



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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**CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE BODY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING
REPORTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SELECTED COMMISSION RESOLUTIONS,
INCLUDING RESOLUTION 60/1 ON THE SHANGHAI DECLARATION:
MANAGING GLOBALIZATION**

(Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda)

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MANAGING GLOBALIZATION
ON ITS THIRD SESSION (PART I)**

Note by the secretariat

SUMMARY

The third session of the Committee on Managing Globalization, Part I, was held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 September 2006.

The Committee reviewed a 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 also reviewed sectoral issues in the areas of trade and investment and transport and tourism.

The Committee considered the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 in respect to subprogramme 4, Trade and investment, and subprogramme 5, Transport and tourism. It also reviewed two selected projects in the thematic area of managing globalization.

The present report contains matters calling for action by the Commission or to be brought to its attention. The Commission is invited to provide guidance on these matters.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION	1
II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE SESSION	2
A. 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	2
B. Trade and investment issues	4
C. Transport and tourism issues	6
D. Programme planning and evaluation	10
E. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the sixty-third session of the Commission	11
F. Other matters.....	11
G. Adoption of the report	11
III. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	12
A. Opening, duration and organization of the session.....	12
B. Attendance	13
C. Election of officers	13
D. Agenda.....	13
<i>Annex.</i> List of documents	15

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

1. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue its trade facilitation work which could help in fighting poverty and achieving the internationally agreed development goals.
2. The Committee commended the secretariat for the development of the Asia-Pacific trade and investment agreements database and recommended its further expansion through the inclusion of analytical indicators and trade statistics for benchmarking and measuring the trade and development performance of regional and bilateral trade agreements. The Committee recommended that, when promoting the development of common frameworks, the secretariat take due account of the different development conditions in countries of the region with a view to ensuring wide applicability.
3. The Committee requested the secretariat to accord high priority to the integration of developing countries and of economies in transition into the multilateral trading system, including capacity-building for accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), in close collaboration with WTO and other trade and development organizations of the United Nations system.
4. The Committee noted that the benefits to developing countries from multilateral and regional liberalization initiatives depended on a country's ability to integrate into global and regional value chains effectively. Therefore, the Committee requested the secretariat to develop modalities for regional cooperation mechanisms for supply-side capacity-building, with particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
5. The Committee called on the secretariat to promote the exchange of ideas and cooperation among member countries in the area of trade facilitation in close coordination with other international organizations.
6. The Committee underscored the importance of the Ministerial Conference on Transport, to be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 11 November 2006, which would focus high-level discussion on major issues related to transport infrastructure development and facilitation in the Asian and Pacific region. The Committee recognized that a new regional action plan to be considered and adopted by the Conference would further stimulate regional cooperation in transport development, thus contributing to the fulfilment of global and regional mandates, including the Millennium Development Goals.

II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE SESSION

A. 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

7. The Committee had before it a document entitled “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” (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/1).

8. The Committee noted that globalization was promoting rapid economic development in regional member countries, particularly in areas close to seaports. As a result, disparities between coastal and inland areas were widening, and one of the major challenges facing regional member countries was the more equitable distribution of the benefits of globalization to hinterlands, islands and the region as a whole.

9. The Committee acknowledged the benefits of regional cooperation and the progress made regarding the entry into force of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network¹ and the adoption of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network,² which were already creating new possibilities for spreading the benefits of globalization to regions away from the sea.

10. A number of delegations, including those of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and Thailand, informed the Committee of the initiatives they were taking to promote the development of inland container yards and dry ports as a means of reducing delivery times and the cost of transportation to hinterland areas. In that regard, the Committee noted that the development of transport and logistics clusters around dry ports could improve the efficiency of goods distribution and help to make multimodal transportation a reality.

11. The Committee expressed support for the secretariat’s proposal to promote the development of dry ports, which would facilitate trade and constitute an important part of the region’s international integrated intermodal transport system. The Committee requested the secretariat to play a strategic role in promoting regional cooperation aimed at mapping out the opportunities for the development of dry ports. The Committee called upon the secretariat to continue to work together with the Asian Development Bank and such subregional organizations as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization, as well as the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, in order to assist member countries in formulating a regional strategy for the development of dry ports as entry points for economic development in hinterland areas. Such a strategy would include the analysis and sharing of regional best practices as well as the implementation of pilot projects in cooperation with member countries.

