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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 II)

Note by the secretariat

SUMMARY

The third session of the Committee on Managing Globalization, Part II, was held in Bangkok from 10 to 12 October 2006.

The Committee reviewed a cross-cutting issue for managing globalization: technology for sustainable economic growth in the face of rising oil and natural resource prices. The Committee also reviewed sectoral issues in the areas of environment and sustainable development as well as information, communication and space technology.

The Committee considered the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 in respect of subprogramme 6, Environment and sustainable development, and subprogramme 7, Information, communication and space technology. 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 brought to its attention. The Commission is invited to provide guidance on these matters.

CONTENTS

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

1.   Recognizing the important role of information, communication and space technology (ICST) in socio-economic development, the Committee requested the secretariat to further strengthen the work of the Information, Communication and Space Technology Division. The Committee also recognized that building the knowledge economy and knowledge society was the only way to meet the challenges of globalization and that science and technology were critical determinants of development in the emerging knowledge economy.

2.   The Committee requested the secretariat to continue to coordinate the regional follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and the implementation of the Regional Action Plan towards the Information Society in Asia and the Pacific.[1]

3.   The Committee further requested the secretariat to focus its efforts on addressing the new and emerging challenges of the information society at the national and regional levels and on promoting close strategic partnerships in order to integrate ICST into the development process.

4.   The Committee called on the secretariat to further assist the countries of the region through technical cooperation and knowledge-sharing assistance, best practices and national capacity-building in the use of ICST.

5.   The Committee commended the secretariat for the preparations it was making ahead of the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, which was to be held from 5 to 10 February 2007 in Kuala Lumpur and recommended that the Conference focus on policy issues to assist members and associate members of the Commission in the use of space technology and other information and communication technologies for achieving internationally agreed development goals. The Committee also recommended that the adoption of a thematic approach in lieu of the current technical and sectoral approach of the Regional Space Applications Programme should be thoroughly discussed as appropriate before submission for approval by the Ministerial Conference or the Commission.

6.   Welcoming the forward-looking direction of the *State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 2005*,[2] the Committee recommended the strengthening of regional cooperation to address the selected findings of the report. The green growth policy dialogues and Seoul Initiative Policy Forums, with focus on areas such as sustainable infrastructure, eco-efficiency of the consumption pattern and renewable energy, were cited as particularly positive examples.

7.   The Committee stressed the importance of the timely delivery of documents and reports, and recommended that, if the member States decided to continue the publication of the *State of the*

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[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.II.F.20.
[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.II.F.18.

Environment, it should be produced before the next Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in 2010.

8.   The Committee noted the possibilities inherent in promoting the transfer of uncommercialized publicly funded research and development results to enhance capacity-building in developing countries. It underlined the importance of coordination and close cooperation between ESCAP and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and between them and other United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to avoid any duplication of work.

9.   The Committee requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to support the member countries in improving their capacity to develop and implement the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) as well as joint implementation (JI) and other projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

10.   The Committee called for more efforts to be made to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.[3] It also called on the secretariat to conduct a study reviewing all regional efforts by various organizations to develop early warning systems with a view to helping avoid duplication and enhancing synergy. It requested the secretariat to further promote regional cooperation in the area of natural disaster risk management.

11.   The Committee, in general, supported the proposal for the trans-Asian energy system and welcomed the offer made by the Russian Federation to take an active part in its implementation together with other stakeholders, including interested energy companies. In that regard, the secretariat was requested to organize workshops and seminars and hold more consultations with member States to consider the initiative.

12.   The Committee recognized the importance of promoting energy efficiency as well as renewable energy for making progress towards sustainable energy infrastructure development. In addition, it had noted a request to conduct more research on renewable energy, including hydro power.

II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE SESSION

A. Cross-cutting issues in managing globalization: technology for sustainable economic growth in the face of rising oil and natural resource prices

13.   The Committee had before it a document entitled "Consideration of cross-cutting issues in managing globalization: technology for sustainable economic growth in the face of rising oil and natural resource prices" (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/1).

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[3] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

14.   The Committee noted that the rising prices of oil and natural resources were a formidable challenge to sustaining economic growth in the Asian and Pacific region. Improving eco-efficiency was an appropriate response to that challenge and would facilitate the continuation of the economic growth that was so important both for poverty reduction and for the improvement of the region's environmental sustainability. The potential for various forms of ICST to enhance eco-efficiency and to contribute to socio-economic development in the region was emphasized.

