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**KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL:
MANAGING GLOBALIZATION**

(Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda)

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MANAGING GLOBALIZATION
ON ITS SECOND SESSION**

Note by the secretariat

SUMMARY

The second session of the Committee on Managing Globalization was held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 October 2005.

The Committee considered the reports of the Subcommittees on International Trade and Investment; Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism; Information, Communications and Space Technology; and Environment and Sustainable Development on their first sessions. It endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in each of the reports. The Committee also considered the report on the follow-up to the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, the preparations for the second phase and the preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2007.

The Committee considered the strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009 in respect of the four subprogrammes.

The present report contains matters calling for action by the Commission or to be brought to its attention, including strategies for the two parts of the Committee to be convened in 2006, namely, Part I: international trade and investment, and transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism; and Part II: information, communications and space technology, and environment and sustainable development. The Commission is invited to provide guidance on these matters.

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I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION OR TO BE BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

Part I: International trade and investment, and transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism

1. The Committee requested the secretariat to expand its capacity-building activities on accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), through the ESCAP/WTO/United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Network of WTO Acceding Countries, which would facilitate the accession of ESCAP members in the region and associate members to WTO, and expressed appreciation for the support provided by the Government of Japan in that regard.

2. The Committee commended the secretariat for having organized, in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC), Delivering on the WTO Round: High-level Government-Business Dialogue for Development, which had been held in Macao, China, from 4 to 6 October 2005. It took note of the outcome of the meeting, which had reaffirmed the commitment of ESCAP members and associate members to trade liberalization under a multilateral framework of rules and principles and laid the groundwork for a successful outcome of the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference, to be held in Hong Kong, China, from 13 to 18 December 2005. The Committee noted further that a WTO-consistent, outward-oriented process of regionalism could play a complementary role to multilateralism which would contribute to an enhanced global partnership for trade and development in line with internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

3. The Committee urged the secretariat to enhance its technical assistance activities in such areas as entrepreneurship promotion, foreign direct investment (FDI) promotion and facilitation, brand name development and diversification, training in trade facilitation measures, particularly for least developed countries and landlocked and transit developing countries, and other aspects of supply-side capacity-building.

4. The Committee noted that behind-the-border policies were becoming increasingly complex and that their trade effects, particularly in the context of trade facilitation, required further analysis and a regional exchange of experiences and knowledge. It requested the secretariat to continue to accord high priority to that work in the future.

5. With regard to regionalism, the Committee observed that market access remained a major challenge for developing countries and noted that preferential schemes, such as the generalized system of preferences (GSP), and some bilateral and regional trade agreements, including comprehensive economic partnership agreements, could have beneficial trade and development benefits. The Committee noted that the first session of the Ministerial Council of the Bangkok Agreement would be held in Beijing on 2 November 2005 and would serve as a milestone for the Agreement. In that regard,

the Committee expressed appreciation of the efforts made by the secretariat in promoting the development of regional trade and economic cooperation.

6. The Committee expressed appreciation to the secretariat for its efforts to develop a database on bilateral and regional trade agreements (BTAs and RTAs) in the region, which was a first step towards a comparative analysis of such agreements, and requested the secretariat to continue to accord high priority to that work.

7. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue to identify investment priorities and fund resources for upgrading and developing Asian Highway routes.

8. The Committee reiterated the importance of the discussion at the sixty-first session of the Commission related to financing for development as a means of assisting developing countries in the region in mobilizing financial resources for infrastructure development.

9. The Committee requested the secretariat to follow an implementation schedule aiming at finalization of the intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway network at an intergovernmental meeting in November 2005, and adoption by the Commission at its sixty-second session in 2006, with a view to a formal signing ceremony being held at the ministerial conference on transport to be held later that year.

10. The Committee proposed that a demonstration train run be implemented from or to locations in the Korean peninsula and requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to encourage the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to become a party to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Planning and Implementation of Demonstration Runs of Container Block-trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor.

11. The Committee expressed appreciation of the work of the secretariat to formulate the integrated international transport and logistics system for North-East Asia and recommended that a similar study be undertaken within the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).

12. The Committee endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the First Regional Meeting on Trade and Transport Facilitation in the Landlocked and Transit Countries, which had been held in Bangkok on 10 and 11 October 2005.

13. The Committee supported the secretariat's proposal for the establishment of an Asian and Pacific network on efficient trade and transport to strengthen collaboration and share experience among national trade and transport facilitation bodies.

14. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue its cooperation with relevant organizations and financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), to support the formulation and negotiation of an intergovernmental agreement among the Governments of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on facilitation of international road transport.

15. The Committee encouraged all countries interested in tourism to participate in the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on Sustainable Tourism Development, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, from 7 to 9 December 2005.

16. Noting the substantial progress made in the Greater Mekong Subregion, the Committee requested the secretariat to explore the possibility of initiating subregional tourism projects for North-East Asia and Central Asia.

17. The Committee endorsed the proposals incorporated in the overview of cross-cutting and sectoral issues related to international trade and investment, and transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism (E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/6).

**Part II: Information, communications and space technology, and
environment and sustainable development**

18. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue its efforts in the coordination of the regional preparations for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and the implementation of its outcome.

