



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Sixty-sixth session
13-19 May 2010
Incheon, Republic of Korea

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries:
 - (a) Mid-term review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;
 - (b) Other matters.
3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the programme performance report for the biennium 2008-2009 and the work of the ESCAP regional institutions:
 - (a) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development;
 - (b) Trade and investment;
 - (c) Transport;
 - (d) Environment and development;
 - (e) Information and communications technology;
 - (f) Disaster risk reduction;
 - (g) Social development;
 - (h) Statistics;
 - (i) Subregional activities for development.

4. Management issues:
 - (a) Evaluations: report on evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2008-2009 and outcome of the evaluations of APCICT and SIAP;
 - (b) Programme changes for the biennium 2010-2011;
 - (c) Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013;
 - (d) Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions.
5. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
6. Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission (April/May 2011).

Ministerial segment

7. Policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region:
 - (a) Key challenges to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (b) Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2010.
8. Theme topic for the sixty-sixth session: "Addressing challenges in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: Promoting a stable and supportive financial system; and Green Growth or environmentally sustainable economic growth, including through technology and financing".
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

II. ANNOTATIONS

A. Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening addresses

The detailed programme for the opening of the session will be made available upon finalization.

(b) Election of officers

Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Commission provides as follows: "The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election". If the plenary so decides, the rule may be applied differently to enable the Commission to elect more than two vice-chairs, as has been the practice at previous sessions, in which case the Commission may elect a bureau of officers composed of a chair and several vice-chairs.

The senior officials segment may decide to meet in two committees of the whole and a working group on draft resolutions. It would then elect chairs and vice-chairs for each.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/66/L.1)

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/66/L.2)

The provisional agenda was drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the current Chair of the Commission and the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.

The Commission may wish to adopt the agenda.

2. Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries

In accordance with resolution 64/1 on restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission, the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries will meet during the senior officials segment and will have a status commensurate with the committees of the whole.

(a) Mid-term review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Documentation

Port Vila Outcome Statement (E/ESCAP/66/1)

Outcome of the Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis (E/ESCAP/66/INF/7)

In its resolution 62/191 of 19 December 2007 on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the General Assembly decided to review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation at its sixty-fifth session. In its resolution 63/213 of 19 December 2008, the Assembly reaffirmed that decision and stressed that the review should provide the international community with an opportunity to conduct an assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and agree on what needs to be done to further address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States. In that connection, ESCAP assisted Pacific small island developing States in producing their national assessment reports and produced the Pacific regional report, which was discussed at the Pacific High-level Dialogue on the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, hosted by the Government of Vanuatu in Port Vila on 8 and 9 February 2010. The Dialogue was organized by ESCAP with financial support from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and technical support from Pacific subregional organizations. The Outcome Document emanating from the Dialogue, the Port Vila Outcome Statement (E/ESCAP/66/1), notes that, despite the many challenges faced by Pacific island economies, more than 30 regional initiatives have

been implemented over the past five years to support the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. In addition, the outcome of the Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis, which was hosted by Government of Vanuatu in Port Vila from 10 to 12 February 2010 in partnership with the United Nations, the Asian Development Bank and subregional organizations in the Pacific, is issued as an information document (E/ESCAP/66/INF/7).

The Special Body may wish to review the Port Vila Outcome Statement and to make appropriate recommendations to the Commission, which may then wish to endorse the statement and transmit it to the appropriate body as the Asia-Pacific input to the global review.

(b) Other matters

The Special Body may wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the programme performance report for the biennium 2008-2009 and the work of the ESCAP regional institutions

The following documents will be deliberated under each subprogramme as required:

Programme performance report for the biennium 2008-2009 (E/ESCAP/66/4)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2)¹

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/66/3)

Agenda item 3 focuses on: (a) addressing the issues and challenges pertaining to the eight subprogrammes; (b) the reports of subsidiary bodies of the Commission (where sessions have been held since the last Commission session); (c) reports of intergovernmental meetings; (d) progress in the implementation of Commission mandates; (e) the programme performance report for the biennium 2008-2009; and (f) the work of the ESCAP regional institutions. Documents under this agenda item identify key priorities and emerging issues, taking into consideration the subregional aspects.

