



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Sixty-second session
6-12 April 2006
Jakarta

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening addresses

The detailed programme for the opening of the session will be made available upon its finalization in consultation with the host Government.

(b) Election of officers

Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Commission provides as follows: "The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election". If the plenary so decides, the rule may be applied differently to enable the Commission to elect more than two Vice-Chairpersons, as has been the practice at previous sessions, in which case the Commission may elect a bureau of officers composed of a Chairperson and several Vice-Chairpersons.

The Senior Officials Meeting may decide to meet in three committees of the whole and a working group on draft resolutions. It would then elect chairpersons and vice-chairpersons for each.

The Ministerial Meeting will elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/L.162/Rev.1)

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/L.163/Rev.1)

The provisional agenda was drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR). The Commission will be invited to adopt the agenda.

2. Policy issues for the ESCAP region

(a) Implications of recent economic and social developments

Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues (E/ESCAP/1360)

Document E/ESCAP/1360 contains a report drawing on information contained in the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2006*.

The report reviews recent macroeconomic and other developments in the world economy, including the implications of the global slowdown and imbalances, for the Asian and Pacific region. It analyses the recent economic performance of ESCAP members and associate members, their medium-term prospects, and the nature and intensity of policy reforms and their impact on economies of the region.

Examples of good practices and lessons learned in relation to policy design and implementation that could be useful for policymakers are examined.

The report also analyses the diverse dimensions of unemployment issues in the Asian and Pacific region and their implications for socio-economic well-being. It recommends policy measures that would enable countries to rise to the challenges posed by unemployment issues.

The Commission is invited to examine critical emerging issues that the Asian and Pacific region is facing and provide guidance to the secretariat on ways to address them.

(b) Strengthening Pacific island developing countries and territories through regional cooperation

Strengthening Pacific island developing countries and territories through regional cooperation (E/ESCAP/1361)

Document E/ESCAP/1361 contains an overview of key trends in technical assistance and aid received by Pacific island developing countries and territories, in the context of economic relations and trade between the Pacific and Asia. It identifies areas in which Asian partnership with Pacific island developing countries may be further enhanced to increase the level of benefit from Asian economic dynamism for Pacific island developing countries and territories. In this regard, the Commission is invited to consider recommendations for action towards strengthening Pacific-Asian cooperation.

(c) Enhancing regional cooperation in infrastructure development, including that related to disaster management

Enhancing regional cooperation in infrastructure development, including that related to disaster management (E/ESCAP/1362)

In the context of the development needs of the Asian and Pacific region, document E/ESCAP/1362 provides an analysis of existing domestic and cross-border infrastructure, future development needs for infrastructure, existing regional cooperation initiatives in infrastructure development and options for regional cooperation initiatives in financing infrastructure investment in the region. The study also discusses the infrastructure aspects of natural disaster management.

It accords particular attention to infrastructure development in four specific areas, namely, transport, energy, information and communication technology, and water. These areas are critical for the development of the region.

The document discusses innovative regional cooperation initiatives for infrastructure development, including that related to natural disaster management and financing of infrastructure investment.

The Commission is invited to review the analysis and provide guidance on the promotion of infrastructure development in the region.

3. Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: the Way Forward 2015

Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: the Way Forward 2015 (E/ESCAP/1363)

The Commission will have before it document E/ESCAP/1363. The document highlights the key items in the Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: the Way Forward 2015, which calls upon the United Nations to ensure comprehensive and coherent programmes of support for countries in Asia and the Pacific in their efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals. The Jakarta Declaration was adopted by the Ministers and representatives of countries of Asia and the Pacific who had gathered in Jakarta from 3 to 5 August 2005 for the Regional Ministerial Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: the Way Forward 2015.