19. The Committee further requested the secretariat to focus its efforts on the following areas:

(a) Strengthening national capacity for formulating and implementing public policies on global Internet governance and effective participation therein;

(b) Strengthening national capacity for building an enabling policy environment for promoting the application of information and communication technology (ICT);

(c) Strengthening human resources and national capacity in the use of information, communications and space technology (ICST) for sustainable social and economic development;

(d) Creating awareness and building capacity in, and monitoring the use of, the forthcoming broadband service and application;

(e) Strengthening regional cooperation through improved cooperative mechanisms for disaster management.

20. The Committee stressed that in conducting the above activities special attention should be given to the least developed, landlocked and small island countries and countries with economies in transition.

21. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue to assist members and associate members in the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

22. The Committee requested the secretariat to consider undertaking a study to identify primary sources of air pollution in mega-cities to enable the formulation of effective abatement strategies.

23. The Committee reiterated its strong support for the establishment of a “Help Desk”, by the secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which could be hosted by the China Standard Certification Center, to strengthen national efforts on sustainable consumption and production.

24. The Committee emphasized the importance of implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action: 2005-2015 adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005. It supported initiatives, including those of the secretariat, to assist members and associate members in addressing disaster management and called on members to make use of the regional Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.

25. The Committee encouraged the secretariat to develop capacity-building activities for the promotion of eco-efficiency and the creation of synergy between the environment and economy, and stressed the need to develop indicators of eco-efficiency and environmental sustainability.

26. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue to develop, promote and replicate the approach of public-private partnership initiatives, such as microhydropower electricity generation, and to facilitate attracting the microfinancing of similar initiatives for the benefit of poor rural communities in the region.

27. In view of rising oil prices, the Committee requested the secretariat to initiate analytical work to develop policy options for energy security in order to improve eco-efficiency and promote commercial alternative energy options.

28. The Committee requested the secretariat to ensure that the final document of the Regional Implementation Meeting on the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, to be held in January 2006, adequately reflected the specific requirements of the countries of the region in the areas of sustainable energy development and the environment.

29. The Committee endorsed the proposals incorporated in the overview of cross-cutting and sectoral issues related to information, communications and space technology, and environment and sustainable development (E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/7).

II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE SESSION

A. Reports of subcommittees and other supporting mandated documentation

1. International trade and investment

30. The Committee had before it the report of the Subcommittee on International Trade and Investment on its first session (E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/1), and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein.

31. The Committee recognized the important role that the secretariat had played in facilitating the integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the multilateral trading system, and requested the secretariat, in collaboration with WTO, UNCTAD and other international organizations, to accelerate its capacity-building activities in that area. It also requested the secretariat to expand its capacity-building activities relating to WTO accession, through the ESCAP/WTO/UNCTAD Network of WTO Acceding Countries, which would facilitate the accession of ESCAP members in the region and associate members to WTO, and expressed appreciation of the support provided by the Government of Japan in that regard.

32. The Committee extended its appreciation to the secretariat for organizing, and to the Russian Federation for hosting, the International Conference on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Managing Globalization, which had been held in Moscow from 28 to 30 September 2005, and noted that the Conference had adopted a comprehensive set of conclusions and recommendations which would help participating countries in managing globalization.

33. The Committee commended the secretariat for having organized, in collaboration with ITC, Delivering on the WTO Round: High-level Government-Business Dialogue for Development, which had been held in Macao, China, from 4 to 6 October 2005. It took note of the outcome of the meeting, which had reaffirmed the commitment of ESCAP members and associate members to trade liberalization under a multilateral framework of rules and principles and laid the groundwork for the successful outcome of the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference, to be held in Hong Kong, China, from 13 to 18 December 2005. The Committee noted further that a WTO-consistent, outward-oriented process of regionalism could play a complementary role vis-à-vis multilateralism that would contribute to an enhanced global partnership for trade and development in line with internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. It noted the need for regional policy dialogue to continue, in support of the multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda. It expressed appreciation to the government of Macao, China, for its financial support and excellent organization of the meeting, which had contributed to a constructive government-business dialogue on a wide range of issues in preparation for the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference.

34. The Committee noted the growing proliferation of bilateral and regional trade agreements and requested the secretariat to accord high priority to promoting a deeper process of regional economic integration that would facilitate such agreements evolving as building blocks of the multilateral trading system. It requested the secretariat to explore the possibility of promoting regional modalities for the negotiation of preferential trade agreements among developing countries, consistent with WTO rules and principles. The Committee noted the intention of Mongolia to join the Bangkok Agreement.

35. The Committee held the view that trade and investment were important sources of finance for development but that enhanced market access and greater competitiveness of enterprises, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), were required.

36. The Committee noted that developing countries still faced high market access barriers and took note with appreciation of the information on the various national initiatives, including those of Japan, aimed at providing developing countries with preferential market access, including duty- and quota-free market access for least developed country exports. More effective use of such schemes could create additional trading opportunities for countries facing severe supply-side constraints and in that context, the Committee requested the secretariat, in collaboration with international organizations, to undertake capacity-building activities that would enable developing countries to expand trade and benefit from market access.

37. The Committee urged the secretariat to enhance its technical assistance activities in such areas as entrepreneurship promotion, FDI promotion and facilitation, brand name development and diversification, training in trade facilitation measures, particularly for least developed, landlocked and transit developing countries, and other aspects of supply-side capacity-building.

2. Transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism

38. The Committee had before it the report of the Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism on its first session (E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/2), and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein.

39. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network had entered into force on 4 July 2005 and that it would provide a legal basis for transport development and regional cooperation. It noted that the development of Asian Highway routes had been accorded priority in the national development plans of China and Mongolia. It also noted that the development of the Asian Highway network had been incorporated into the 4th National Development Plan (2005-2010) of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which had invested in several sections of the Asian Highway, such as AH1, AH2 and AH8. The Committee considered that the full implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement would contribute greatly to the improvement of road transport infrastructure in the region and urged member States that were not yet Party to the Agreement to ratify or approve it as soon as possible. The Committee noted that Tajikistan had completed national procedures for ratification on 1 September 2005 and that the Russian Federation was finalizing procedures to approve the Agreement.

40. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue to identify investment priorities and funding resources for upgrading and developing Asian Highway routes and called upon international development partners, multilateral and bilateral donors, international financing institutions and the

private sector to assist in the mobilization of financial and technical assistance to member States for development of the Asian Highway network.

41. The Committee noted with satisfaction the work of the secretariat in formalizing and operationalizing the Trans-Asian Railway as part of the integrated, international, intermodal transport system covering the whole region, as mandated by the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, which had been held in Seoul in November 2001.

42. The Committee noted the progress made in the negotiation of the intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway network and the commitment of member countries to participate. It requested the secretariat to follow an implementation schedule aimed at finalization of the Trans-Asian Railway agreement at an intergovernmental meeting to be held in November 2005, and adoption by the Commission at its sixty-second session in 2006 with a view to a formal signing ceremony being organized at the ministerial conference on transport to be held later that year.

43. The Committee noted with satisfaction the successful implementation of four demonstration runs of container block-trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor. Recognizing the work already accomplished, it proposed that a demonstration train run be implemented from or to locations in the Korean peninsula and requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to encourage the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to become a party to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Planning and Implementation of Demonstration Runs of Container Block-trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor.

44. The Committee noted that important progress on the Trans-Asian Railway had been achieved in the course of three meetings held in Moscow and hosted by the Joint Stock Company "Russian Railways" during the period 26 to 30 September 2005.

45. The Committee expressed support for the ongoing work of the secretariat on the development of an integrated, international, intermodal transport system in Asia as well as Euro-Asia transport corridors.

46. The Committee expressed appreciation of the work of the secretariat in formulating the integrated international transport and logistics system for North-East Asia and recommended that a similar study be undertaken within SPECA.

47. The Committee noted that the outcomes of the tenth session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing, which had been held in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, in March 2005, provided new guiding principles on implementing future SPECA programmes to improve the efficiency of transport.

48. The Committee expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the advisory services provided to the countries in Central Asia with regard to the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action¹ and requested the secretariat to continue to provide such assistance to the countries in addressing specific issues and in sharing the policy experience of other countries in the region.

49. The Committee noted the important proactive measures being taken by member countries to remove non-physical barriers through participation in international conventions as well as bilateral and multilateral agreements, and expressed appreciation of the support and guidance provided by the secretariat in that regard.

50. The Committee welcomed the implementation of the project on institutional capacity-building for facilitation of international trade and transport in the landlocked and transit countries and the successful convening of the First Regional Meeting on Trade and Transport Facilitation in the Landlocked and Transit Countries, which had been held in Bangkok on 10 and 11 October 2005.

51. The Committee expressed appreciation of the secretariat's work in promoting transport facilitation in the Greater Mekong Subregion and among countries of SCO. It requested the secretariat to continue cooperating with relevant organizations and financial institutions, including ADB, to support the formulation and negotiation of an agreement among the Governments of the States members of SCO on facilitation of international road transport, and welcomed information with respect to the interest of non-SCO member countries in participating in the agreement.

52. Noting the geographic constraints of the landlocked countries and the higher transport costs resulting therefrom, the Committee stressed the importance of the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

53. The Committee noted the progress made in the negotiation of a transit transport agreement between China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation and the request of Mongolia that the secretariat participate in the sixth negotiating meeting, to be held in Ulaanbaatar from 14 to 18 November 2005 as an observer.

54. The Committee reiterated the importance of tourism for socio-economic development and poverty reduction in Asian and Pacific countries. The potential of tourism to earn foreign exchange, create job opportunities and enhance local income was considered particularly important.

55. The Committee encouraged all countries interested in tourism to participate in the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on Sustainable Tourism Development, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, from 7 to 9 December 2005, to enhance regional cooperation and boost development in the sector. The Meeting would review accomplishments under the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism

¹ *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), Annex I.*

Development in the Asian and Pacific Region (1999-2005) and consider a second phase of the Plan (2006-2012). The representative of Indonesia affirmed that his Government would make every effort to ensure the success of the Meeting and conveyed his Government's cordial invitation to all members and associate members to participate. He further proposed that the Meeting adopt a "Bali declaration on sustainable tourism development".

56. The Committee recommended that the secretariat strengthen activities in the following areas: (a) capacity-building in developing countries, in both the public and private sectors, for sustainable tourism development, (b) promotion of tourism in Central Asia and (c) promotion of cultural tourism. Noting the substantial progress made in the Greater Mekong Subregion, the Committee requested the secretariat to explore the possibility of initiating subregional tourism projects for North-East Asia and Central Asia.