¹ See Commission resolution 60/4 of 28 April 2004.

² Commission resolution 62/4 of 12 April 2006, annex.

12. In considering the broader aspects of transport development, the Committee noted that infrastructure development was a crucial factor in addressing issues and challenges in managing globalization and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, in particular those related to poverty reduction.

13. The Committee noted that transport infrastructure development played a significant role in the process of the integration of nations, including the promotion of local and national cohesion as well as regional and international cooperation. In that respect, the delegation of Indonesia apprised the Committee of an infrastructure policy package launched in early 2006 that would promote a public-private partnership approach and establish an independent infrastructure-financing body.

14. While recognizing the importance of transit and trade facilitation in the development of dry ports, the Committee welcomed the progress made on those issues in the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations. In that context, the Committee was informed of the contents of a WTO proposal on the freedom of transit of goods. The proposal would be tabled by Turkey when the Doha round negotiations resumed. The Committee further noted the request of the delegation of Turkey for the Committee's support for the proposal.

15. Noting the importance of supporting transport, retail and customs clearance in landlocked countries, the delegation of Japan referred to its Government's promotion of cooperation through bilateral frameworks. It also referred to the comprehensive development initiative that it had announced at the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference to empower developing countries through trade facilitation. The delegation of Japan reiterated its intention to support, in cooperation with other donor countries, the improvement of the transport networks of landlocked countries.

16. The Committee noted the intention of Japan to expand the range of products originating in least developed countries for duty-free treatment as part of its wider efforts to expand the market access of least developed countries.

17. The Committee noted with appreciation a special presentation made by the Asian Institute of Transport Development on the development of inland container depots and container freight stations in India. In the course of the presentation, the importance of various trade facilitation measures was stressed, including inter-ministerial committees, single window facilities, the establishment of legal and liability frameworks (including that for multimodal transport) and the importance of private sector participation.

B. Trade and investment issues

1. Enhancing trade and investment integration of ESCAP developing members and associate members

18. The Committee had before it a document on enhancing trade and investment integration of ESCAP developing members and associate members (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/2).

19. The Committee expressed disappointment regarding the suspension of the multilateral trade negotiations within the framework of the Doha round and expressed support for the negotiations to resume as soon as possible and for the accession of non-members to WTO to be further facilitated.

20. The Committee extended its appreciation to the secretariat for organizing seminars, workshops, expert group meetings, regional consultations and in particular, the high-level consultations on the Doha Development Agenda Negotiation Issues for Asian and Pacific Economies, organized by the secretariat in coordination with the WTO secretariat and the Ministry of Commerce of China and held in Shenzhen, China, in May 2006, as well as various other capacity-building programmes on international trade and investment. The Committee recommended continuing these workshops and meetings, which had contributed to the improved negotiating capabilities of members and associate members in the multilateral trade and investment negotiation forums.

21. The Committee requested the secretariat to accord high priority to the integration of developing countries and of economies in transition into the multilateral trading system, including capacity-building for accession to WTO, in close collaboration with WTO and other trade and development organizations of the United Nations system.

22. In that context, several delegations noted with appreciation the close interaction between ESCAP and WTO and commended the WTO/ESCAP Technical Assistance Programme.

23. The Committee observed that there was a need for a better balance of global, regional and bilateral trade agreements corresponding to the rules and principles of WTO.

24. In that context, the Committee commended the secretariat for the development of the Asia-Pacific trade and investment agreements database and recommended its further expansion through the inclusion of analytical indicators and trade statistics for benchmarking and measuring the trade and development performance of regional and bilateral trade agreements. The Committee recommended that, when promoting the development of common frameworks, the secretariat take due account of the different development conditions in countries of the region with a view to ensuring wide applicability.

25. The Committee noted that the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement had come into effect on 1 September 2006 and expressed confidence that it would strengthen regional trade cooperation.

26. The Committee noted that the benefits to developing countries from multilateral and regional liberalization initiatives depended on a country's ability to integrate into global and regional value

chains effectively. Therefore, the Committee requested the secretariat to develop modalities for regional cooperation mechanisms for supply-side capacity-building, with particular focus on SMEs.