The document reviews the progress made by countries in the ESCAP region towards the achievement of the Goals, and highlights the key challenges faced by countries, especially least developed and other disadvantaged countries. It presents key approaches for advancing the achievement of the Goals in the ESCAP region. It also highlights current initiatives of the United Nations system to support countries in their efforts to achieve the Goals through promoting policy dialogue, facilitating the exchange of good practices, providing comprehensive regional analyses on the achievement of the Goals, and mobilizing resources and technology for the region to achieve them.

Finally, it proposes modalities for regional implementation of the Jakarta Declaration, including a proposed road map to move forward to 2015, taking into account the key findings of the ESCAP/UNDP/ADB publication entitled *A Future Within Reach: Reshaping Institutions in a Region*

of Disparities to Meet the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific and the outcomes of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly (also known as the 2005 World Summit).

The Commission is invited to consider the road map and to provide guidance on follow-up action to promote its implementation.

4. Key developments and activities at the regional level

(a) Poverty reduction

Report of the Committee on Poverty Reduction on its second session (E/ESCAP/1364)

Confronting poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/1365)

The Commission will have before it the report of the Committee on Poverty Reduction on its second session, held in Bangkok from 23 to 25 November 2005 (E/ESCAP/1364).

The Committee discussed the process of decentralization and its implications for poverty reduction, as well as issues related to the poverty reduction activities of ESCAP. It also considered the reports of the Subcommittees on Poverty Reduction Practices and on Statistics. The Committee discussed the follow-up to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, issues related to the vital role of population and housing censuses in policymaking and decision-making at local levels and a revision of the international recommendations for statistics on economic activities. The Committee considered programme planning and the evaluation of a selected flagship project in the area of poverty reduction. The Commission is invited to consider with a view to endorsing the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee.

Document E/ESCAP/1365 draws from the outcomes of the Expert Group Meeting on Rural Development and Rural Poverty Reduction, held in Bangkok on 19 and 20 May 2005 and of the Fourth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, held in Hanoi from 11 to 15 September 2005. The Expert Group Meeting discussed issues related to rural development and rural poverty reduction that were emerging as key priorities in Asia and the Pacific. The Forum raised awareness of the Millennium Development Goals among diverse urban stakeholders and explored ways of adapting the Goals to enhance their relevance to the specific needs of cities and towns in the Asian and Pacific region.

The Commission is invited to review the document and provide guidance on actions that could be taken to strengthen the impact of poverty reduction in rural and urban areas.

(b) Managing globalization

Report of the Committee on Managing Globalization on its second session (E/ESCAP/1366)

Summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of managing globalization (E/ESCAP/1367)

Latest developments relating to managing globalization (E/ESCAP/1368)

Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on Sustainable Tourism Development (E/ESCAP/1369)

Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting to Develop the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network (E/ESCAP/1370)

The trade and development challenge: regional perspectives on key developments (E/ESCAP/1371)

Document E/ESCAP/1366 contains the report of the Committee on Managing Globalization on its second session, held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 October 2005. The report, addressing both cross-cutting and sectoral issues in managing globalization, highlights the Committee's deliberations and recommendations on the persistent and emerging issues related to four subprogramme areas: (a) international trade and investment; (b) transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism; (c) information, communication and space technology; and (d) environment and sustainable development. The Commission is invited to consider matters calling for its action or brought to its attention and provide further guidance to the secretariat.

Document E/ESCAP/1367 provides a brief summary of the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of managing globalization that are required to be reported to the Commission at its sixty-second session.

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

Document E/ESCAP/1368 provides a brief update on the latest developments relating to managing globalization since the convening of the second session of the Committee on Managing Globalization in the four subprogramme areas listed above.

Document E/ESCAP/1369 contains the report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on Sustainable Tourism Development, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 7 to 9 December 2005. The Meeting reviewed the implementation of the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region (1999-2005) and adopted a second phase of the Plan (2006-2012). The Commission is invited to endorse the report.

Document E/ESCAP/1370 contains the report of the Intergovernmental Meeting to Develop the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, held in Bangkok from 28 to 30 November 2005. The Commission is invited to endorse the report and adopt the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network so that it may be presented to the Ministerial Conference on Transport in 2006 for signature.