3. Information, communications and space technology

57. The Committee had before it the report of the Subcommittee on Information, Communications and Space Technology on its first session (E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/3), and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein. It also had before it the report on the follow-up to the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, the preparations for the second phase and the preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2007 (E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/5).

58. The Committee recognized the need to strengthen the efforts of the secretariat to provide countries of the region with assistance in the implementation of the outcomes of the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and the Regional Action Plan towards the Information Society in Asia and the Pacific.

59. The Committee held the view that the secretariat played a vital role in promoting ICST applications and capacity-building, including human resources development, which was considered to be a prerequisite for bridging the digital divide among countries and within countries. It called upon the secretariat to continue to assist members and associate members in creating an enabling environment for the application of ICST for sustainable development, including establishing ICST-conducive and integrated policy and regulatory frameworks.

60. Noting that many ICST developments were spearheaded by the private sector, the Committee stressed the importance of the close cooperation of all stakeholders, especially public-private partnerships, in order to bring the benefits of ICST to all. It recognized the importance of further strengthening regional development cooperation in ICST by sharing experiences, information and best practices.

61. The Committee expressed appreciation to the secretariat and the countries involved in the preparatory work for the convening of the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, which was scheduled to be held in 2007. It further suggested that issues relevant to the application of ICST for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction should be deliberated upon during the Conference. In particular, it was suggested that the Conference focus on the development of public-private partnerships, regional cooperation in space technology applications for poverty alleviation, the promotion of regional cooperative mechanisms for disaster management, technology transfer and major successful ICST applications identified by the Second Ministerial Conference.

62. Recognizing the vital contribution of space-based information and communication technology to effective disaster management, and the importance of establishing relevant regional cooperative mechanisms, the Committee requested the secretariat to continue its work in those areas under the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP). The Committee felt that it would be useful to consider the compilation of a regional inventory of space-related infrastructure and prepare a compendium of examples of international cooperation in space technology applications relevant to poverty alleviation and disaster management. In that regard, the Committee noted with appreciation the financial contributions provided by the Governments of France and the Republic of Korea and the in-kind contributions provided by the Governments of China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore in support of the Programme. It requested the secretariat to keep member countries informed about relevant activities and progress.

63. The Committee congratulated the Government of China on having successfully launched a spacecraft with two astronauts on 12 October 2005. It also noted with interest the progress made towards the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, as well as the recent initiation of satellite-based television and education programmes in Mongolia. The Committee expressed appreciation of the offers of the Government of Japan to share its Advanced Land Observing Satellite (ALOS) data to help strengthen disaster monitoring capacity in Asia and to provide support for a pilot project on the dissemination of disaster information in Asia.

64. The Committee noted with interest the robust development of ICST in a number of countries, including Mongolia and Tajikistan, and requested the secretariat to strengthen regional cooperation to share information, best practices and experiences in ICST applications for development.

65. Recalling the offer made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the sixty-first session of the Commission to establish a disaster management centre in the region, the Committee invited that country to provide more details of the offer.

4. Environment and sustainable development

66. The Committee had before it the report of the Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development on its first session (E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/4), and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein.

67. In attaching importance to environment and sustainable development, the Committee requested the secretariat to continue to assist members and associate members in the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In that respect, it noted the importance of technology transfer on concessional, non-commercial and preferential terms and capacity-building.

68. The Committee requested the secretariat to consider undertaking a study to identify primary sources of air pollution in mega-cities to enable the formulation of effective abatement strategies.

69. The Committee noted the importance of the role of education in achieving sustainable development, and also noted the importance of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development as mentioned in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (see para. 78 below).

70. In noting the importance of water resources management for sustainable development, the Committee stressed the need for the implementation of the water-related provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in accordance with the agreed framework and programme and focusing on the development of integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans. It also noted with appreciation the support provided by Japan for developing international cooperation in the water resources sector, and its contribution to the 4th World Water Forum, to be held in Mexico City in March 2006.

71. One delegation requested the secretariat to explore the possibility of developing an environmental impact assessment convention in the Asian and Pacific region.

72. The Committee expressed appreciation of the outcome of the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, held in Seoul in March 2005, at which important documents aimed at achieving environmentally sustainable economic growth (Green Growth) in the Asian and Pacific region had been adopted.

73. The Committee noted with appreciation the significant progress made in the promotion of subregional cooperation in North-East Asia, including the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation. It also noted the substantial potential benefits that could result from the energy dialogue in North-East Asia currently being facilitated by the secretariat.

74. With reference to the work in the area of dust and sandstorms, the Committee was informed that after the conclusion of the first project for the formulation of the Regional Master Plan for the Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms in North-East Asia, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and undertaken jointly by ADB, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, ESCAP and UNEP from early 2003 to March 2005, two follow-up projects were being

initiated, namely a demonstration project on preventing and controlling dust and sandstorms, for funding by GEF and a project on a regional monitoring and early warning network, for funding by ADB.

75. The Committee reiterated its strong support for the establishment of a “Help Desk”, by the secretariat in collaboration with UNEP, which could be hosted by the China Standard Certification Center, to strengthen national efforts on sustainable consumption and production.

76. The Committee emphasized the importance of implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action: 2005-2015, adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005. It supported initiatives, including those of the secretariat, to assist members and associate members in addressing disaster management and called on members to make use of the ESCAP Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements for the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.