15.   The Committee acknowledged the need for enhanced regional cooperation and expressed appreciation for the work of the ESCAP secretariat in promoting eco-efficiency through the collection and promotion of best practices throughout the region. The Committee expressed gratitude for the work of the secretariat and donors on technical cooperation activities aimed at enhancing eco-efficiency, the Seoul Initiative for the Greening of Economic Growth and the Green Growth Policy Dialogues. The Committee also commended the secretariat for its work in the area of energy.

16.   The Committee expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the secretariat in promoting ICST for socio-economic development and for following up on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.[4]

17.   The Committee called on the international community to assist developing countries in working more effectively towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by increasing the provision of financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries.

18.   The Committee noted that an integrated approach should be adopted for the management of energy and other resources. Such an approach should incorporate the use of advanced technologies, including ICST, for the exploration, evaluation and extraction of natural resources. The Committee agreed that regional cooperation on eco-efficiency, including energy issues, should be enhanced. That was particularly true of the development and use of related ICST tools. The Committee welcomed ESCAP activities aimed at helping the region to improve its eco-efficiency, including technical cooperation, and encouraged further initiatives and cooperation. It also suggested that networks be utilized to build partnerships with related institutions.

19.   A number of delegations informed the Committee of the initiatives they were taking in order to promote eco-efficiency and improve access to resources. They also shared experiences on national policies related to the improvement of the eco-efficiency of resource use. The Committee called for an increase in the exchange of national experiences in the area of environment and sustainable development among the member countries.

20.   The Committee expressed appreciation for the offers of India, Indonesia and the Russian Federation to share information on ongoing ICST initiatives, such as the distance-learning and

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[4] A/C.2/59/3, annex, and A/60/687.

e-service applications of the Russian Federation, wireless local loop technologies and handheld Internet appliances, such as the Simputer of India. The representative of India reported that her country placed particular emphasis on the development of ICT infrastructure and human resources in order to achieve the national goal of ICT for all by 2008.

21.   Recognizing the important role of ICST in socio-economic development, the Committee requested the secretariat to further strengthen the work of the Information, Communication and Space Technology Division. The Committee also recognized that building the knowledge economy and knowledge society could help to meet the challenges of globalization and that science and technology were critical determinants of development in the emerging knowledge economy.

B.   Information, communication and space technology issues

1. *Building national capacity in information and communication technology*

22.   The Committee had before it a document on building national capacity in information and communication technology (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/2).

23.   The Committee recognized the importance of mainstreaming ICST for the socio-economic development process, particularly in regard to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the formation of the information society.

24.   The Committee noted with interest the advances in the development of ICST applications and infrastructure in a number of countries, including India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Russian Federation and Viet Nam, particularly in the areas of e-government, e-learning, e-commerce, telemedicine and the provision of information and services through ICST. This was especially true for rural communities. The Committee requested the secretariat to strengthen regional cooperation and technical assistance at the national and regional levels in order to share information, best practices and experiences in ICST applications for development.

25.   The Committee recognized the importance of building national capacity, both human and institutional, in ICST for socio-economic development. It noted with appreciation the initiatives of the secretariat designed to assist member countries in building their national capacities in ICST for development with the aim of enhancing skills, productivity, and competitiveness, creating digital opportunities, bridging the digital divide and reducing poverty in the region.

26.   The Committee noted the initiatives taken by member countries, including India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Russian Federation and Viet Nam, in developing and implementing ICST strategies, programmes and policy measures that provide access to and build capacity in the use of ICST. Those initiatives were aimed at underserved or marginalized groups in order to create the foundation for a locally relevant knowledge-based society by promoting the application of ICST through community-based facilities.

27.   The Committee acknowledged the importance of the development of digital content, particularly quality local content, as one of the new sources of ICST sector growth. The Committee also noted with interest a study to be conducted by Malaysia to determine the strategic direction for content development which covers creating and nurturing local industry, building capacity, and enhancing marketing and distribution channels.

  2. *Report on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and the integration of information and communication technology policies and strategies in the development process*

28.   The Committee had before it a report on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and the integration of information, communication and space technology policies and strategies in the development process (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/3).