27. The Committee noted the importance of increasing foreign direct investment flows and expanding global and regional supply chains. One delegation expressed appreciation to the secretariat for its work on regional supply chains in the Greater Mekong Subregion and expressed an interest in joining programmes that incorporate this work.

28. One delegation stressed the importance of using information and communication technology in strengthening supply-side capacities in trade, particularly in the Pacific island developing countries. At the same time, the delegation noted that the information and communication technology issue was more closely related to the second part of the Committee on Managing Globalization.

29. One delegation expressed appreciation for the work of the secretariat on promoting sub-national innovation systems and recommended that national workshops on such systems be organized in South-West Asia as part of the relevant project. The delegation of the donor country expressed a willingness to take that recommendation into account when discussing the next phase of the project with the secretariat.

2. Trade facilitation and the new security environment: issues for developing and least developed countries in the Asian and Pacific region

30. The Committee had before it a document entitled “Trade facilitation and the new security environment: issues for developing and least developed countries in the Asian and Pacific region” (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/3).

31. The Committee noted that trade security was a new issue for ESCAP and a complex area that lacked an internationally acceptable definition. It also noted that ESCAP did not have a mandate in the political aspects of trade security. The Committee recommended that the secretariat identify specific economic aspects of trade security in which the Commission had a comparative advantage.

32. The Committee noted that trade facilitation and trade security could be mutually reinforcing and that a proper balance should be found between the two. In particular, it observed that the enhancement of trade security measures should not become another non-tariff barrier to trade. It also observed that new trade security measures could incur substantial expenditures, which should not result in the further marginalization of least developed and landlocked developing countries, countries with economies in transition and island developing countries.

33. The Committee noted that a number of international and regional organizations and agencies had been working on issues of trade security and that significant results in that field had already been achieved, such as the World Customs Organization’s Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate

Global Trade³ and the International Maritime Organization's International Ship and Port Facility Security Code,⁴ amending the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.⁵ At the regional level, it was observed that the World Customs Organization had a regional office for capacity-building, which was located in Bangkok and was responsible for Asia and the Pacific. In that respect, the Committee emphasized the importance of close cooperation and coordination between ESCAP and relevant international and regional organizations and agencies, in particular with the World Customs Organization, in order to avoid any possible duplication of work. One delegation mentioned the need to establish a networking mechanism for the whole region. Another delegation noted the programmes of the International Civil Aviation Organization for facilitation and security.

34. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue its trade facilitation work, which could help in fighting poverty and achieving the internationally agreed development goals. The Committee called on the secretariat to promote the exchange of ideas and cooperation among member countries in the area of trade facilitation in close coordination with other international organizations, in particular the Asian Development Bank, which had been helping countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion to implement the Bank's strategic framework for action on trade and investment.

35. The Committee noted the experience of some member countries regarding trade facilitation, including related science and technology investments, as well as the streamlining of customs procedures and the introduction of paperless trade, which, inter alia, increased transparency.

36. One delegation noted that since there was no internationally agreed definition for "human security", the term should not be used in document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/3 (paragraph 38 and footnote 24).

37. The Committee noted the experience of the European Commission in applying modern customs techniques, such as risk management based on more objective criteria, that speed up customs operations and reduce human discretionary decision-making and corruption.

C. Transport and tourism issues

1. Preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Transport

38. The Committee had before it a document on the preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Transport (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/4) and an information paper on the draft ministerial declaration on improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific (CMG(3/I)/INF.1).

39. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the work of the secretariat on the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for phase II (2002-2006)⁶ of the New Delhi Action Plan on

³ Adopted by the Customs Co-operation Council in its resolution of June 2005 (text available at www.wcoomd.org).

⁴ International Maritime Organization, SOLAS/CONF.5/32 and 34.

⁵ International Maritime Organization, document MSC/78/26/Add.1, annex 3, resolution MSC.153(78).

⁶ E/ESCAP/1249, annex 1.

Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific,⁷ in particular the formulation and formalization of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks. The Committee expressed continued support for the related activities of the secretariat.