B. Selected issues and strategies for managing globalization

Part I: International trade and investment, and transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism

77. The Committee had before it a document entitled “Overview of cross-cutting and sectoral issues related to international trade and investment, and transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism” (E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/6). It endorsed the proposals for the formulation of the strategic framework for 2008-2009 contained therein.

78. With regard to issues related to the multilateral trading system, the Committee emphasized the role of trade as an engine of development. In that context, it stressed the importance of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, held in New York in September 2005, which had reaffirmed the commitment of world leaders to ensure that developing countries, especially the least developed countries, participated fully in the multilateral trading system in order to meet their economic development needs. It also noted the emphasis that Group of Eight (G-8) leaders had placed on the role of trade in development.

79. The Committee noted that behind-the-border policies were becoming increasingly complex and that their trade effects, particularly in the context of trade facilitation, required further analysis and a regional exchange of experiences and knowledge. It requested the secretariat to continue to accord high priority to that work in the future.

80. The Committee expressed strong support for the objectives of the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) and expressed appreciation to the secretariat and the International Development Research Centre of Canada for that useful initiative. ARTNeT responded to a growing need of developing countries to build capacity in specialized studies on trade policy and facilitation issues. It requested that the secretariat continue to develop the Network in collaboration with ESCAP members and associate members and relevant international organizations and agencies. It also

requested the secretariat to foster the participation of the business sector in ARTNeT, so as to encourage tripartite discussions and partnerships and strengthen the linkages between trade research, policymakers and practitioners.

81. The Committee further requested the secretariat to continue research and analytical capacity-building activities as well as regional exchange of experiences to assist countries in realigning factors of production to enable more effective utilization of their comparative advantages. It noted with appreciation the support offered by the government of Macao, China in that regard.

82. With regard to regionalism, the Committee observed that market access remained a major challenge for developing countries and noted that preferential schemes, such as GSP, and some bilateral and regional trade agreements, including comprehensive economic partnership agreements, could have beneficial trade and developmental benefits. The Committee noted that the first session of the Ministerial Council of the Bangkok Agreement would be held in Beijing on 2 November 2005, and would serve as a milestone for the Agreement. The Committee expressed appreciation of the efforts made by the secretariat in promoting the development of regional trade and economic cooperation. At the same time, it noted that wide variance among those agreements was increasing the need for greater consistency and harmonization across agreements and requested the secretariat to accord high priority to an analysis of those issues. In that context, the Committee expressed appreciation to the secretariat for its efforts to develop a database on BTAs and RTAs in the region, which was a first step towards a comparative analysis of such agreements, and requested the secretariat to continue to accord high priority to that work.

83. With regard to investments and international competitiveness, the Committee, while emphasizing the need for enhanced international competitiveness of developing countries to enable them to benefit from globalization, noted the importance of SMEs and micro-enterprises. It requested the secretariat to pay priority attention to that sector, with focus on technology transfer for SMEs, facilitating the access of microenterprises to microfinance and credit, developing programmes to strengthen of models on e-business, e-community and incubator centres in rural areas, and forging linkages between SMEs and international firms.

84. The Committee welcomed the secretariat's work aimed at helping countries to further promote a climate conducive to FDI, including public-private partnerships in infrastructure development.

85. The Committee provided guidance on specific issues that should be addressed within the strategic framework, as follows.

86. With regard to the development of intermodal transport infrastructure, the Committee stressed the importance of the involvement of the shipping and port sectors in the process of intermodal transport development and requested the secretariat to undertake activities and organize meetings to promote better understanding and active interaction among operators of the different modes of transport and

stakeholders. Noting with interest the potential role of transport and “dry ports” to act as a catalyst for development, the Committee requested the secretariat to analyse the impact of inland container depots and distribution centres. It reiterated the importance of the discussion at the sixty-first session of the Commission related to financing for development as a means of assisting developing countries in the region in mobilizing financial resources for infrastructure development. The Committee noted with appreciation the offer of the Asian Institute of Transport Development to share its study on intermodal choice as an aid to policymaking and its offer of free training to railway personnel.

87. The Committee noted that the Government of China had made great progress in accelerating the construction of rural roads, which played an important role in promoting economic and social development as well as poverty reduction in rural areas. It also noted the similar progress made by the Government of India. The Committee encouraged the secretariat to disseminate the results of studies on welfare gains accruing from the rural road programmes undertaken by Governments in the region.

88. With regard to trade and transport facilitation, the Committee endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the First Regional Meeting on Trade and Transport Facilitation in the Landlocked and Transit Countries, held in Bangkok on 10 and 11 October 2005, as contained in CMG(2)/INF.1. It stressed the necessity to establish sustainable cooperation mechanisms at the national level with the participation of all relevant institutions and agencies related to international trade and transport, including customs, transport, inspections, border guards and phytosanitary control, and requested the secretariat to assist members and associate members in determining institutional and administrative arrangements. The Committee noted that individual countries would implement proposals in accordance with their national conditions. To help support those national mechanisms, the Committee proposed the establishment of a regional trade and transport facilitation forum or network, such as an Asian and Pacific network on efficient trade and transport, to strengthen collaboration and share experience among national trade and transport facilitation bodies. In finalizing the strategic framework, the Committee requested the secretariat to place special emphasis on the needs of landlocked and transit countries.

