



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism

First session  
24-26 November 2004  
Bangkok

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**1. Opening of the session**

The session will be opened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and, if possible, a dignitary from the Government of Thailand.

**2. Election of officers**

The Subcommittee will elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson(s) and rapporteur.

**3. Adoption of the agenda**

The provisional agenda will be adopted with any changes deemed necessary. It may be noted that the sequence of the agenda items has been designed to provide member countries with the opportunity to review recent initiatives in the transport and tourism sectors and subsequently consider the longer-term strategy to address persistent and emerging issues within the context of globalization.

**4. Major issues in transport, tourism and infrastructure development**

**(a) Transport infrastructure**

The secretariat is implementing its work programme in transport within the overall framework of phase II of the Regional Action Programme of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure held at Seoul in November 2001 and the international ministerial conference on transit transport cooperation held in Almaty in August 2003. The overall strategy being followed is that endorsed by the Commission at its sixtieth session, held in Shanghai, China, in April 2004.

Document E/ESCAP/STIFT/1 discusses two major components of the secretariat's activities on transport infrastructure, namely, the development of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks within the context of intermodal transport. Complementary activities being undertaken by the  
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secretariat for the special programme in Central Asia as well as the development of Euro-Asian transport linkages are also highlighted. Insofar as the Asian Highway is concerned, the document focuses on the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, signed at the sixtieth session of the Commission, and the identification of investment needs and development priorities for the Asian Highway network and related intermodal connections and freight terminals. Member States that have signed the Intergovernmental Agreement subject to ratification, acceptance or approval and those members that have not yet signed will be invited to report progress. They may also wish to consider and report upon issues related to financing the upgrading and development of the network.

Special attention is given to the formulation of an intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway network, the first drafting meeting for which will have been held immediately preceding the current session, and the secretariat's activities related to demonstration runs of container block trains along the Trans-Asian Railway northern corridor. It is proposed that an intergovernmental meeting be convened towards the end of 2005 to formally negotiate the intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway network, with a view to its adoption by the Commission in 2006. The Subcommittee may wish to provide its views on the convening of such a meeting and the extension of the demonstration runs of container block trains to other routes.

The Subcommittee is also invited to provide guidance to the secretariat on the implementation of its work in the area of transport infrastructure.

#### **(b) Transport facilitation**

With the formalization of the Asian Highway and the construction and ongoing upgrading of road and rail networks, ESCAP member countries are placing greater emphasis on utilizing these transport networks more effectively to ensure the smooth movement of goods and people across borders and to gateway ports. Positive action to enable landlocked countries to access global markets and become land-linking countries has also gathered momentum with the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action.

Document E/ESCAP/STIFT/2 analyses the current state of transport facilitation in selected subregions and what needs to be done to capitalize on the predicted high growth forecasts for both inter- and intraregional trade in the ESCAP region. The document will consider the integration of transport networks, facilitation and logistics in North-East Asia, facilitation of international road transport in the ASEAN and Greater Mekong subregions, facilitation of international road transport among the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and collaboration with United Nations bodies and external entities.

The Subcommittee will be invited to review performance along selected transport corridors, to report on progress and experience in the establishment of national trade/transport facilitation committees and to consider the possibility of a regional meeting of such committees. Guidance will also be sought

with respect to the updating of Commission resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures, to promote intraregional trade more effectively.

**(c) Enhancing the role of tourism in social and economic development and major initiatives of ESCAP**

The Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session in 1999, will conclude in 2006. The Plan of Action is aimed at assisting long-term prosperity in Asia and the Pacific by increasing the contribution of tourism through relevant action by Governments and stakeholders at the national and regional levels. Another important initiative is the establishment of the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism (APETIT) in 1997. Currently, 179 education and training institutes and national tourism organizations in 41 countries and areas are participating in its activities.

Document E/ESCAP/STIFT/3 highlights major initiatives of the secretariat related to the Plan of Action and contains suggested areas of focus for the second phase of the Plan, which could be launched in 2006. It also discusses tourism's contribution to poverty reduction and draws attention to the importance of tourism and transport linkages.

The Subcommittee is invited to highlight major initiatives within the framework of the Plan of Action and offer suggestions concerning the areas of focus in the second phase (2006-2012). It is also invited to provide guidance on the course of future action to be taken by the secretariat to enhance tourism's contributions to poverty reduction and support the synergy between transport and tourism and on further strengthening of the cooperation in human resources development in the tourism sector through APETIT. Last but not least, the Subcommittee is invited to consider the provisional agenda for the Intergovernmental Meeting on Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region.

**5. Implementation of phase II of the Regional Action Programme (2002-2006) of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific**

In pursuance of Commission resolution 51/8 of 1 May 1995 on the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure was held in Seoul in November 2001 to review the implementation of phase I of the Regional Action Programme (1997-2001) of the New Delhi Action Plan and to consider the activities to be undertaken during phase II. It culminated in the adoption of the Seoul Declaration on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, including phase II of the Regional Action Programme.

Document E/ESCAP/STIFT/4 provides a report on the secretariat's principal achievements in the implementation of phase II. The document also discusses a way forward to sustain the momentum and achievements towards realization of the vision of an integrated, international intermodal transport system that provides for smooth and efficient movement of goods and people both internally and across international borders (including seaports). It also highlights potential issues and concerns for  
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incorporation in the agenda of a ministerial conference on transport to be held in 2006, which could form the basis of a ministerial declaration and action plan for the secretariat's activities over the coming decade.

Delegations will be invited to report on progress with respect to major transport developments and related implementation strategies at the national and subregional levels that support the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan. Delegations are encouraged to make summary statements that review major transport and facilitation developments in their countries under this agenda item. These could be supported by more detailed written statements that would assist the secretariat in preparing for the publication of the review of developments in transport in the ESCAP region, 2004-2005.

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The Subcommittee is invited to provide guidance on the proposed structure of the ministerial conference, the issues for incorporation into the agenda and possible institutional arrangements that could facilitate a more effective dialogue amongst the region's transport policy makers.

## **6. Programme matters**

### **(a) Review of programme performance, 2002-2003**

Document E/ESCAP/STIFT/5 presents a summary of the programme performance of the subprogramme on transport and tourism for 2002-2003. This is the first results-oriented performance report and highlights programme achievements in the biennium. The Subcommittee is invited to review the document and take note of the results achieved.

### **(b) Programme changes for 2004-2005**

Document E/ESCAP/STIFT/6 contains the programme changes for the subprogramme on transport and tourism for 2004-2005, which were endorsed by the Commission at its sixtieth session, for incorporation into the programme of work for 2004-2005. The Subcommittee is invited to take note of the changes.

### **(c) Priority areas for inclusion in the programme of work, 2006-2007**

Document E/ESCAP/STIFT/7 contains the draft strategic framework for the subprogramme on transport and tourism for the period 2006-2007 and is presented for review by the Subcommittee. The document includes the biennial programme plan, focusing on the objectives and expected

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accomplishments of the subprogramme. The Committee on Managing Globalization, at its first session, reviewed and endorsed the draft medium-term plan for the subprogramme. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, the strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007, incorporating the biennial programme plan, now replaces the current four-year medium-term plan. The draft strategic framework and biennial programme plan were endorsed by the Commission at its sixtieth session. The Committee for Programme and Coordination adopted 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 comments.

**7. Other matters**

The Subcommittee may wish to consider any other matters not covered by the agenda.

**8. Adoption of the report**

The Subcommittee will adopt its report, which will be submitted to the Committee on Managing Globalization at its second session. The Committee will then report to the Commission at its sixty-first session.

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