



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Transport

First session
29-31 October 2008
Bangkok

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

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

2. Election of officers

A chairperson, vice-chairperson(s) and a rapporteur will be elected.

3. Adoption of the agenda

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

4. Major issues in transport

(a) Transport and development: assessment of the contribution of transport to economic and social development

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CTR/1, entitled "Transport and development: assessment of the contribution of transport to economic and social development". Transport is recognized as playing a crucial role in the sustainable economic and social development of countries and, consequently, in contributing to the welfare of populations.

In recent years, the ESCAP region has made substantial progress in the development of the transport sector, with the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks standing out as two recent highlights of regional cooperation promoting development in the sector. The Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific now provides clear mandates for the secretariat's ongoing work to promote and coordinate the development of transport services, including infrastructure, facilitation and logistics, to ensure continued healthy growth. The benefits of regional and international transport projects, including the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway, are

potentially greater than those of national projects, but they are not easily captured by traditional cost-benefit analysis. A proper methodology to measure the wider benefits of regional and international transport infrastructure projects needs to be defined and accepted across the region to help member countries decide on future investments. At the same time, it is necessary to create awareness of the possible negative externalities of transport, such as pollution, safety and congestion, and to take the necessary measures to minimize their potentially adverse impacts. A comprehensive and integrated approach to transport is thus required to ensure that the assessment of transport infrastructure projects reflects their true contribution to sustainable economic and social development.

The Committee will be invited to share information on the latest developments and challenges in transport infrastructure development and facilitation and to provide comments on the secretariat's activities undertaken within the framework of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011). In the lead-up to the first session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport, to be held in 2009, the Committee may wish to provide guidance to the secretariat in terms of future research, analysis and normative work in this area, including approaches to more effectively measure the impacts of transport on development. It may also wish to provide guidance to the secretariat on its future work in this area, as contained in the document entitled "Strategic framework and proposed outputs for the proposed programme of work for 2010-2011" (E/ESCAP/CTR/7).

(b) Transport and poverty: from farm to market—extending the reach of logistics

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CTR/2, entitled "Transport and poverty: from farm to market—extending the reach of logistics".

The recent increase in food prices and concerns over the availability of and access to food have focused attention on overcoming problems related to the transport of agricultural food products. Rising transportation costs can account for up to two thirds of final food prices. In addition, spoilage between farm and market as a result of inadequate transport, storage and processing renders a large share of perishable food unusable, which is having a major impact on the poorer segments of communities in the region.

While food trades are increasingly complex and some countries have put in place advanced logistics solutions, the majority of the countries in Asia and the Pacific have yet to establish an infrastructure and institutional frameworks to ensure the efficient, seamless transport of foods from farm to market.

The document will make a preliminary assessment of the issues that need to be further addressed at the national and regional levels to improve the efficiency of food transport and logistics. Delegations are invited to share their experiences, progress and remaining challenges concerning food transport and logistics. The Committee may wish to propose further research that could be presented to the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport in 2009 as the basis of a regional exchange of

experiences on enhancing the availability of and access to food through improved transport and logistics. The Committee may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on its future work in this area, as contained in the document entitled “Strategic framework and proposed outputs for the proposed programme of work for 2010-2011” (E/ESCAP/CTR/7).

(c) Transport and environment: energy consumption (utilization) and emissions

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CTR/3, entitled “Transport and environment: energy consumption (utilization) and emissions”.

The transport sector is the largest consumer of petroleum products and its consumption is growing quickly due to rapid increases in motorization and demands for mobility as well as the heavy reliance of trade and globalization on transport.

The recent high levels of oil prices, whether they are maintained or not, serve to provide a glimpse of possible future developments if actions are not taken to increase transport efficiency and reduce reliance on non-renewable oil fuel. In addressing both passenger and freight transport, the document will outline some of the measures that can be considered by ministries and transport operators to increase efficiency and reduce consumption and emissions.

Approaching such issues as energy efficiency, modal shift, traffic congestion, air quality, greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting substances in an integrated manner offers potentially greater benefits than treating the issues in isolation.

The Committee will be invited to share experiences in addressing energy consumption and emissions in the transport sector. It may also wish to provide guidance concerning the inclusion of these issues in the agenda of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport, to be held in 2009, and to provide the secretariat with guidance on its future work in this area, as contained in the document entitled “Strategic framework and proposed outputs for the proposed programme of work for 2010-2011” (E/ESCAP/CTR/7).

(d) Transport and society: improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CTR/4, entitled “Transport and society: improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific”. The General Assembly has adopted a series of five resolutions since 2003 in which it called on Member States, the World Health Organization and the regional commissions, including ESCAP, to address the “global road safety crisis”—a worldwide public health issue.

Parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network have made a formal road safety commitment and the ESCAP Ministerial Declaration on Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific adopted in Busan, Republic of Korea on 11 November 2006 includes the overall goal “to save 600,000 lives and to prevent a commensurate number of serious injuries on the roads of Asia and the Pacific over the period 2007 to 2015”. Subsequently, in its resolution 63/9 of 23 May

2007, the Commission encouraged members and associate members to continue to act upon the recommendations contained in the Ministerial Declaration.

The document will analyse the status of road safety in the region, in general, and on the Asian Highway, in particular. It will also discuss a set of road safety goals, targets and indicators that have been developed in consultation with member States in support of the Ministerial Declaration and present options for supporting their achievement. The regional economic savings from the successful achievement of the goals and targets on the order of \$15 billion per year would far outweigh the costs of increased road safety measures.

The Committee members will be invited to provide updates on the road safety programmes in their countries, to agree on or further refine the road safety targets and indicators and to discuss potential inputs of the region to the first global high-level (ministerial) conference on road safety, to be held in 2009. The Committee may also wish to provide guidance on the secretariat's future strategic direction in this particular area, including on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and possible work programme outputs that could be reflected in the programme of work for 2010-2011. It may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance concerning the inclusion of these issues in the agenda of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport, to be held in 2009, as well as on its future work in this area, as contained in the document entitled "Strategic framework and proposed outputs for the proposed programme of work for 2010-2011" (E/ESCAP/CTR/7).

5. Fifty years of the Asian Highway

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CTR/5, entitled "Fifty years of the Asian Highway". The document will briefly review milestones in the development of the Asian Highway and provide suggestions for its sustainability for the benefit of peoples and communities in the region. It will also outline proposals for celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of the Asian Highway in 2009 at regional and national levels, including the proposed Asian Highway truck caravan from Tokyo to Istanbul.

The Committee will be invited to provide guidance on the organization of the regional and national activities to be held in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Asian Highway and on ways to promote its sustainable development.

6. Organization of the first session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CTR/6, entitled "Organization of the first session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport". Given the rapid changes taking place in the region's economic development and the need for timely direction to achieve the progress needed in transport, the Commission adopted resolution 64/5 of 30 April 2008 on the establishment of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport, in which it requested the Executive Secretary to convene the first session of the Forum in 2009 and to ensure that a regional policy-oriented agenda is placed

before the Forum, addressing transport infrastructure, transit policy, facilitation, logistics, interregional and international transport linkages, financing and safety issues, as well as their economic, environmental and social sustainability. In the resolution, the Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to encourage members and associate members to host sessions of the Forum.

The document will describe the secretariat's preparation for the first session of the Forum. The Committee will be invited to provide guidance on the organization of the session and its draft provisional agenda with a view to ensuring the relevance of the Forum to members and associate members and the success of its first session.

7. Other matters

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

8. Adoption of the report

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

.