The expected outcomes under this agenda item include: (a) the identification of emerging issues that merit policy-oriented attention; (b) the identification of progress achieved and gaps requiring priority attention with regard to the implementation of Commission mandates; (c) follow-up to major global conferences; (d) the articulation of Asian and Pacific perspectives on issues that will be addressed in major global forums in 2010, (e) the endorsement of the reports of the subsidiary bodies which have been held since the sixty-fifth session of the Commission; and (f) the identification of key issues to be taken up in meetings of subsidiary bodies in 2010.

The outcomes of deliberations under this agenda item will be reflected in the annual report of the Commission, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council. Country statements will be analysed for the preparation of regional inputs to the annual ministerial review, the reporting processes of the Development

¹ The document will contain specific sections on each subprogramme.

Cooperation Forum and the dialogue of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions with the Economic and Social Council in July 2010. The analysis will also be used in the preparation of regional inputs to mandated reports of the Secretary-General on economic, social and environmental development issues. The agreed outcomes will guide the Executive Secretary in making interventions in diverse forums, including the Second Committee of the General Assembly and in preparing other presentations of the ESCAP secretariat at major global forums in 2010.

The Commission may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on enhanced and effective implementation of its activities related to key issues under this agenda item through decisions or resolutions.

(a) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. I)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/66/3, Sect. I, A)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/66/3, Sect. I, B)

Report of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development on its first session (E/ESCAP/66/5)

Asia-Pacific regional review of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010: Dhaka Outcome Document (E/ESCAP/66/6)

Report of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/7)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. I)

Document E/ESCAP/66/2, Section I, contains a subsection that deals with the challenges that countries in the region face in sustaining the recovery from the global economic crisis while reducing poverty and pursuing the Millennium Development Goals in order to promote inclusive development. Among the policy options outlined in the document are (a) narrowing development gaps and poverty reduction by strengthening social protection and agricultural and rural development, (b) regional economic and financial cooperation, (c) enhanced flows of official development assistance and (d) South-South cooperation. The document also deals with the obstacles facing countries with special needs in meeting the targets of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and the strengthening of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA) in the light of the importance that many developing countries attach to agriculture. The views and guidance of the Commission are sought regarding the policy options identified as well as the supportive analytical work being undertaken by the secretariat under this subprogramme, as elaborated in the report of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development (E/ESCAP/66/5).

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/66/3, Sect. I, A)

The secretariat summarizes the progress it has made in the implementation of resolution 65/1 on the implementation of the Bali Outcome Document in addressing the food, fuel and financial crises.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with comments and further guidance for more effective implementation of the above-mentioned resolution.

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/66/3, Sect. I, B)

The secretariat summarizes the progress it has made in the implementation of resolution 65/4 on the strengthening of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with comments and further guidance for more effective implementation of the above-mentioned resolution.

Report of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development on its first session (E/ESCAP/66/5)

Document E/ESCAP/66/5 contains the report of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development on its first session, which was held in Bangkok from 24 to 26 November 2009. The Committee reviewed the impact of the financial and economic crisis on Asia-Pacific economies, patterns of recovery, policy responses and the relevance of regional and international cooperation. The Committee also examined the impact of the economic crisis on poverty and inclusive development along with policy responses and options. The Committee reviewed the implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 as well as the implementation of Commission resolution 65/4 on the strengthening of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific. In terms of programme planning and monitoring, the Committee reviewed the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 and highlights of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011. It also reviewed the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action by it or brought to its attention contained in the report of the Committee and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Asia-Pacific regional review of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010: Dhaka Outcome Document (E/ESCAP/66/6)

In cooperation with the Government of Bangladesh, ESCAP organized the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, which was held in Dhaka from 18 to 20 January 2010. The Policy Dialogue, involving 15 least developed countries, was attended by some 130 stakeholders of the Brussels Programme of Action, including ESCAP member States, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations, development partners, and a broad spectrum of civil society.

Inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, the meeting was attended by eight ministers and many senior officials from the participating least developed countries.

