



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
21 May 2011

Original: English

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Sixty-seventh session

Bangkok, 19-25 May 2011

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda

Management issues: Draft programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013

Draft report

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1. The Commission had before it the draft programme of work of ESCAP for the biennium 2012-2013 (E/ESCAP/67/14), and a note by the secretariat containing a summary of the progress made in the implementation of resolutions (E/ESCAP/67/3), in particular the progress made in the implementation of resolution 66/15 on the strengthening of the evaluation function of the secretariat of the Commission, including planned evaluations for 2012-2013.
2. Representatives of the following countries made statements: Australia; China; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Pakistan; Russian Federation; and United States of America.
3. In introducing the draft programme of work, the Executive Secretary indicated that the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013,¹ which had been adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/244 of 24 December 2010, was aimed at achieving the following development results: (a) Governments of Member States would have more effective, inclusive and sustainable development policies for addressing development from a multidisciplinary perspective, to narrow development gaps and build resiliency; (b) global processes would be shaped by a stronger coordinated regional voice and countries would be supported in implementing international commitments; and (c) regional cooperation mechanisms and institutional frameworks would be in place to promote regional integration and inclusive development. The programme of work was designed to achieve those expected results with outputs reflecting the priorities of member States, particularly those related to mandates to strengthen the work of the ESCAP subregional offices.

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/65/6/Rev.1)*

4. The Executive Secretary outlined the review process that had taken place prior to the submission of the draft programme of work to the Commission, including the review by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR). She stated that the secretariat would have difficulty accommodating any additional outputs recommended by ACPR, as the Secretary-General had requested a 3 per cent cut, below the indicative planning figure adopted in the budget outline.

5. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of ACPR regarding additional outputs as contained in the annex to the draft programme of work. The secretariat indicated that, in view of the budget constraints with regard to regular budget resources, the inclusion of those additional outputs could be accommodated by using extrabudgetary resources.

6. The Commission noted the evaluation plan for the biennium 2012-2013 contained in the note by the secretariat (see E/ESCAP/67/3, para. 74). It also noted that evaluation plans for subsequent bienniums would be integrated into the work programme cycle and reported to the Commission through the biennial evaluation report.

7. The Commission expressed support for the work of the secretariat and generally endorsed the draft programme of work, including the recommendations of ACPR as contained in the annex to the draft programme of work.
