



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Sixty-third session
17-23 May 2007
Almaty, Kazakhstan

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening addresses

The detailed programme for the opening of the session, including special features to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of ESCAP as the main economic and social development centre in the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region, will be made available upon its finalization in consultation with the host Government and the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR).

(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-Chairpersons, as has been the practice at previous sessions, in which case the Commission may elect a bureau of officers composed of a Chairperson and several Vice-Chairpersons.

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

The ministerial meeting will elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Provisional agenda
E/ESCAP/63/L.1

Annotated provisional agenda
E/ESCAP/63/L.2

The provisional agenda was drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with ACPR.

The Commission is invited to adopt the agenda.

2. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Asian and Pacific region

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region E/ESCAP/63/2

Further to Commission resolution 62/1 on Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region, document E/ESCAP/63/2 provides a progress assessment of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region and contains a regional road map for achieving the Goals.

The progress assessment, prepared under the ongoing ESCAP partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the Asian Development Bank, includes an analysis of key policy issues and options concerning MDG achievement in the region. With a focus on national development strategies and processes followed by member States, the document highlights priority areas for policy interventions.

With the overarching objective of assisting off-track countries to be on-track, the document presents the broad contours of a regional road map that identifies regional-level actions that would add value to national-level strategies and processes in achieving the MDGs by 2015.

The Commission is invited to consider the progress assessment and regional road map in the light of country-level experiences, with a view to endorsing it. The outcomes of the Commission's deliberations shall be made available for consideration by the first annual ministerial-level substantive review (AMR), to be held as part of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in mid-2007.

3. Policy issues for the ESCAP region

(a) Implications of recent economic and social developments

Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues E/ESCAP/63/3

Document E/ESCAP/63/3 contains a report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues. Drawing on the findings of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2007*, the report reviews recent developments in the global economy, including movements of major currencies and high oil prices, and their implications for the Asian and Pacific region. It analyses recent economic performance, medium-term prospects, and the nature and intensity of policy reforms and their impact on the economies of the region. The report identifies key policy challenges in terms of the economic vulnerability of the region to financial shocks, the low level of domestic investment in many parts of the region, and the increasing environmental stress of current economic

activities. Particular attention is paid to the challenges faced by transition economies as a result of high commodity prices, including that of oil. The report provides policy options and recommendations that could help address these challenges effectively.

The report also contains a special study on gender inequality issues. It takes stock of the progress made in reducing gender disparity in education, health services and employment; identifies the causes and consequences of gender inequality; analyses policies geared towards promoting gender equality in the Asian and Pacific region; and discusses how gender inequality might be reduced to achieve economic development. The document provides policy recommendations and identifies examples of good practices and lessons learned in relation to policy design and implementation.

The Commission is invited to take into consideration the socio-economic analyses and policy recommendations contained in the document in its deliberations on policy issues for the ESCAP region.

(b) Development of health systems in the context of enhancing economic growth towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific

Development of health systems in the context of enhancing economic growth towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific
E/ESCAP/63/4

Document E/ESCAP/63/4 provides an analysis of the multiple linkages between economic growth, the development of effective health systems and the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals, in the context of the need for strengthening health systems in the Asian and Pacific region. It is a summary of the theme study for the sixty-third session of the Commission.

The document discusses the relationship between economic growth and health systems development, with a particular focus on the association between health and the economy. It outlines the challenges that health systems in the region face as a result of demographic and epidemiological changes, the main obstacles that countries face in their efforts to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals and the imperative for strong health systems. Investment requirements for strengthening health systems in the region and the options available to countries to provide universal coverage through a basic package of health services are also highlighted. The document also analyses the contributions and impact of sectors such as trade and ICT, covering issues such as affordable access to drugs, the migration of health professionals and innovative use of technology. Finally, the document discusses policy options and regulatory frameworks required at the national and regional levels for strengthening health systems, and innovative initiatives for regional cooperation and harmonization in order to contribute to the development of health systems in the Asian and Pacific region.