The Policy Dialogue resulted in the adoption of the Dhaka Outcome Document, which is submitted to the Commission (E/ESCAP/66/6) in connection with the regional review, which is to be conducted by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session. The Commission will be requested to endorse the Dhaka Outcome Document. The Commission will also be requested to transmit the Dhaka Outcome Document, so endorsed, as the Asia-Pacific regional input to the global review to be conducted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2011.

Report of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/7)

The annual report of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA) to the Commission reviews the progress made by CAPSA in the implementation of its programme of work and its administrative and financial status. It also highlights major events and related developments.

The Commission may wish to comment on the document and provide guidance for the future work of CAPSA.

(b) Trade and investment

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. II)

Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its first session (E/ESCAP/66/8)

Report of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/66/9)

Report of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (E/ESCAP/66/10)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. II)

Document E/ESCAP/66/2, Section II, provides a brief overview of recent developments and the main issues in trade and investment, including private sector development in the region, with a particular emphasis on the recovery from the current economic crisis. The document also examines key areas of policy action that countries in the Asia-Pacific region need to pursue in order to stage a trade-led recovery, as well as some of the secretariat's initiatives to support countries in these efforts.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member countries.

Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its first session (E/ESCAP/66/8)

The Committee on Trade and Investment held its first session from 4 to 6 November 2009. It reviewed recent developments in trade and investment and related policy issues, and made a number of recommendations with respect to inclusive and sustainable trade and investment and the supportive work that could be undertaken by the secretariat.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action by it or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

Report of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/66/9)

The annual report of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) to the Commission reviews the progress in the implementation of the programme of work of APCTT and its administrative and financial status, and highlights major events and related developments.

The Commission may wish to comment on the document and provide guidance for the future work of APCTT.

Report of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (E/ESCAP/66/10)

The annual report of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM) to the Commission reviews the progress in the implementation of the programme of work of UNAPCAEM and its administrative and financial status, and highlights major events and related developments.

The Commission may wish to comment on the document and provide guidance for the future work of UNAPCAEM.

(c) Transport

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. III)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/66/3, Sect. II)

Report of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport on its first session (E/ESCAP/66/11)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. III)

Document E/ESCAP/66/2, Section III, provides a brief overview of recent developments, the major issues and challenges in the transport sector. It notes the Commission's long-term vision of an international integrated intermodal transport

and logistics system, with the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks representing the two major building blocks, and summarizes the ongoing and proposed responses of the secretariat in moving towards that vision.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the issues identified in this regard.

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/66/3, Sect. II)

The secretariat summarizes the progress it has made in the implementation of resolution 64/5 on the establishment of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with comments and further guidance on more effective implementation of the above-mentioned resolution.

Report of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport on its first session (E/ESCAP/66/11)

The Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport held its first session in Bangkok from 14 to 18 December 2009. It took stock of progress and considered the issues which needed to be addressed to ensure that the advances of recent years in promoting regional connectivity were sustained. In so doing, it endorsed the continued implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011).

The first session of the Forum culminated in the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia, which provides a clear framework for promoting regional cooperation in support of socio-economic development, including the realization of the long-term vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action by it or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Forum, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

(d) Environment and development

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. IV)

Report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its first session (E/ESCAP/66/12)

Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (E/ESCAP/66/INF/3)

Report of the Mekong River Commission (E/ESCAP/66/INF/4)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. IV)

Asian and Pacific countries have achieved phenomenal economic growth, with hundreds of millions of people lifted out of poverty. In spite of this, the region is still home to more than half of the world's poor, over 900 million people are without access to electricity and over 600 million are without access to improved water sources. In addition, almost 1.8 billion (46 per cent of the total ESCAP population) lacked access to improved sanitation and over 500 million urban residents live in slums and squatter settlements. No developing country in the region is on track to meet all of the Millennium Development Goals. In fact, many developing countries have recently shown a regressive trend and will most likely not meet key poverty- and environment-related Millennium Development Goals.

The triple crisis showed the vulnerability not only of the region's economies and people, but also of the global economy, to shocks as a result of ingrained unsustainable consumption and production patterns. It highlighted the need to synergize environmental protection with inclusive socio-economic and physical development. A number of policies exist that could support economic growth and poverty reduction while seeking to minimize environmental impacts. Document E/ESCAP/66/2, Section IV, highlights some of these policy options and emphasizes the role that ESCAP plays in supporting national Governments by advocating the green growth development approach.