The Commission will have before it the document “The trade and development challenge: regional perspectives on key developments” (E/ESCAP/1371). The document reviews key developments in the area of trade and investments as they have evolved since the sixty-first session of the Commission. The instrumental role of trade liberalization, particularly as embodied in a universal, rules-based, open, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, and the ongoing efforts at enhancing a more equitable integration of developing countries into the global and regional economies, are analysed.

The document assesses the outcome of the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Hong Kong, China, from 13 to 18 December 2005. It also considers the rapidly changing regional trading panorama in Asia and the Pacific, with a particular focus on the outcome of the first session of the Ministerial Council of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, held in Beijing on 2 November 2005. The document considers in further detail its Ministerial Declaration and the future direction of the Agreement that will optimize benefits for the region and fulfil its potential to evolve into a region-wide mechanism of economic cooperation in trade and investments. Members and associate members of the Commission are invited to consider these issues and provide further guidance to the secretariat on its future work.

(c) Emerging social issues

Progress in addressing persistent and emerging social issues (E/ESCAP/1372)

The Commission will have before it the document entitled “Progress in addressing persistent and emerging social issues” (E/ESCAP/1372).

The document consists of two sections. Section I presents the report of the Committee on Emerging Social Issues on its second session, held in Bangkok from 1 to 3 November 2005. The Committee discussed the emerging challenges to social development in the region and measures needed to enhance regional cooperation to address emerging social challenges. It further discussed measures needed to enhance the social integration of vulnerable groups with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It considered the reports of the Subcommittee on Socially Vulnerable Groups and the Subcommittee on Health and Development. The Committee discussed emerging health risks posed by the rising prevalence of non-communicable diseases and injuries in the ESCAP region, as well as public health capacity-building interventions to strengthen primary health care. It considered programme planning and preparation for the strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009 in respect of the subprogramme on social development, including emerging social issues, as well as ESCAP guidelines for programme monitoring, review and evaluation. It also considered the evaluation of a selected flagship project in the area of social development. The Commission is invited to consider and endorse the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee as contained in the report on its second session.

Section II of the document provides an overview of the latest activities and progress in the implementation of recent resolutions relating to emerging social issues carried out by ESCAP in the areas of (a) socially vulnerable groups, (b) gender and (c) health and development. The Commission is invited to review the progress achieved and provide comments and further guidance for enhanced and effective implementation.

5. Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/1373)

The Committee will have before it the report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/1373), scheduled to be held in Jakarta on 4 and 5 April 2006. The Special Body will discuss (a) follow-up to the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States at the regional and subregional levels; and (b) generation of creative income employment opportunities for vulnerable groups in the Pacific.

An oral report on the Commission's activities for the benefit of least developed and landlocked developing countries will also be submitted.

6. Management issues

(a) Programme performance report for the biennium 2004-2005

Programme performance report for 2004-2005 (E/ESCAP/1374)

Document E/ESCAP/1374 contains a results-oriented report on the programme performance of ESCAP for the biennium 2004-2005, highlighting programme achievements. The assessment is based on evidence collected from the end-users of the secretariat's products and services, as well as the findings from both internal and external evaluations conducted during the period under review. The Commission is invited to review the document and provide guidance on the overall performance of the seven subprogrammes.

(b) Programme changes for the biennium 2006-2007

Proposed programme changes for 2006-2007 (E/ESCAP/1375)

Document E/ESCAP/1375 contains the proposed programme changes for 2006-2007. The changes are necessitated by the new mandates adopted by the Commission at its sixty-first session, as well as the emerging global priorities identified by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly and other global conferences since the Commission adopted the draft programme of work for 2006-2007 at its sixty-first session. The Commission is invited to consider the proposed changes with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the programme of work for 2006-2007.

