



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development

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

(Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda)

Note by the secretariat

SUMMARY

The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, requested the Secretary-General to prepare for submission to the General Assembly, at its fifty-ninth session, a strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 to replace the current four-year medium-term plan. The strategic framework would comprise part one, a plan outline, reflecting the longer-term objectives of the Organization; and part two, a biennial programme plan that would cover two years.

Under these new arrangements, the programme narrative for the next programme budget (for the period 2006-2007) will be identical to the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement provided in the biennial programme plan.

The document provides the biennial programme plan for the work of ESCAP for the period 2006-2007, including the objectives, expected accomplishments and strategies for the subprogramme on environment and sustainable development. The biennial plan is based largely on the content of the draft indicative medium-term plan that had been endorsed by the Committee on Managing Globalization in November 2003. The sixtieth session of the Commission, held in April 2004, endorsed the draft strategic framework, including the proposed biennial programme plan for environment and sustainable development. The framework was then transmitted to the Secretary-General, along with the comments of the Commission. The Committee for Programme and Coordination adopted the attached version of the framework in early July 2004, for eventual consideration during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

The Subcommittee is invited to review the document and provide suggestions for priority areas of focus for inclusion in the programme budget for 2006-2007. Priorities should focus on outputs and activities that could contribute to the expected accomplishments and strategic direction stated in the subprogramme on environment and sustainable development.

Subprogramme 6. Environment and sustainable development

Objective of the Organization: To facilitate the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, economic development, social development and environmental protection.	
Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased national capacities to develop and implement effective, gender-responsive policies and programmes in partnerships with civil society and the private sector for enhancing environmental protection, energy resources management and water resources management	(a) An increase in the number of measures taken to promote sustainable, gender-responsive national policies and programmes in environmental protection, energy resources management and water resources management
(b) Increased national capacities for transboundary cooperation and for monitoring progress at the national level in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992	(b) (i) An increase in the number of measures taken to strengthen transboundary collaboration on sustainable development (b) (ii) An increase in the number of measures taken at the national level to improve sustainable development monitoring mechanisms

Strategy

The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Environment and Sustainable Development Division. It will comprise closely integrated sectoral projects and interdisciplinary activities implemented jointly with other divisions within the thematic areas of managing globalization, reducing poverty and addressing emerging social issues.

The subprogramme will be implemented by:

(a) Using innovative and pragmatic approaches to public and private sector capacity-development activities, at the request of members and associate members, for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992, and the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) Playing a proactive role in promoting policy dialogues to facilitate the integration of economic, social and environmental considerations into overall development plans and programmes, as well as into those of specific sectors, such as energy and water resources;

(c) Assisting member and associate member States in regular monitoring of environmental trends, the implementation of global environmental agreements and any reporting requirements;

(d) Promoting wider participation of all stakeholders in regional and national decision-making processes relating to sustainable development;

(e) Supporting those arrangements for regional and subregional cooperation in energy and water resources and environmental protection that are entered into by member States.

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