89. With regard to road safety, the Committee requested the secretariat to encourage the exchange of information on best practices in road safety and also address issues of railway safety.

90. With regard to tourism, the Committee stressed the importance of tourism in poverty reduction as well as the need to develop models of sustainable tourism.

Part II: Information, communications and space technology, and environment and sustainable development

91. The Committee had before it E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/7, containing an overview of cross-cutting and sectoral issues related to ICST, and environment and sustainable development, and endorsed the main conclusions and recommendations contained in the document.

92. The Committee held the view that ICST was one of the main driving forces of globalization. At the same time, it felt that broad-based application of ICST could make valuable contributions to sustainable social and economic development and, in particular, the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the World Conference on Disaster Reduction. In addition, the Committee noted the importance of the application of ICT in trade and transport to achieve harmonized computerized systems, including a single information system for maritime operations. While expressing appreciation to the secretariat of its work in bridging the digital divide, the Committee requested the secretariat to continue its efforts in coordinating the regional preparations for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and the implementation of its outcomes.

93. The Committee requested the secretariat to focus its efforts on the following areas:

(a) Strengthening national capacity for formulating and implementing public policies on global Internet governance and effective participation therein;

(b) Strengthening national capacity for building an enabling policy environment for promoting the application of ICT;

(c) Strengthening human resources and national capacity in the use of ICST for sustainable social and economic development;

(d) Creating awareness and building capacity in, and monitoring of the use of, the forthcoming broadband service and application;

(e) Strengthening regional cooperation through improved cooperative mechanisms for disaster management.

94. The Committee stressed that, in conducting the above activities, the secretariat should pay special attention to the least developed, landlocked and small island countries and countries with economies in transition.

95. The Committee noted with appreciation the progress made in the joint initiative of the Government of the Republic of Korea and the secretariat for the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT). The Committee was informed that the Centre was expected to be operational in early 2006. Recognizing the importance of human resources development in ICST for bridging the digital divide, the Committee invited all ESCAP members and associate members to participate actively in the work of APCICT.

96. The Committee stressed the importance of satellite remote sensing for monitoring and evaluation of the state of the environment throughout the region. It was informed that China was developing an eight-satellite constellation for environment and disaster monitoring and that, during the

first phase, three satellites would be deployed in 2007. The Committee noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of China to cooperate with the secretariat and countries in the region in developing and applying the constellation for data provision for environment and disaster monitoring as well as training in the applications of the constellation; and conducting cooperative research and developing relevant techniques and sharing research information. The Committee encouraged the secretariat to coordinate the exchange of data from different satellites towards the establishment of space-based regional environment and disaster emergency monitoring mechanisms. It invited interested countries in the region to join the development and application of the constellation.

97. The Committee noted with appreciation that a workshop on satellite-based telemedicine had been held in Bangalore, India, from 17 to 20 March 2005 and the offer of the Government of India to share its experiences in space technology applications and services in telemedicine with the least developed countries in the region.

98. Taking into account the vital importance of effective water management, the Committee suggested that the secretariat, under RESAP, consider the possibility of helping countries to access space-based evapo-transpiration information on subregional and regional scales at regular intervals, which would allow countries to improve water-use efficiency and understand water-related issues, such as drought and changes in the hydrologic cycle.

99. The Committee noted with appreciation the initiatives taken by the secretariat to promote environmentally sustainable economic growth and the activities undertaken at the subregional and regional levels in Asia and the Pacific, as well as the planned activities to support regional policy dialogues and capacity-building.

100. The Committee reiterated its support for the approach of environmentally sustainable economic growth, or Green Growth, as a relevant and appropriate regional response in attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

101. The Committee commended the role of the secretariat in promoting regional and subregional initiatives, such as the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, the dust and sand storm project and SPECA, which largely supported the promotion of sustainable development in general and eco-efficiency in particular. The Committee also noted the support of the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea in that regard.

102. The Committee appreciated the interest expressed by the Government of Japan in providing experts to assist in the implementation of the demonstration project on the prevention and control of dust and sandstorms along the border of Mongolia and China, which was being developed for GEF funding. The Committee encouraged the secretariat to develop capacity-building activities to promote

eco-efficiency and create a win-win synergy between environment and economy, and stressed the need to develop indicators of eco-efficiency and environmental sustainability.

103. The Committee commended the secretariat for initiating a consultative process in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea to launch the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth following the recommendations made by the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005.

104. The Committee stressed the importance of subregional and regional cooperation and the continued support of the secretariat in facilitating dialogue and the collaborative mechanism on energy cooperation in North-East Asia. It further supported the preparations for the first session of the Senior Officials Committee on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia, to be held in Ulaanbaatar on 16 and 17 November 2005.

105. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue to develop, promote and replicate the approach of public-private partnership initiatives, such as microhydropower electricity generation, and to facilitate attracting the microfinancing of similar initiatives for the benefit of poor rural communities in the region.

106. In view of rising oil prices, the Committee requested the secretariat to initiate analytical work to develop policy options for energy security in order to improve eco-efficiency and promote commercial alternative energy options.

107. The Committee requested the secretariat to ensure that the final document of the Regional Implementation Meeting on the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, to be held in January 2006, adequately reflected the specific requirements of the countries of the region in the areas of sustainable energy development and the environment.