29.   The Committee expressed full support to the outcomes of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society. It requested the secretariat to continue work on coordination of the regional follow-up to the World Summit and the implementation of the Regional Action Plan towards the Information Society in Asia and the Pacific.[1]

30.   While recognizing the importance of ICST for sustainable economic and social development and in particular the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, the Committee expressed broad support for the priority activities under subprogramme 7.[5] Those activities focused on providing assistance in creating an enabling ICT policy environment and capacity-building for ICST applications. It welcomed closer cooperation between ESCAP and other members of the Regional Interagency Working Group on ICT in providing countries in the region with assistance in those areas.

31.   The Committee noted with interest the experiences of participating countries with the application of ICST for development. In that regard, the Committee took the view that those experiences, along with the diverse levels of ICT development in the region, created an environment conducive to regional cooperation. Therefore, the Committee stressed the need for regional cooperation in the use of information and knowledge for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the World Summit on the Information Society. The harmonization of selected policies, such as e-government, e-commerce and relevant legal frameworks aimed at building the information society in Asia and the Pacific could be priorities for regional cooperation.

32.   The Committee noted new and emerging challenges for the information society at the national and regional levels and the need for promoting close strategic partnerships in order to integrate ICTs into the development process. The Committee requested the secretariat to assist countries in addressing the above issues.

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  [5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/59/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1), programme 15, subprogramme 7.

33.	The Committee welcomed offers by various members to provide assistance in capacity-building. It also welcomed offers to share good practices and experiences in formulating and implementing ICST policies and strategies and their integration into the overall development process. It requested the secretariat to coordinate those activities at the regional level.

34.	The Committee requested the secretariat to continue to coordinate the regional follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and the implementation of the Regional Action Plan towards the Information Society in Asia and the Pacific.

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

(a)	Promoting regional cooperation in the use of information and knowledge for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the World Summit on the Information Society;

(b)	Addressing the new and emerging challenges of the information society at the national and regional levels and promoting close strategic partnerships in order to integrate ICTs into the development process;

(c)	Organizing subregional and regional forums on the harmonization of policies and legal frameworks aimed at building the information society in Asia and Pacific.

36.	The Committee noted the activities of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in promoting ICST for development and welcomed their efforts to establish closer cooperation with ESCAP. UNESCO, in particular, shared information and experiences on capacity-building and partnership initiatives with the Committee.

3. *Preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2007*

37.	The Committee had before it a document on the preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2007 (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/4).

38.	The Committee was informed that Japan was promoting the Sentinel Asia Project and had started providing satellite images from its Advanced Land Observing Satellite, a satellite-based rapid response system, to countries in South-East Asia. Those images were to be provided upon request in the event of a disaster. The Committee noted with appreciation that China would join the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters, and would launch, sometime in or after 2007, one radar and two optical satellites as part of a constellation of small satellites for disaster and environmental monitoring.

39.   The Committee noted that China and India had been actively participating in RESAP and appreciated their continued support for enhanced cooperation with ESCAP in that field. The Committee expressed appreciation for the offer of India to share its space technology resources and experience in remote sensing, telemedicine, tele-education and space-based disaster management for regional and global cooperative programmes, including RESAP.

40.   The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Convention on the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization had been signed by nine States. The organization would be headquartered in Beijing.

41.   The Committee was informed that the Islamic Republic of Iran had submitted a draft resolution on the establishment of an ICST-enabled disaster management centre at the sixty-second session of the Commission and that US$ 10 million would be allocated for the operation of the centre for a period of five years. The centre would be located in a very important geographic area of West and Central Asia. In that respect, the Islamic Republic of Iran planned to hold a workshop in Tehran on 3 and 4 December 2006. The workshop would discuss a feasibility study on the proposed centre and methods for the use of spatial information systems and real-time data networking in natural disaster management.

42.   The Committee commended the ESCAP secretariat for its preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. The Committee expressed appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for hosting the Conference.

43.   The Committee recommended that the outcomes of phases I and II of the World Summit on the Information Society,[4] the World Conference on Disaster Reduction[3] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development[6] should be taken into account during the preparations for the Ministerial Conference.

44.   The Committee recommended that the Ministerial Conference should not dwell on technical aspects but discuss policies which address natural disasters, environment, poverty, human resources development, education, heath care and development planning. The Committee also recommended that the Ministerial Conference promote substantive and concrete projects, such as Sentinel Asia, under the framework of RESAP.