The Commission is invited to review the analysis and provide guidance on the strengthening of health systems in the region.

(c) **Work of the secretariat since the sixty-second session of the Commission**

Report of the Executive Secretary on the work of the secretariat since the sixty-second session of the Commission
E/ESCAP/63/5

Further to the request of the Commission at its resumed sixty-second session, held on 21 December 2006, document E/ESCAP/63/5 contains the report of the Executive Secretary on the work of the secretariat since the sixty-second session of the Commission which would be made available four weeks before the sixty-third session. The report highlights regional policy issues and the response of ESCAP to those issues, including with regard to the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, and the theme topic for the sixty-third session of the Commission.

4. Consideration of legislative body and intergovernmental meeting reports and implementation of selected Commission resolutions, including resolution 60/1 on the Shanghai Declaration

(a) **Emerging social issues**

Report of the Committee on Emerging Social Issues on its third session
E/ESCAP/63/6

Summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to emerging social issues
E/ESCAP/63/7

Document E/ESCAP/63/6 contains the report of the Committee on Emerging Social Issues on its third session, held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 December 2006. The Committee discussed the emerging challenges to social development in the region, including those related to population and social integration, gender, and health and development. It deliberated on measures needed to enhance regional cooperation to address those issues. It also discussed regional follow-up to the outcomes of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006. The Committee reviewed the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 with regard to the subprogramme on social development, including persistent and emerging social issues. It also reviewed the implementation of a selected project in the area of social development.

The Commission is invited to consider matters calling for its action or brought to its attention and provide further guidance to the secretariat.

Document E/ESCAP/63/7 provides an updated overview of the latest activities undertaken by the secretariat and progress in its implementation of recent resolutions relating to emerging social issues.

The Commission is invited to review the progress achieved and provide comments and further guidance to the secretariat for enhanced and effective implementation of those resolutions.

(b) Poverty reduction

Report of the Committee on Poverty Reduction on its third session
E/ESCAP/63/8

Summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of
poverty reduction
E/ESCAP/63/9

Document E/ESCAP/63/8 contains the report of the Committee on Poverty Reduction on its third session, held in Bangkok from 29 November to 1 December 2006. The Committee discussed issues related to the informal sector and its contributions to poverty reduction, as well as other issues related to the poverty reduction activities of ESCAP. It deliberated on statistical issues pertaining to the measurement of the informal sector, assessment of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, as well as the strengthening of national statistical capacity by promoting the 2010 round of population and housing censuses. The Committee reviewed the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 with regard to the subprogramme on poverty reduction. The Committee considered the evaluation of two selected flagship projects in the area of poverty reduction.

The Commission is invited to consider matters calling for its action or brought to its attention and provide further guidance to the secretariat.

Document E/ESCAP/63/9 provides a report on the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of poverty reduction.

The Commission is invited to review the progress achieved and provide comments and further guidance to the secretariat for enhanced and effective implementation of those resolutions.

(c) Managing globalization

Report of the Committee on Managing Globalization on its third session (Part I)
E/ESCAP/63/10

Report of the Committee on Managing Globalization on its third session (Part II)
E/ESCAP/63/11

Summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of
managing globalization
E/ESCAP/63/12

Report of the Ministerial Conference on Transport
E/ESCAP/63/13

Regional study on the role of tourism in socio-economic development
E/ESCAP/63/14

Latest developments relating to international trade and investment
E/ESCAP/63/15

Latest developments relating to information, communication and space technology
E/ESCAP/63/16

Document E/ESCAP/63/10 contains the report of the Committee on Managing Globalization on its third session, Part I, held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 September 2006. The Committee reviewed a cross-cutting issue for managing globalization related to trade and transport, namely, promoting dry ports as a means of sharing the benefits of globalization with inland locations. The Committee also reviewed sectoral issues in the areas of trade and investment and transport and tourism. The Committee considered the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 with regard to subprogramme 4, Trade and investment, and subprogramme 5, Transport and tourism. It also reviewed two selected projects in the thematic area of managing globalization.