108. The Committee expressed appreciation of the continuous efforts of the secretariat in the area of disaster management, in particular through the promotion of the community-based disaster management approach. It also underlined the opportunities for the application of space technology to efficient natural resources use and disaster management.

109. The Committee commended the efforts undertaken on capacity-building in trade and the environment, through the implementation of an interregional project in collaboration with UNCTAD, UNEP, WTO and other regional commissions. The Committee also suggested that there was a need to look for opportunities for similar capacity-building activities in the area of the Clean Development Mechanism for climate change and other mechanisms for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

110. The Committee also encouraged the secretariat to initiate a multi-country study on policies and tools to promote fiscal policies which would support the development of public transport and clean transport technologies, including the dissemination of good practices and lessons learned.

C. Programme planning and evaluation

1. Review of the strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009 in respect of subprogramme 4: Trade and investment, subprogramme 5: Transport and tourism, subprogramme 6: Environment and sustainable development, and subprogramme 7: Information, communications and space technology

111. The Committee had before it E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/8, on the draft strategic framework for 2008-2009: ESCAP programme overview.

112. In introducing item 6 (a) of the agenda, the secretariat informed the Committee that the overview had been developed taking into account the 2005 World Summit Outcome. It was noted that the draft was a preliminary one which would need to be refined in the course of the coming months in consultation with ESCAP members and associate members.

113. The overview would provide the basis for the preparation of the strategic framework for 2008-2009 for the four subprogrammes under the theme area of managing globalization, namely, Trade and investment, Transport and tourism, Environment and sustainable development and Information, communications and space technology. The strategic framework followed a results-based format as required by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003 on strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for change, to ensure a more meaningful assessment of the impact and more effective use of resources.

114. The Committee noted the time frame for further development of the strategic framework biennial programme plan and expressed appreciation to the secretariat. It took due note of the general direction of the document, in particular its focus on the Millennium Development Goals and on priority groups of countries, and of the fact that the plan would be considered in its entirety by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission early in 2006 and by the Commission at its sixty-second session in April 2006.

115. In response to questions, the secretariat explained that the Millennium Development Goals would be reflected in subprogramme narratives and expected accomplishments for individual subprogrammes. It further pointed out that the document stressed not only the economic dynamism of the Asian and Pacific region but also the extent and depth of poverty that still needed to be addressed. One delegation emphasized the importance of economic growth in the field of poverty reduction. A focus would be on the promotion of South-South cooperation.

116. Representatives expressed the opinion that: (a) priority should be given to programmes for subregional cooperation in the fields of energy and environment and that paragraph 11(2) of the overview should make reference to subregional cooperation in those areas; (b) high priority should be given to assisting countries with environmental challenges, in particular natural disasters; and (c) reference should be made to the promotion of Green Growth and environmentally sound technologies in paragraph 7 of the overview. In addition, efforts should be made in the context of preparation of the

programme budget to develop more innovative types of outputs that would make an impact at the grass-roots level.

2. Monitoring and evaluation

(a) ESCAP guidelines for programme monitoring, review and evaluation

117. The Committee reviewed the overview of the monitoring, review and evaluation system at ESCAP as contained in E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/9.

118. The Committee noted that improving the monitoring and evaluation of programme activities would enhance the work of ESCAP, which would be beneficial for members and associate members.

119. The secretariat expressed gratitude to the Governments of Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea for their support of the secretariat's ongoing evaluation of technical cooperation programmes.

(b) Review of selected projects in the thematic area of managing globalization

(i) Evaluation of the Asian Highway

120. The Committee had before it E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/10 on Asian Highway network development.

121. The Committee expressed appreciation of the work of the secretariat in the development of the Asian Highway network. Noting the progress made by member countries and the secretariat in developing and upgrading the network, the Committee requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to support the development of the Asian Highway so that it would play an important role in regional economic development.

(ii) WTO/ESCAP programme of technical assistance for Asia and the Pacific

122. The Committee had before it E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/11 on the WTO/ESCAP programme of technical assistance for Asia and the Pacific.

123. The Committee expressed strong support for the WTO/ESCAP technical assistance programme, which, it noted, had been delivered in an effective and efficient manner. The programme had been responsive to the needs of members and associate members, which were either WTO members or in the process of accession to WTO. The programme had contributed to a greater understanding of issues related to the multilateral trading system as well as regional trade agreements. The Committee recommended that the programme be expanded to include multi-stakeholder policy dialogues, with a focus on business advocacy, academia and parliamentarians, while also focusing on the specific needs of members and associate members, especially those in the process of acceding to WTO.

124. The Committee noted that increased resources were needed for countries to enable them to overcome the difficulties they faced in effectively participating in and benefiting from the multilateral trading system and welcomed the secretariat's continuing efforts to expand partnerships with

collaborating international organizations, notably ITC, UNCTAD and UNDP, as well as bilateral donors, in the expansion of the WTO/ESCAP technical assistance programme. In that context, it noted with appreciation the additional training opportunities offered by the WTO e-learning programme in the Philippines.

(iii) Evaluation of capacity-building in the strategic planning and management of natural resources development in Asia and the Pacific

125. The Committee had before it E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/12, on capacity-building in the strategic planning and management of natural resources development in Asia and the Pacific.

126. The Committee expressed appreciation of the positive results of the work of the secretariat to raise awareness and strengthen national capacity for the strategic planning and management of natural resources development.