Report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its first session (E/ESCAP/66/12)

The Committee on Environment and Development reviewed key challenges faced by the Asia-Pacific region in pursuing environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive economic growth. The Committee noted the growing number of national policies and initiatives conducive to green growth being developed and implemented in the region and recommended that regional cooperation be enhanced to support and replicate these initiatives. The Committee also emphasized that people in the Asia-Pacific region should be able to gain access to adequate housing, electricity, clean water, sanitation and transport, regardless of their income levels.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for action by it or brought to its attention, as contained in the report of the Committee, and provide the secretariat with further guidance.

The reports of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (E/ESCAP/66/INF/3) and the Mekong River Commission (E/ESCAP/66/INF/4) are transmitted to the Commission for its information. The Commission may wish to take note of them.

- (e) Information and communications technology**
- (f) Disaster risk reduction**

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. V)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/66/3, Sect. III)

Report of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (E/ESCAP/66/13)

Report of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/66/INF/5)

Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/66/INF/6)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. V)

Document E/ESCAP/66/2, Section V, contains an overview of major issues and challenges in the areas of development of information and communications technology (ICT), including space technology, and disaster risk reduction. It highlights a number of secretariat initiatives undertaken or planned, including connecting Asia and the Pacific through ICT and space technology, building ICT capacity through APCICT, publishing an ESCAP-ISDR Asia-Pacific disaster report, and preparing an online platform—the Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development—for sharing information and best practices.

The Commission may wish to comment on the information presented in the document with a view to providing guidance on the issues identified therein.

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/66/3, Sect. III)

The secretariat summarizes the progress it has made by the secretariat in the implementation of resolution 61/6 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development. The report on the evaluation of APCICT (E/ESCAP/66/18) will be considered under agenda item 4(a).

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide guidance on the future direction of the Centre.

Report of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (E/ESCAP/66/13)

This document constitutes the annual report to the Commission of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT). The document reviews the progress in the implementation of programme of work, its administrative and financial status, and highlights other major events and related developments.

The Commission may wish to comment on the document and provide guidance for the future work of APCICT.

Report of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/66/INF/5)

Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/66/INF/6)

The reports of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/66/INF/5) and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/66/INF/6) are transmitted to the Commission for its information. The Commission may wish to take note of them.

(g) Social development

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. VI)

Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes (E/ESCAP/66/14)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/66/3, Sect. IV)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. VI)

In its resolution 74 (XXIII) of 17 April 1967 on regional cooperation in the field of population, the Commission established the Asian Population Conference as a statutory organ. Since 1963, the ministerial-level Conference has been held every 10 years, with the last having been held in December 2002. Policies related to population and development implemented by countries in the region are outlined, as is the role played by the decennial Asia-Pacific Population Conference in guiding ESCAP member States in that regard. New and emerging challenges in the area of population and development are examined. The Commission's guidance and advice are sought on the holding of the sixth Asia-Pacific Population Conference.

Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes (E/ESCAP/66/14)

Document E/ESCAP/66/14 contains the report of the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes, which was held in Bangkok from 16 to 18 November 2009. The Meeting adopted the Bangkok Declaration on Beijing + 15, which emphasizes actions by member States in the following areas: women's participation in the labour force; poverty reduction; strengthening legal and policy frameworks for promoting gender equality, women's rights and women's participation in decision-making. It also mandates a greater role for the secretariat in promoting gender equality and supporting member States in a number of specific areas.

The Commission may wish to consider endorsing the recommendations of the Meeting, as contained in the Bangkok Declaration on Beijing + 15, and provide the secretariat with guidance on the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration.

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/66/3, Sect. IV)

The secretariat summarizes the progress it has made in the implementation of the following Commission resolutions:

Resolution 58/4 on promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty-first century;

Resolution 64/8 on the regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific;

Resolution 65/3 on the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012.