45.   The Committee also recommended that the adoption of a thematic approach for RESAP in lieu of the current technical and sectoral approach should be reviewed at the forthcoming session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on RESAP. The outputs on the matter would be submitted to the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) for review, then to the Ministerial Conference or the Commission, as appropriate, for approval.

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[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolutions 1 and 2.

C. Issues related to environment and sustainable development

46.   The Committee had before it a document entitled "Consideration of issues related to environment and sustainable development" (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/5 and Corr.1).

1. *State of the environment*

47.   The Committee noted with appreciation the publication of the *State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 2005* and recognized the recommendations for policy actions in line with green growth contained therein. It expressed support for the efforts of the secretariat to produce a high-quality report and welcomed the action taken in the form of the green growth policy dialogues and the Seoul Initiative policy forums.

48.   The Committee pointed out several key areas in which regional cooperation should be strengthened further, including sustainable infrastructure development, energy efficiency and clean energy. The Committee underscored the importance of the water resources management initiative, in which context the launch of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum was announced. It also emphasized that urbanization issues should continue to be addressed as a priority, in particular through the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment,[7] with enhanced participation from local governments of members and associate members.

49.   The Committee stressed the importance of timely delivery of the documents and reports, and recommended that if the member States decide to continue the publication of state of the environment reports, it should be produced before the next Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in 2010.

2. *Transfer of publicly owned or funded environmentally sound technologies*

50.   The Committee noted that technical cooperation in the area of development and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies was an important element of international cooperation. The Committee also noted the potential for the development and transfer of publicly funded environmentally sound technologies.

51.   In particular, the Committee noted that environmentally sound renewable energy technologies, such as wind, solar and hydrogen, were being developed through publicly funded research and development.

52.   One delegation mentioned that focused research, development and dissemination of environmentally sound technologies in the energy sector are an important factor for the "decarbonization" of the region. In that regard the delegation stressed the importance of promoting

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[7] ESCAP, *Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific 2000, Kitakyushu, Japan, 31 August-5 September 2000: Ministerial Declaration, Regional Action Programme (2001-2005) and Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment* (ST/ESCAP/2096) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.II.F.12), part three.

investment and partnerships for the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies for sustainable, energy-efficient multimodal transportation systems.

53.   The Committee noted that there was considerable potential for Governments to consider removing barriers and to consider providing incentives for public institutions to initiate joint research initiatives for environmentally sound technology between developing and developed countries. Those measures would make technology development and dissemination much more cost-effective.

54.   The Committee noted the possibilities inherent in promoting the transfer of uncommercialized publicly funded research and development results to enhance capacity-building in developing countries. It underlined the importance for ESCAP and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology to coordinate and cooperate closely with other United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to avoid duplication of work.

3. *Climate change actions of developing countries beyond 2012*

55.   The Committee noted that climate change had been recognized as one of the major long-term threats to the Asian and the Pacific region, because of the region's high vulnerability and limited adaptive capacity. In that context, many member countries had developed national policies and strategies for adaptation to and mitigation of the impact of climate change. Those policies and strategies include implementation projects through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol.[8]

56.   The Committee acknowledged the development of unilateral CDM projects in the region and the progress made with regard to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Committee considered promoting the development of unilateral CDM projects in the region and suggested that such an approach should be extended to joint implementation projects.

57.   One delegation recommended that the secretariat make a presentation on the proposal for unilateral CDM and joint implementation projects at the third meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[9] to be held in 2007, with a view to accelerating such initiatives.

58.   The Committee noted that the secretariat's proposal on unilateral CDM projects linked with a certified emission reduction discounting scheme could be an innovative mechanism for the climate change activities of developing countries beyond 2012.

59.   Recognizing the complexity of the climate change regime and the capacity requirements for applying CDM, the Committee called for the continuation of work in coordination with relevant organizations, including the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, on various options aimed at helping developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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[8] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, chap. I, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

60.   A number of delegations, including India, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand and Viet Nam, informed the Committee of the initiatives they were taking, such as the utilization of renewable energy and the improvement of energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emission and to strengthen the capacity to implement such initiatives.

61.   One delegation expressed deep concern regarding the tendency to look upon the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol as vehicles for investment and technology transfer while ignoring the commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the provision of new and additional financial resources and the transfer of technology on concessional terms.

