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ACTIVITIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES DESIGNATED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

(Item 9 of the provisional agenda)

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES DESIGNATED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Addendum

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A. Introduction

- 1. The present document is an addendum to the report to the Commission on the activities of ACPR (E/ESCAP/63/29), covering activities during the period from January to April 2007. During this period, ACPR held four regular sessions, one special session to consider the draft programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009, one informal session on the proposed establishment of an Asia and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management, five meetings of its informal working group to prepare for the review by the Commission of the conference structure and four meetings of its informal working group on draft resolutions.
- 2. At its four regular sessions, ACPR discussed the following topics:
- (a) Preparations for the sixty-third session of the Commission, including the outcome of the resumed sixty-second session of the Commission;
- (b) Progress report on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Commission at its sixty-second and previous sessions on which there were important developments to report;
- (c) Consideration of the date, venue and theme topic for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission;
 - (d) Format of Commission reports;
- (e) Preparations for the eighth session of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries;
- (f) Review of the preparations for, and outcome of, the third session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA), held in Bogor, Indonesia, on 18 and 19 January 2007;
- (g) Report on the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007;
 - (h) Proposed calendar of ESCAP meetings and training programmes for 2007.
- 3. In addition, ACPR was briefed regularly by the Executive Secretary on his attendance at events in member and associate member countries and areas, and by other members of the secretariat on the preparations for the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of ESCAP, activities related to the integration of small and medium-sized enterprises into global and regional value chains, the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, and the Trans-Asian Railway. Also, a team from the Office of Internal Oversight Services briefed ACPR on the purpose and preliminary results of an inspection of the secretariat's application of results-based management.

B. Preparations for the sixty-third session of the Commission

4. The secretariat briefed ACPR on the preparations for the sixty-third session of the Commission, including on the provisional agenda for the session, the preparation of pre-session documents and draft resolutions under consideration for possible submission to the Commission, and on the decision to convene the session in Almaty, Kazakhstan, taken by the Commission at its resumed sixty-second session and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council.

C. Preparations for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission

5. ACPR considered five suggested theme topics for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission and agreed that the views expressed would form part of a continuing process towards a final decision.

D. Format of Commission reports

6. ACPR considered a document prepared by the secretariat, which contained a number of recommendations for change in order to enhance the relevance and functionality of reports of the Commission. ACPR expressed support for a number of the recommendations and agreed to continue its deliberations in this regard.

E. Preparations for the eighth session of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries

7. ACPR was briefed on the preparations for the eighth session of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, to be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, immediately preceding the sixty-third session of the Commission. All members and associate members, including least developed and landlocked developing countries, were urged to attend. ACPR underlined the importance of enhanced collaboration among landlocked countries and countries with access to the sea.

F. Report on the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007

8. The secretariat informed ACPR about the performance of the secretariat during 2006, as assessed against the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the strategic framework, 2006-2007. The achievements during 2006 pointed to satisfactory progress towards meeting the targets for the biennium, as evidenced by the achievement of key substantive milestones, high delivery rates, the adoption of a record number of resolutions and a substantial increase in media coverage of ESCAP activities. ACPR noted that the identification of emerging issues was central to the joint efforts of member States and the secretariat aimed at revitalizing the organization.

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