



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Managing Globalization

Third session, Part I
12-14 September 2006
Bangkok

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

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

2. Election of officers

A chairperson, vice-chairperson(s) and rapporteur will be elected for the session.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/L.1) will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as deemed necessary.

4. Cross-cutting issue for managing globalization related to trade and transport: promoting dry ports as a means of sharing the benefits of globalization with inland locations

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/1 on the cross-cutting issue for managing globalization related to trade and transport: promoting dry ports as a means of sharing the benefits of globalization with inland locations.

Development trends across the Asian and Pacific region indicate that coastal areas are the major beneficiaries of globalization while inland areas are lagging behind. More attention needs to be given to these areas and landlocked countries. In addition, new ways of conducting business need to be introduced in order to bring the benefits of globalization to the wider region.

Document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/1 will review a production-driven approach supported by an integrated transport network and inland growth centres designed to address these needs.

The Committee will be invited to give the secretariat guidance on how to pursue this issue through a multi-disciplinary approach.

In addition, in preparation for Part II of the third session of the Committee on Managing Globalization to be held in Bangkok from 10 to 12 October 2006, the secretariat will circulate an information document (CMG(3/II)/INF.1 entitled "Rising oil and natural resource prices: technology for sustainable economic growth") containing other cross-cutting issues that focus on environment and sustainable development along with information, communication and space technology.

5. Trade and investment issues

Under this agenda item, two documents will be submitted to the Committee for its consideration and guidance.

(a) Enhancing trade and investment integration of ESCAP developing members and associate members

Within the context of managing globalization, integration of trade and investment among ESCAP developing members and associate members is critical, at both the regional and global levels. Such integration has two dimensions. At the global level, the suspension of the multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha Round is leaving many developing countries and LDCs without effective means to fight poverty. Document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/2 will provide an analysis of the current situation as of 25 July 2006. At the regional level, the countries of the ESCAP region have continued to conclude regional and bilateral trade and investment agreements. The secretariat has developed a database to track and monitor these agreements. This database is briefly reviewed in this document. The document will also present information on work aimed at comparing and benchmarking these agreements for an enhanced understanding of their impact on trade and development.

While multilateral and regional trade agreements are expanding market access, enhanced regional cooperation mechanisms could be devised to benefit from such access. In particular, regional and bilateral trade agreements offer possibilities for transnational corporations to consolidate and strengthen their supply-chains. This could forge stronger ties among businesses at the subregional and regional levels. Document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/2 will describe two case studies of regional cooperation: strengthening supply-chains in the potato industry and regional cooperation for Pacific connectivity.

The Committee will be invited to deliberate on these issues and provide guidance to the secretariat.

(b) Trade facilitation and the new security environment: issues for developing and least developed countries in the Asian and Pacific region

Globalization has led to unprecedented growth of global supply chains, producing and delivering goods and services to increasingly large numbers of economies. Consequently, the degree of interdependence among these economies has increased. Terrorism, civil conflicts, war and natural disasters can all disrupt this growing interdependence. These threats make it necessary for trade

security issues to be continuously monitored, with new initiatives being developed both global and regional levels.

It is necessary to ensure that security of the global supply chain is not attained at the expense of trade efficiency. In fact, trade security and trade facilitation measures, if properly designed, can be mutually reinforcing and complementary. The secure global supply chain must also ensure that developing nations will not be squeezed out from global trade on account of their limited capacity to implement new international security initiatives. The secretariat needs to address the security of the Asian and Pacific region's supply chain, as this is a component of its existing activities in promoting regional integration, enhancing market access and promoting trade facilitation.

Document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/3 provides an overview of some of the prevalent issues on the trade security and international and regional efforts to facilitate trade in a secure environment. It also explains the costs and risks of inaction and the concerns of developing and least developed countries in the Asian and Pacific region over the new security measures. The paper concludes with recommendations of what international and regional organizations such as ESCAP can do to assist its members in this area.

The Committee will be invited to deliberate on this issue and provide guidance to the secretariat in terms of future research, analysis and normative work in this area.

6. Transport and tourism issues

Under this agenda item two documents will be submitted to the Committee for its consideration and guidance.

(a) Preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Transport

Document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/4 will highlight the preparations of the secretariat for the Ministerial Conference on Transport including an action plan, a draft declaration on future work on transport and a draft declaration on road safety.

Guidance will be sought from the Committee on the agenda and other issues related to the Ministerial Conference.

(b) Sustainable development of tourism

Document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/5 will brief the Committee on the progress made since the convening of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on Sustainable Tourism Development in Bali, Indonesia in December 2005.

The Committee will be invited to provide further guidance on implementation of the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region (PASTA 2006-2012).

7. Programme planning and evaluation

(a) Review of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 in respect to subprogramme 4: Trade and investment and subprogramme 5: Transport and tourism

Document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/6 will provide details of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 for the subprogrammes on: (a) trade and investment and (b) transport and tourism. The Committee will be invited to review the document and to provide suggestions for the implementation of the proposed biennial programme of work.

(b) Monitoring and evaluation: review of selected projects in the thematic area of managing globalization

The Committee will have before it two documents on the review of selected projects in the theme area of managing globalization: Institutional capacity building for facilitation of international trade and transport in landlocked and transit countries (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/7) and the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/8).

The secretariat is taking an integrated approach to assist landlocked and transit countries to further develop trade and transport through a 22-month long institutional capacity building project. The project enables the secretariat to pool the expertise of the Trade and Investment Division; Transport and Tourism Division; and the Information, Communication and Space Technology Division to enhance institutional capacities of landlocked and transit countries as well as to help them achieve greater benefits from globalization. The project aims at assisting Governments to reduce non-physical bottlenecks in international trade and transport through the establishment and strengthening of coordination mechanisms amongst stakeholders; application of the ESCAP trade facilitation framework; analysis of transport routes utilizing ESCAP guidelines; and better use of information and communication technology.

Document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/7 will give a brief account of the progress made by the secretariat including the specific outputs developed, analysis of the lessons learned during project implementation and a summary of the impacts of project activities on the participating member countries.

The Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) was launched by the secretariat during the first session of the Subcommittee on International Trade and Investment (27 October 2004), in response to the growing need for rigorous home-grown analysis of the increasingly complex trade and investment policy issues. ARTNeT aims to increase the amount of quality and relevant trade research in the region. It hopes to achieve this by harnessing the already available research capacity and developing additional capacity through regional team research projects, enhanced research dissemination mechanisms, increased interaction between policymakers and researchers, and specific capacity building activities catering to researchers and research institutions

from least developed countries. With support from the International Development Research Centre, Canada, ARTNeT has evolved into a collaborative platform bringing together trade researchers from civil society organizations and Governments, policymakers, and international organizations involved in trade, notably UNCTAD, UNDP and the WTO.

Document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/8 will review the development of the ARTNeT network and its contribution to trade policy research and analysis. Implications for the future development and operations of the network will then be discussed.

The Committee will be invited to review the implementation of the projects and provide further guidance on future project planning in the area of managing globalization.

8. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the 63rd session of the Commission

Under this agenda item, members are encouraged to circulate, in advance, proposals and/or text of draft resolutions on priority issues relating to managing globalization. The Committee will be invited to review the proposals and/or text of these draft resolutions, from a technical perspective, for submission to the Commission at its sixty-third session for consideration and possible adoption.

9. Other matters

The Committee may raise any other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.

10. Adoption of the report

The Committee will adopt the report on its third session for submission to the Commission at its sixty-third session.

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