62.   The Committee requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to support the member countries with a view to improving their capacity to develop and implement CDM projects as well as joint implementation and other projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

63.   The Committee noted with appreciation Japan's efforts to exchange information and experiences about climate change through the annual Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change and welcomed the proposal from Japan to host the next Seminar jointly with the secretariat in Bangkok.

64.   The delegation of Thailand requested the removal of misleading content on the plan of the Government of Thailand in paragraph 53 of document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/5.

4. *Natural disaster reduction*

65.   The Committee noted a significant increase in the frequency and severity of natural disasters in the region and emphasized the need to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005-2015: Building Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.[3] The Committee was informed of progress by several countries in the region on improving the resilience of communities to natural disasters.

66.   The Committee recognized the importance of the development of early warning systems for better disaster preparedness. It noted the progress made in several countries in the region, including the development of multi-hazard early warning systems. It noted the need, however, for close coordination in the development of early warning systems, especially among the numerous United Nations and international organizations, and called on the secretariat to conduct a study reviewing all regional efforts to avoid duplication and enhance synergy.

67.   The Committee noted with appreciation that Japan had been organizing capacity-building activities on the use of space and geoinformatic technologies for disaster management. The Committee also noted with appreciation the offer of Japan to enhance such efforts in cooperation with ESCAP and other organizations. It also noted the invitation from Japan for ESCAP member countries to participate in the International Forum on Tsunami and Earthquake, to be held in Japan in January

2007 and in the preparatory activities on the disaster management theme for the Asia-Pacific Water Forum Summit, to be held in Japan in October 2007.

68.   The Committee noted with appreciation the assistance provided by the secretariat in the field of natural disaster risk management, including assistance provided by the secretariat's Regional Adviser. It called on the secretariat to further promote regional cooperation in that area of work.

5. *Energy security*

69.   The Committee had before it a document on issues related to energy security (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/6).

70.   The Committee noted the important role of energy in economic and social development towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including poverty reduction. It also noted that the future challenges in meeting the rising demand for energy would comprise volatility of energy prices, dependence on imported energy resources, mobilization of financial resources for energy infrastructure investment and environmental sustainability.

71.   The Committee recognized that energy security was a global issue that must be addressed through international cooperation. In that context, creating a "win-win" situation would require more dialogues for regional cooperation on, among other things, research and development, advanced technology, energy efficiency and renewable energy development.

(a) *Sustainable energy infrastructure*

72.   With respect to energy infrastructure for sustainable development, the Committee recognized the importance of promoting energy efficiency as well as renewable energy. A request was made that the secretariat conduct more research on renewable energy, including hydropower.

(b) *Trans-Asian energy system*

73.   Recognizing the uneven distribution and endowment of energy resources, the Committee noted the need to strengthen energy security in order to ensure socio-economic development through energy cooperation. The proposal for a trans-Asian energy system, introduced at the sixty-second session of the Commission, could facilitate such cooperation as it provided an overall foundation for collaboration with subregional organizations. The Committee also noted that the trans-Asian energy system would be broad-based and work towards widely accepted principles that would bring about equity and mutual benefits.

74.   The Committee generally expressed support for the trans-Asian energy system proposal and welcomed the offer made by the Russian Federation to take an active part in the implementation of the system together with other stakeholders, including interested energy companies. In that regard, the secretariat was requested to organize workshops and seminars and hold more consultations with member States to consider that initiataive.

75.   The Committee expressed appreciation for the information provided by the Eurasian Economic Community (EuroAsEC) on the initiative to create a common energy market among their member States and welcomed the offer made by the Community to work together with ESCAP on the proposed trans-Asian energy system.

6. *Draft inputs from the Asian and Pacific region to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifteenth session: policy options related to energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change*

76.   The Committee had before it a document on policy options for the environment in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/7). The Committee expressed appreciation to the secretariat for preparing the document, including the draft inputs for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It noted that the draft inputs had been formulated by the secretariat in consultation with Bangkok-based offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

77.   The delegation of the Russian Federation submitted an amended version of the draft inputs. The representative of the Russian Federation indicated that the amendments were aimed at improving the balance and making the text clearer, more concise and more focused.