The conclusion in 2012 of the second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons represents a significant milestone for the Commission. As reflected in its resolution 65/3, the Commission welcomed the offer of the Republic of Korea to host the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, and decided to take a decision on the venue of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting at its sixty-sixth session. This meeting represents a major regional event, as ESCAP member States will review progress, challenges and gaps in the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, as well as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Commission may wish to review the status of implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions. It may also wish to take a decision on the proposed venue of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting in 2012, and on the related preparatory activities proposed by the secretariat.

(h) Statistics

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. VII)

Report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/15)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. VII)

Selected areas of official statistics that need to be improved in order to make national policies more inclusive are highlighted. Among them are the measurement of informal employment and the contribution of the informal sector to the economy, internationally comparable measurement of functional disability, and selected issues in gender statistics. The secretariat has undertaken work on the development of internationally recognized standards in those areas. The Commission is requested to provide advice on desirable follow-up actions. It is also requested to discuss the importance of improving vital registration and vital statistics in the region. Finally, the Commission is informed about the major programme to improve core economic statistics in the region.

Report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/15)

The annual report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) to the Commission reviews progress in the implementation of the programme of work of the Institute and its administrative and financial status. Major events and related developments are highlighted.

The Commission may wish to comment on the document and provide guidance for the future work of SIAP.

(i) Subregional activities for development

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. VIII)

Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on the New ESCAP Subregional Offices for East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia, and South and South-West Asia (E/ESCAP/66/16)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/66/2, Sect. VIII)

ESCAP subprogramme 8, Subregional activities for development, includes subregional-level work delivered from the existing subregional office for the Pacific and three new offices covering North and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia, and South and South-West Asia, while ESCAP headquarters will handle the work for the South-East Asian subregion.

Document E/ESCAP/66/2, Section VIII, provides a brief overview of the issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific from a subregional perspective.

Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on the New ESCAP Subregional Offices for East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia, and South and South-West Asia (E/ESCAP/66/16)

Held in Bangkok from 2 to 4 March 2010, the meeting was part of the inclusive consultative process that was undertaken in identifying the priority needs of the respective subregions and articulating the work programmes for the subregional offices.

4. Management issues

Under agenda item 4, the secretariat will submit for the consideration of the Commission reports on a range of management issues relevant to the continued effectiveness of the work of ESCAP.

(a) Evaluations: report on evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2008-2009 and outcome of the evaluations of APCICT and SIAP

Documentation

Report on evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2008-2009 (E/ESCAP/66/17)

Report on the evaluation of APCICT (E/ESCAP/66/18)

Report on the evaluation of SIAP (E/ESCAP/66/19 and Add.1)

Document E/ESCAP/66/17 contains an overview of evaluative exercises carried out during the period 2008-2009, with a focus on their main findings and recommendations. The report also provides an update on the development and implementation of the secretariat's monitoring and evaluation system.

The Commission is invited to comment on the information presented in the document with a view to identifying measures for enhancing the relevance and development effectiveness of ESCAP, and to further strengthening evaluation at ESCAP.

Document E/ESCAP/66/18 contains a summary of the report on the evaluation of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), conducted in compliance with resolution 61/6, by which the Commission established APCICT and, among other things, requested the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the performance of APCICT which would serve as the basis for a comprehensive review by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session. The Commission may wish to use the findings and recommendations of the evaluation to assess the performance of APCICT as a basis for determining whether to proceed with the operation of the Centre.

Document E/ESCAP/66/19 reports on the evaluation of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP). The document as submitted by the consultant recruited for the exercise is transmitted in an addendum for the information of the Commission.

(b) Programme changes for the biennium 2010-2011

Documentation

Proposed programme changes for the biennium 2010-2011 (E/ESCAP/66/20)

The proposed programme changes for 2010-2011 are necessitated by the new mandates adopted by the Commission at its sixty-fifth session, as well as the emerging global priorities identified by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly and other global conferences since the Commission adopted the draft programme of work for 2010-2011 at its sixty-fifth session. The Commission may wish to consider the proposed changes with a view to endorsing them for incorporation into the programme of work for 2010-2011.

(c) Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013

Documentation

Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013 (E/ESCAP/66/21)

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/247 of 24 December 2008 on programme planning, the draft strategic framework for ESCAP consists of: (a) a narrative highlighting the overall orientation of the programme as a whole; and (b) elements of the logical framework for each subprogramme.