127. It recommended strengthened cooperation with subregional organizations and other initiatives, such as the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia and Communities and Small Scale Mining, in planning and implementing future activities on that issue.

128. The Committee noted that strategic planning and management must be tailored to the situation of individual countries to ensure successful application. Referring to the engagement of women in the water and energy resources sector at the senior government level, the Committee was informed that in addition to the four countries listed in the document, women professionals in Thailand were actively engaged in the planning process.

D. Other matters

129. During the session of the Committee, two panel sessions were held: the panel discussion on advancing the Doha Development Agenda: bridging the gaps through public-private sector dialogue; and the high-level panel on managing globalization: seizing opportunities and minimizing costs. The panellists included high-level representatives of governments, international financial institutions, academia and the private sector.

E. Adoption of the report

130. The Committee adopted the report on its second session on 14 October 2005.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

131. The second session of the Committee on Managing Globalization was held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 October 2005.

132. In his opening statement, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP emphasized the importance of addressing both the cross-cutting and sectoral issues to seize new opportunities and minimize inevitable

costs in the process of managing globalization. He underlined the urgent need to identify cross-cutting issues and formulate policies in response to address them in an integrated manner.

133. The Executive Secretary outlined some of the major issues and challenges confronting the Asian and Pacific region in managing globalization in the areas of trade and investment, transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism, information, communications and space technology, and environment and sustainable development. He highlighted the secretariat's initiatives and key activities and reaffirmed the commitment of ESCAP to work constructively with the other agencies, both within and outside the United Nations system, to assist member States in managing globalization effectively.

134. In his opening address, His Excellency Dr. Pracha Guna-Kasem, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Royal Thai Government, stated that regional cooperation had an increasingly critical role to play in managing globalization. He provided details of some of the initiatives being taken by the Government of Thailand to promote trade, enhance competitiveness and apply new technologies which were leading to sustainable growth.

135. He stressed that cooperation and the sharing of information within the region could yield considerable benefits and expressed confidence that the Committee would contribute significantly to the efforts of members and associate members in addressing the profound, and still unfolding, implications of globalization.

B. Attendance

136. The session was attended by the following members and associate members of ESCAP: Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam and Macao, China.

137. Representatives of Germany and Romania also attended the session, in accordance with paragraph 9 of the terms of reference of the Commission.

138. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Environment Programme, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Population Fund, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Bank and International Telecommunication Union.

139. The following intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities also attended: Asian Development Bank, Asian Institute of Transport Development, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Colombo Plan Secretariat, Infrastructure Development Institute, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Pacific Asia Travel Association and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises.

C. Election of officers

140. The Committee elected Mr. Lattanamany Khounnyvong (Lao People's Democratic Republic) Chairperson, Ms. Maria Bernardita Angara-Mathay (Philippines), Mr. Ki-Jun You (Republic of Korea) and Ms. Svetlana A. Eleeva (Tajikistan) Vice-Chairpersons and Mr. Sushant Kumar Mishra (India) Rapporteur.

D. Agenda

141. The Meeting adopted the following agenda as contained in document E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/L.1:
1. Opening of the session.
 2. Election of officers.
 3. Adoption of the agenda.
 4. Reports of subcommittees and other supporting mandated documentation:
 - (a) International trade and investment;
 - (b) Transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism;
 - (c) Information, communications and space technology;
 - (d) Environment and sustainable development.
 5. Selected issues and strategies for managing globalization:
 - (a) Part I: International trade and investment, and transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism;
 - (b) Part II: Information, communications and space technology, and environment and sustainable development.
 6. Programme planning and evaluation:
 - (a) Review of the strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009 in respect of subprogramme 4: Trade and investment, subprogramme 5: Transport and tourism, subprogramme 6: Environment and sustainable development, and subprogramme 7: Information, communications and space technology;
 - (b) Monitoring and evaluation:
 - (i) ESCAP guidelines for programme monitoring, review and evaluation;
 - (ii) Review of selected projects in the thematic area of managing globalization.
 7. Other matters.
 8. Adoption of the report.

Annex
LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/L.1	Provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/L.2	Annotated provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/1	Report of the Subcommittee on International Trade and Investment on its first session	4 (a)
E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/2	Report of the Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism on its first session	4 (b)
E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/3	Report of the Subcommittee on Information, Communications and Space Technology on its first session	4 (c)
E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/4	Report of the Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development on its first session	4 (d)
E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/5	Report on the follow-up to the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, the preparations for the second phase and the preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2007	4 (c)
E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/6	Overview of cross-cutting and sectoral issues related to international trade and investment, and transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism	5 (a)
E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/7	Overview of cross-cutting and sectoral issues related to information, communication and space technology, and environment and sustainable development	5 (b)
E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/8	Draft strategic framework 2008-2009: ESCAP programme overview	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/9	ESCAP guidelines for programme monitoring, review and evaluation	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/10	Asian Highway network development	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/11	WTO/ESCAP programme of technical assistance for Asia and the Pacific	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/CMG(2)/12	Capacity-building in the strategic planning and management of natural resources development in Asia and the Pacific	6 (b)
CMG(2)/INF.1	Conclusions and recommendations of the First Regional Meeting on Trade and Transport Facilitation in the Landlocked and Transit Countries	