78.   The Committee noted the information provided by the delegation of Japan on the issue of transboundary air pollution, which drew attention to the recent progress of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia, which was mentioned in paragraph 29 of document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/7. The delegation informed the Committee that the Government had suggested that the network should be utilized to promote international cooperation for measures against transboundary air pollution in the region, including the issue of acid rain. On the issue of dust and sandstorms, the delegation expressed appreciation to the secretariat for considering the implementation of the Asian Development Bank and Global Environment Facility dust and sandstorm project and an additional project which would be implemented on the borders of China and Mongolia. The delegation also stressed the importance of sustainable production and consumption patterns in the context of industrial development and suggested the inclusion of the 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle) concept in the draft input. In addition, the delegation suggested retaining in the draft inputs the sentences proposed for deletion by the delegation of the Russian Federation on dust and sandstorms and air pollution.

79.   The Committee adopted the draft inputs with the amendments noted above. It requested the secretariat to revise the draft and make it available together with the Committee report. However, as the draft inputs had not been reviewed by the capitals, the Committee decided that further comments on the draft inputs, if any, should be provided to the secretariat as soon as possible. That would allow the secretariat to submit them to the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives for final

consideration at its three hundred and seventh session, to be held in December 2006. Thereafter, the inputs would be submitted to the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, to be held in New York from 26 February to 2 March 2007.

D. Programme planning and evaluation

1. Review of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 in respect of the subprogrammes on environment and sustainable development and information, communication and space technology

80.   The Committee had before it a document transmitting the draft programme of work for 2008-2009 in respect of subprogramme 6, Environment and sustainable development and subprogramme 7, Information, communication and space technology (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/8).

81.   In introducing the document, 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[10] on 6 September 2006. It was noted that the strategic framework would be considered by the Fifth Committee and subsequently adopted by the General Assembly.

82.   The Committee was invited to review the output citations, as contained in annexes I and II of document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/8, which had been developed by the Environment and Sustainable Development Division and the Information, Communication and Space Technology Division. The Committee was informed that the draft programme of work for 2008-2009 would be further developed and submitted for the consideration of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives in December 2006 or January 2007, before review and endorsement by the Commission at its sixty-third session, in 2007.

83.   The Committee expressed support, in principle, for the draft programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009, which, following the approach agreed upon during the Committee on Managing Globalization at its third session part one, would be subject to further review by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives in December 2006 or January 2007. It made the following comments on the proposed work programme outputs:

(a)   Under subprogramme 6, one representative requested to reorder the sequence of activities under Intermediate result c, subparagraph (c) (i), as follows:

Training courses, seminars and workshops:

Regional and subregional energy cooperation for sustainable development;

Group training on management and use of energy resources, energy efficiency, cleaner production and enhanced utilization of renewable energy, and gender-responsive energy policies for equitable access to energy services;

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[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/61/16), paras. 215-230.

(b)   In response to a request to add the words "natural resources" to Expected accomplishment (b) and to explain the method of measurement of indicators of achievement under subprogramme 6, the secretariat pointed out any further changes to the text of the strategic framework after its consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, would need to be approved by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, which would meet later in the year;

(c)   The secretariat further explained that indicators of achievement represented qualitative and quantitative measurements of positive change in capacities and were verified through surveys and questionnaires to determine results achieved from users of ESCAP services;

(d)   The secretariat noted the request of one delegation to continue its training activities relating to capacity-building for the negotiation of multilateral environmental agreement, and would attempt to accommodate the request for negotiation workshops if there was sufficient demand;

(e)   The same delegation suggested that recurrent publications and advisory services relating to green growth policy issues should include green taxes and fiscal policy, and that recurrent publications relating to energy resources should include hydropower renewable energy resources and other environmentally friendly forms of alternative energy.

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

84.   The Committee took note of documents on capacity-building for the integration of energy and rural development policies and programmes (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/9) and development of e-business development services for small and medium-sized enterprises in selected ASEAN countries and southern China (E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/10).

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

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

F. Other matters

86.   No other matters were raised.

G. Adoption of the report

87.   The Committee adopted the report on its third session on 12 October 2006.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening, duration and organization

88.   The third session of the Committee on Managing Globalization, Part II, was held in Bangkok from 10 to 12 October 2006.

89.   In the message from the Executive Secretary, delivered by the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP, a number of issues were raised for the attention of the Committee. Those issues included the potential for Governments to develop and transfer publicly funded environmentally sound technologies by removing the barriers to their transfer. There were opportunities for the developing countries of the ESCAP region to participate effectively in actions against climate change beyond 2012 through the unilateral clean development mechanism linked to a certified emission reduction discounting scheme. The Executive Secretary recognized the importance of strategies, programmes and capacity-building for strengthening resilience in disaster risk management. Energy security was highlighted with the vision of a trans-Asian energy system and the need for a well-coordinated and integrated regional energy system for exchange and trade.