The Commission may wish to review the draft strategic framework for ESCAP for the period 2012-2013 with a view to endorsing it.

(d) Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

Documentation

Overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions (E/ESCAP/66/22)

Document E/ESCAP/66/22 summarizes the secretariat's technical cooperation activities in 2009, in accordance with the programme of work of ESCAP for 2008-2009, the ESCAP Technical Cooperation Strategy, and Commission resolution 60/3 on the work of ESCAP in implementing its technical cooperation projects. The document also provides an overview of the extrabudgetary resources mobilized in 2009 for implementing technical cooperation activities. The Commission may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on future technical cooperation activities and also to announce intended contributions for 2010.

5. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

Documentation

Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/66/23)

Document E/ESCAP/66/23 covers the main activities of the Advisory Committee since the sixty-fifth session of the Commission, including its support to the Executive Secretary on the implementation of resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure and on matters related to programme planning, implementation and monitoring. The Commission may wish to comment on the role of the Advisory Committee and provide further guidance in its work.

6. Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission (2011)

Documentation

Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission (2011) (E/ESCAP/66/24)

Unless otherwise decided, it is expected that the Commission will hold its sixty-seventh session in Bangkok in April/May 2011. Under this agenda item, the Commission may also wish to select a theme topic for that session.

Ministerial segment

7. Policies issues for the Asia-Pacific region

- (a) Key challenges to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific**
- (b) Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2010**

Documentation

Summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2010 (E/ESCAP/66/25)

Document E/ESCAP/66/25 will review the impact of the economic crisis on the region and analyse the recovery process that is under way. The policy responses to the crisis will be reviewed, highlighting those policies that were proven to have worked. Furthermore, a detailed perspective will be provided of the vulnerabilities that led to differentiated impacts of the crisis across countries.

The analysis of the recovery process will address the key challenges that lie ahead and recommend policy actions that will sustain economic growth in the region. In this regard, the document will discuss the region's evolving role in the global economy as a result of the crisis and implications for economic policymaking within the region. Of particular importance is the economic imperative for a more inclusive and sustainable pattern of economic growth that will unlock the full growth potential of economies in the region. The critical role of regional policy coordination in supporting the region through this process will be analysed, and recommendations will be made in terms of the specific policy agenda for such cooperation.

The Commission may wish to deliberate on these issues and propose policy recommendations for inclusive and sustainable development in the region.

8. Theme topic for the sixty-sixth session: "Addressing challenges in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: Promoting a stable and supportive financial system; and Green Growth or environmentally sustainable economic growth, including through technology and financing"

Documentation

Addressing challenges in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: Promoting a stable and supportive financial system; and Green Growth or environmentally sustainable economic growth, including through technology and financing (E/ESCAP/66/26)

This agenda item focuses on the importance of a supportive financial system and green growth strategies in promoting inclusive development and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region. The expected outcome of deliberations on the item is the guidance of the Commission regarding

opportunities for regional cooperation pertaining, among other things, to adequate financing for development, a supportive and stable financial system and green growth strategies in the region.

Based on the comprehensive study undertaken by the secretariat on the theme topic, document E/ESCAP/66/26 summarizes the progress made by Asia-Pacific countries towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the gaps and challenges for their achievement, including the scale of resources needed. It discusses the elements of a stable and supportive financial system for inclusive development and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and highlights some best practices available in the region that can be replicated and scaled up for greater effectiveness. It examines the green growth strategy and its relevance for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and for shifting towards more inclusive and sustainable economic growth patterns. It elaborates on the potential of green growth as a development strategy in the light of remaining gaps in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, recent crises (food, fuel, financial) and emerging challenges (such as climate change). The final part of the document summarizes the key findings and policy lessons and provides a background for discussion among the policymakers during the sixty-sixth session of the Commission.

The Commission may wish to review the analysis and provide guidance, in particular on opportunities for regional cooperation in order to promote a supportive financial system and green growth strategies.

9. Other matters

The Commission may wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

10. Adoption of the report of the Commission

The Commission will consider and adopt resolutions and the report on its sixty-sixth session.

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