40. The Committee underscored the importance of the Ministerial Conference on Transport, to be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 11 November 2006, which would focus high-level discussion on major issues related to transport infrastructure development and facilitation in the Asian and Pacific region. The Committee recognized that a new regional action plan to be considered and adopted by the Conference would further stimulate regional cooperation in transport development thus contributing to the fulfilment of global and regional mandates, including the Millennium Development Goals.

41. The Committee underscored the importance of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network and its signing by member countries during the Ministerial Conference on Transport.

42. The Committee noted with appreciation that preparations were under way in the Republic of Korea to host the Ministerial Conference on Transport, including the special signing ceremony for the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network. It also noted that several side events, such as the Asia-Pacific Business Forum on Transport and Logistics, the International Transport and Logistics Fair, and the Asian Land-Bridge Conference, would be held during the Conference to facilitate interaction among government policymakers, transport operators and the private sector. The delegation of the Republic of Korea informed the Committee that special funds would be available to support the participation of some developing countries in the Conference.

43. A number of delegations indicated that their Governments were positively considering their participation in the Ministerial Conference on Transport. The delegations of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and Sri Lanka indicated that their Governments were considering signing the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network at that time.

44. The Committee reiterated its expectation that the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks would be two major building blocks for the development of an international integrated intermodal transport network for the region. In that regard, the Committee requested the secretariat to implement capacity-building programmes for intermodal transport planning, taking into consideration the special characteristics of archipelagic and island States. It stressed the importance of integrating land transport with maritime and inland water transport and ferry networks.

45. Some delegations, including those of China, Japan and the Russian Federation, indicated that they were studying the declarations to be considered at the Ministerial Conference on Transport. The

⁷ Commission resolution 51/8 of 1 May 1995, annex.

delegation of the Russian Federation proposed that the draft ministerial declaration on transport reference global mandates, including the Millennium Development Goals and regional priorities. The delegation of Japan proposed that transport security be mentioned in the draft ministerial declaration on transport. The delegation of Japan also proposed to change the word “Agree” to “Further recognizing” in the ninth preambular paragraph of the draft ministerial declaration on improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific, as contained in document CMG(3/I)/INF.1.

46. The representative of the International Road Transport Union welcomed and supported the secretariat’s proposals related to the Ministerial Conference on Transport and expressed an interest in working with the secretariat and members and associate members to develop and improve road transport in the region. The representative expressed a readiness to share with ESCAP the experience and knowledge of the Union in promoting road safety.

47. Highlighting the linkages among natural disasters, transport and tourism, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Committee of its Government’s proposal to establish and host an ESCAP-affiliated centre for information, communication and space technology enabled disaster management, as proposed at the sixtieth session of the Commission.⁸ The delegation requested the full support of the secretariat and ESCAP member countries in that regard.

2. Sustainable development of tourism

48. The Committee had before it a document on progress since the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on Sustainable Tourism Development (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/5).

49. The Committee stressed the important role of tourism in the socio-economic development of countries in the region. It noted that tourism could be an effective tool for sustainable development, contributing to poverty reduction and the conservation of the natural environment. It also noted that tourism could foster mutual understanding and contribute to world peace.

50. Noting that the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region, phase II (2006-2012),⁹ and that the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Tourism Development (2006-2012)¹⁰ provided a comprehensive framework for fostering the sound development of tourism, the Committee affirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Plan of Action and the Regional Action Programme.

51. The Committee noted with satisfaction the details of a number of significant activities and initiatives undertaken within the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region, phase II (2006-2012), by Cambodia, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Those included:

⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 19* (E/2004/39-E/ESCAP/1330), para. 78.

⁹ E/ESCAP/1369, annex II.