90.   The Executive Secretary highlighted the role of ESCAP in coordinating the implementation of the Regional Action Plan towards the Information Society in Asia and the Pacific[1] and the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society[4] at the regional level to link national e-strategies with the achievement of the Summit goals. The active participation of ESCAP in the efforts of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development to develop a comment set of core ICT indicators. ESCAP has also been assisting member States in capacity-building at the regional and national levels on e-government, e-business, rural ICT development through community e-centres and e-learning. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that, in June 2006, ESCAP had established the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development.

91.   Mr. Apichai Chvajarernpun, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand, made a statement in which he highlighted the concept of the Sufficiency Economy articulated by the King of Thailand, which stressed the importance of enhanced economic growth but also the need to preserve environmental integrity. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment had adopted the King's guiding principle through the green procurement efforts made since 2005, which was expected to contribute significantly to the achievement of sustainable economic development.

92.   To maximize the potential of ICT, Thailand had drawn up the National Information Technology Policy Framework, which ran from 2001 to 2010. The focus of the framework was to foster ICT applications for national sustainable development. It contained five flagship programmes: e-government, e-commerce, e-industry, e-education and e-society. The Government of Thailand also worked in close cooperation with the private sector and civil society to bring computers and Internet access to all families in the country. In 2005, Thailand had successfully launched the iPSTAR Broadband Satellite, which had drastically cut the price of satellite links to rural and remote areas.

B. Attendance

93.   The session was attended by the following members and associate members of ESCAP: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, India, Indonesia, Iran

(Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam and Macao, China.

94.   Representatives of Argentina and Norway also attended the session, in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure.

95.   The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization, United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

96.   The following intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities also attended: Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Eurasian Economic Community, World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises, Asian Institute of Technology, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Japan International Cooperation Agency and Korea Environment Institute.

C. Election of officers

97.   The Committee elected Mr. Jiro Usui, Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of Japan as the Chairperson, Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of the Russian Federation as the Vice Chairperson and Mr. Umardin Hj. Abdul Mutalib, Deputy Chief of Mission and Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of Malaysia as the Rapporteur.

D. Agenda

98.   The Committee considered the provisional agenda as contained in document E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/L.1. It was agreed to delete item 6(a)(ii). The representative of the Republic of Korea expressed reservations regarding the deletion. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1.   Opening of the session.

2.   Election of officers.

3.   Adoption of the agenda.

4.   Consideration of cross-cutting issues in managing globalization: technology for sustainable economic growth in the face of rising oil and natural resource prices.

5.   Consideration of information, communication and space technology issues:

(a)   Building national capacity in information and communication technology;

(b)   Report on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and the integration of information and communication technology policies and strategies in the development process;

(c)   Preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2007.

6. Consideration of issues related to environment and sustainable development:

    (a)   (i)   State of the environment;

            (ii)   Transfer of publicly owned or funded environmentally sound technologies;

            (iii)   Climate change actions of developing countries beyond 2012;

            (iv)   Natural disaster reduction;

    (b)   Energy security:

            (i)   Sustainable energy infrastructure;

            (ii)   Trans-Asian energy system;

    (c)   Draft inputs from the Asian and Pacific region to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifteenth session: policy options related to energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.

7. Programme planning and evaluation:

    (a)   Review of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 in respect of the subprogrammes on environment and sustainable development, and information, communication and space technology;

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

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

9. Other matters.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its third session.

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Symbol	Title
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/L.1	Provisional agenda
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/L.2	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/1	Technology for sustainable economic growth in the face of rising oil and natural resource prices
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/2	Building national capacity in information and communication technology
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/3	Report on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and the integration of information and communication technology policies and strategies in the development process
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/4	Preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2007
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/5 and Corr.1	Consideration of issues related to environment and sustainable development
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/6	Issues related to energy security
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/7	Policy options for the environment in Asia and the Pacific
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/8	Review of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 in respect of the subprogrammes on environment and sustainable development and information, communication and space technology
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/9	Capacity-building for the integration of energy and rural development policies and programmes
E/ESCAP/CMG(3/II)/10	Development of e-business development services for small and medium-sized enterprises in selected ASEAN countries and southern China

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