(c) Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009

Draft strategic framework for the period 2008-2009 (E/ESCAP/1376)

Document E/ESCAP/1376, containing the draft strategic framework for the period 2008-2009, is presented for the Commission's review and endorsement. The General Assembly, at its fifty-ninth session, requested the Secretary-General to prepare, for submission to the Assembly, a strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009, comprising part one, a plan outline, and part two, a biennial programme plan.

The document contains the programme overview for the strategic framework for the work of ESCAP for the period 2008-2009, as reviewed by the thematic committees at their sessions held in October-November 2005. As a result of the mandate review called for by the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, the process of further developing the strategic framework has been delayed, pending the review of mandates by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session. The Commission will be briefed verbally on the status of this review, and procedures for further development and submission of the completed proposed biennial programme plan to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-sixth session. Its recommendations will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session when it considers the Secretary-General's proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009.

(d) Monitoring and evaluation guidelines

ESCAP guidelines for programme monitoring, review and evaluation (E/ESCAP/1377)

Document E/ESCAP/1377 contains an overview of the monitoring, review and evaluation system used by the ESCAP secretariat. This system is in line with global intergovernmental concerns for increased emphasis on evaluation of the overall results achieved by the organization, together with an assessment of the performance of individual subprogrammes. Monitoring and evaluation will enable members and associate members to follow up on the implementation of their commitments, to assess the secretariat's performance in implementing the strategic framework and to provide feedback and direction to the secretariat. The Commission is invited to review the document and provide comments for further development of the monitoring, review and evaluation system.

(e) Work of the regional institutions

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/1378)

Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (E/ESCAP/1379)

Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/1380)

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/1381)

The work programmes of the ESCAP regional institutions listed above are fully aligned with the relevant subprogramme's strategic framework. The annual reports reviewing the administrative and financial status of the institutions and the implementation of their programmes of work highlight major events and other developments at the institutions. Governing Council elections will take place for the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development during the Commission session.

The Commission may wish to comment on the above-mentioned documents and provide guidance for the future work of the regional institutions.

(f) 2005 World Summit Outcome: implications for the work of ESCAP

2005 World Summit Outcome: implications for the work of ESCAP (E/ESCAP/1382)

Document E/ESCAP/1382 presents for the Commission's consideration the recommendations contained in the outcome document adopted by the 2005 World Summit and their implications for the work of the ESCAP secretariat. The Commission is invited to guide the secretariat in its follow-up to the recommendations of the Summit, with particular reference to economic and social development matters that are within the purview of ESCAP.

7. Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

Overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions (E/ESCAP/1383)

Document E/ESCAP/1383 summarizes the strategic and operational priorities for 2006-2007, reflected in the ESCAP programme of work and technical cooperation strategy. The document also provides an overview of the secretariat's technical cooperation activities in 2005 and extrabudgetary resources mobilized for implementing those activities. The Commission is invited to provide guidance to the secretariat on future technical cooperation activities and also to announce intended contributions for 2006.

8. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1384 and Add.1)

Documents E/ESCAP/1384 and Add.1 contain the report of ACPR covering the period since the sixty-first session of the Commission. ACPR continues to provide valuable advice to the Executive Secretary on such matters as programme planning, implementation and monitoring, and

organization of the Commission session. The Commission is invited to take note of the report and give further guidance to ACPR.

9. Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (E/ESCAP/1385)

Report of the Mekong River Commission (E/ESCAP/1386)

Report of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/1387)

Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/1388)

The Executive Secretary will transmit the above reports for information. The Commission may wish to take note of them.

10. Date, venue and theme topic for the sixty-third session of the Commission

Date, venue and theme topic for the sixty-third session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1389)

Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, it is expected that the Commission will decide to hold its sixty-third session at Bangkok in April 2007. Under this item, the Commission may also wish to select a theme topic for the session.

11. Other matters

The Commission may wish to consider any other matter that may be brought to its attention.

12. Adoption of the report of the Commission

The Commission will consider and adopt resolutions and the report on its sixty-second session.

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