(a) Theme 1 “enhancing the role of tourism in socio-economic development and poverty reduction”:

(i) the implementation of a number of pro-poor community-based tourism initiatives;

(ii) the establishment of theme-based tourism zones;

(iii) the implementation of awareness campaigns for indigenous people, women and disadvantaged groups to share in the benefits of tourism;

(iv) the promotion of products from local communities within the framework of the “One Tambon One Product (OTOP)” project;

(v) the “Visit Japan Campaign”;

(vi) the Russian federal programme for the period 2006-2008 “Tourist Centres of Russia”;

(b) Theme 2 “facilitation of travel and development of transport and other tourism-related infrastructure”: the development of tourism infrastructures and facilities, such as roads, bridges and airports. Efforts were also being made to increase intraregional, subregional and international travel through the facilitation of visa processing, such as the visa on arrival, e-visa, and border pass;

(c) Theme 3 “sociocultural and environmental management of tourism”: the introduction of policies that promote the optimal use of environmental resources. Ecotourism master plans were also being prepared to ensure the sustainability of projects, including the conducting of environmental impact assessments;

(d) Theme 4 “crisis and risk management in tourism”: following the tsunami in 2004, the redefining of policies for sustainable tourism development by introducing measures to reduce disaster risks and setting up warning systems to ensure the safety and security of tourists;

(e) Theme 5 “human resources development in the tourism sector”: the improvement of human resources in the tourism industry, especially through the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism (APETIT).

52. The Committee noted that the Seminar on Enhancing the Role of Tourism in Socio-economic Development and Perspectives of Integrating Mongolia in Asia-Pacific Regional Tourism Development, had been held in Ulaanbaatar in September 2006 and had involved experts from India and Thailand.

53. The Committee noted the activities undertaken or planned by the secretariat during 2006-2007 within the framework of the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and

¹⁰ Commission resolution 62/3, annex.

Pacific Region, phase II (2006-2012), and the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Tourism Development (2006-2012). Those activities included technical cooperative seminars, a meeting of the executive committee of APETIT and a study on the role of tourism in socio-economic development to be submitted to the Commission at its sixty-third session. The Committee also noted the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the meeting celebrating the tenth anniversary of APETIT in 2007, as had been proposed at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on Sustainable Tourism Development, held in Bali, Indonesia in December 2005.

54. The Committee encouraged the secretariat to continue its work on enhancing the role of tourism in socio-economic development and poverty reduction. It proposed that the secretariat organize a meeting to consider the promotion of the cross-border movement of tourists by vehicles.

D. Programme planning and evaluation

1. 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

55. The Committee had before it a document entitled "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 (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/6)".

56. In introducing the item, the secretariat informed the Committee that the ESCAP strategic framework for 2008-2009, comprising the objectives, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and strategy, had been endorsed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination on 6 September 2006. The relevant part of the draft report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (E/AC.51/2006/L.4/Add.29) was distributed to the Committee. It was noted that the strategic framework would be considered by the Fifth Committee and subsequently adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

57. The Committee was invited to review the output citations, as contained in section 7 of annexes I and II of document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/6, which had been developed by the Trade and Investment Division and the Transport and Tourism Division, respectively. The Committee was informed that the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 would be further developed and submitted for the consideration of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission in December 2006 or January 2007, before review and endorsement by the Commission at its sixty-third session, to be held in 2007.

58. The Committee supported, in principle, the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009, and made the following comments:

(a) The Committee agreed that because there was no internationally agreed definition of “human economic security” or of “human economic rights”, reference to those terms should be removed from the following paragraphs of subprogramme 4:

- Intermediate result a1, paragraph (b) (ii), on page 5
- Intermediate result a1, paragraph (c) (i), on page 6
- Intermediate result a3, paragraph (a) (i), on page 7

(b) It was agreed that the secretariat would provide further details based on the recommendations of ESCAP members on the outputs related to trade security on page 8 for the further consideration of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives;

(c) Under subprogramme 5, the Committee requested the removal of the word “protocols” from Intermediate result b2, paragraph (c) (ii), on page 17.

2. *Monitoring and evaluation: review of selected projects in the thematic area of managing globalization*

(a) *Institutional capacity-building for facilitation of international trade and transport in landlocked and transit countries*

(b) *The Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade*

59. The Committee had before it documents on institutional capacity-building for facilitation of international trade and transport in landlocked and transit countries (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/7 and Corr.1) and a document on the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/8).

60. The Committee welcomed the information contained in the evaluation of the secretariat’s activities related to the implementation of projects on globalization. It commended the secretariat in particular on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade, which had already been successful in promoting collaborations between Governments and academic institutions. It was suggested that, with further work to strengthen capacity-building in member institutions and to widen geographic participation, the project would be enhanced further.

E. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the sixty-third session of the Commission

61. There were no draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at the sixty-third session of the Commission.

F. Other matters

62. The Committee expressed appreciation for the presentations made by the ESCAP Business Advisory Council.

G. Adoption of the report

63. The Committee adopted the report on its third session on 14 September 2006.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

64. The third session of the Committee on Managing Globalization, Part I, was held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 September 2006.

65. In his opening statement, which was delivered by the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP highlighted two secretariat initiatives on regional cross-cutting issues: the development of dry ports as a means of sharing the benefits of globalization with inland locations and the facilitation of international trade and transport.

66. The Executive Secretary recalled the secretariat's initiatives and key activities related to managing globalization, including capacity-building activities within the framework of the WTO/ESCAP Technical Assistance Programme, the development of the Asia-Pacific Preferential Trade and Investment Agreements Database, SME development, the establishment of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council to advise him and to promote public-private cooperation, the progress made in the formalization of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network and sustainable tourism development.

67. The Executive Secretary reaffirmed the commitment of ESCAP to work constructively with agencies from within and outside the United Nations system in order to assist member countries in managing globalization effectively.

68. In his opening address, His Excellency Dr. Uttama Savanayana, Vice-Minister for Commerce, Government of Thailand, stated that understanding the increasingly complex environment of globalization was crucial for the full benefits to be ensured and pitfalls to be minimized.

69. He said Thailand was focusing on building up the nation's core competencies and productivity in order to sustain value creation, which involved ongoing reforms in both the private and the public sectors.

70. He outlined Thailand's cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at the regional level and its pursuance of preferential trade arrangements with such countries as Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and the United States of America.

71. He expressed appreciation for the development work of ESCAP in various areas, especially those related to trade, transport, SMEs and innovation systems, as well as the efforts of ESCAP to promote dialogue between the Government and the private sector in those areas.

B. Attendance

72. The session was attended by the following members and associate members of ESCAP: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Viet Nam and Macao, China.

73. Representatives of Austria and Germany attended the session in accordance with paragraph 9 of the terms of reference of the Commission.

74. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme, International Telecommunication Union, World Bank, Universal Postal Union and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

75. The following intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities attended: European Commission, Islamic Development Bank, Asian Institute of Transport Development, International Road Transport Union, Japan Bank for International Cooperation and Japan International Cooperation Agency.

76. Members of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council also attended the session.

C. Election of officers

77. The Committee elected Mr. P.H.J.B Sugathadasa (Sri Lanka) Chairperson, Mr. Wardiyatmo (Indonesia) and H.E. Mr. Hav Bunse (Cambodia) Vice-Chairpersons and Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov (Russian Federation) Rapporteur.

D. Agenda

78. The Committee adopted the following agenda as contained in document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/L.1:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
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.
5. Trade and investment issues:
 - (a) Enhancing trade and investment integration of ESCAP developing members and associate members;
 - (b) Trade facilitation and the new security environment: issues for developing and least developed countries in the Asian and Pacific region.

6. Transport and tourism issues:
 - (a) Preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Transport;
 - (b) Sustainable development of tourism.
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;
 - (b) Monitoring and evaluation: review of selected projects in the thematic area of managing globalization.
 - (i) Institutional capacity-building for facilitation of international trade and transport in landlocked and transit countries;
 - (ii) The Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade.
8. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the sixty-third session of the Commission.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/L.1	Provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/L.2	Annotated provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/1	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	4
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/2	Enhancing trade and investment integration of ESCAP developing members and associate members	5 (a)
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/3	Trade facilitation and the new security environment: issues for developing and least developed countries in the Asian and Pacific region	5 (b)
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/4	Preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Transport	6 (a)
CMG(3/I)/INF.1 (English only)	Draft ministerial declaration on improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific	
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/5	Progress since the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on Sustainable Tourism Development	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/6	Review of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 in respect of subprogramme 4: Trade and investment and subprogramme 5: Transport and tourism	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/7 and Corr.1	Review of selected projects in the thematic area of managing globalization: institutional capacity-building for facilitation of international trade and transport in landlocked and transit countries	7 (b) (i)
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/I)/8	Review of selected projects in the thematic area of managing globalization: the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade	7 (b) (ii)

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