPORT ON THE HIGH-LEVEL INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING
TO REVIEW REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION, AND ITS
REGIONAL AND GLOBAL OUTCOMES**

As indicated in document E/ESCAP/SVG/5, the Subcommittee will be apprised on the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting, to be convened from 7 to 10 September 2004.

Agenda item 8
**PROGRAMME MATTERS: PRIORITY AREAS FOR INCLUSION IN THE
PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2006-2007**

Document E/ESCAP/SVG/6 contains the draft strategic framework for the subprogramme on emerging social issues for the period 2006-2007 and includes the biennial programme plan, focusing on the objectives and expected accomplishments of the subprogramme on emerging social issues. The Committee on Emerging Social Issues, at its first session, reviewed and endorsed the draft medium-term plan for the subprogramme on emerging social issues. Following General Assembly resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, the strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007, incorporating the biennial programme plan, replaces the current four-year medium-term plan. The strategic framework and biennial programme plan were endorsed by the Commission at its sixtieth session, held in April 2004. The Subcommittee is invited to make suggestions on priority areas, focusing on outputs and activities that could contribute to the expected accomplishments and strategic direction included in the plan.

Agenda item 9
OTHER MATTERS

The Subcommittee may wish to raise any matter not covered under the items described above.

Agenda item 10
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The Subcommittee will adopt the report on its first session for submission to the Committee on Emerging Social Issues at its second session, in 2005.