The Commission is invited to consider matters calling for its action or brought to its attention and provide further guidance to the secretariat.

Document E/ESCAP/63/11 contains the report of the Committee on Managing Globalization on its third session, Part II, held in Bangkok from 10 to 12 October 2006. The Committee reviewed a cross-cutting issue for managing globalization, namely, 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 with regard to 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 Commission is invited to consider matters calling for its action or brought to its attention and provide further guidance to the secretariat.

Document E/ESCAP/63/12 provides a summary of the actions taken to implement resolutions relating to the theme of managing globalization, as is required to be reported to the Commission at its sixty-third session.

The Commission is invited to review the progress achieved and provide comments and further guidance to the secretariat for enhanced and effective implementation of those resolutions relating to managing globalization.

Document E/ESCAP/63/13 contains the report of the Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 6 to 11 November 2006. Among the major outcomes of the Conference were a ministerial declaration on transport, including a regional action programme for phase I (2007-2011), and a ministerial declaration on road safety.

The Commission is invited to consider the major conclusions of the Ministerial Conference on Transport and endorse its report.

Document E/ESCAP/63/14 presents a summary of the major findings of a regional study on the role of tourism in socio-economic development that was prepared in response to the request of the Commission in its resolution 62/3 on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Sustainable

Tourism Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2006-2010) and the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Tourism Development.

Document E/ESCAP/63/15 provides an update on the latest developments in the subprogramme area of international trade and investment since the convening of the third session of the Committee on Managing Globalization, Part I, in September 2006.

Document E/ESCAP/63/16 provides an update on the latest developments in the subprogramme area of information, communication and space technology since the convening of the third session of the Committee on Managing Globalization, Part II, in October 2006.

The Commission is invited to consider the reports of the legislative bodies and the ministerial conferences, with a view to endorsing the reports. The Commission is also invited to consider the progress in the implementation of resolutions pertaining to managing globalization, as well as updates on the above-mentioned subprogramme areas and to provide comments and further guidance to the secretariat for enhanced and effective implementation.

(d) Commission resolution 60/1 on the Shanghai Declaration

Progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 60/1 on the Shanghai Declaration
E/ESCAP/63/17

Document E/ESCAP/63/17 provides the first report on the progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 60/1 of 28 April 2004 on the Shanghai Declaration since its adoption.

The Commission is invited to consider the progress achieved and to provide guidance to the secretariat on its further efforts to enhance the implementation of the Shanghai Declaration.

5. Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its eighth session
E/ESCAP/63/18

Document E/ESCAP/63/18 contains the report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its eighth session, to be held prior to the sixty-third session of the Commission. The Special Body shall discuss (a) the challenges and opportunities presented by international migration and development in least developed and landlocked developing countries; and (b) intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development and for widening access to energy services in the least developed and landlocked developing countries of the ESCAP region. The Special Body will also consider a report on the activities of the Commission undertaken in 2006 for the benefit of least developed and landlocked developing countries. A verbal report on the activities of the Pacific island developing countries will be presented.

The Commission is invited to consider the report of the Special Body with a view to providing further guidance to the secretariat on strengthening the effectiveness of its activities in support of the advancement of the least developed and landlocked developing countries of the ESCAP region.

6. ESCAP reform

(a) Consideration of the external evaluation of ESCAP in the context of overall United Nations reform: key findings and proposals for action

External evaluation of ESCAP: key findings and proposals for action
E/ESCAP/63/19

Report of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and the Environment: Delivering as One
E/ESCAP/63/20

Document E/ESCAP/63/19 summarizes the key findings of the external evaluation of ESCAP undertaken in June 2006 and makes initial proposals for a revised ESCAP programme structure, as considered by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission at an informal session in November 2006. These proposals are based on key recommendations emanating from the external evaluation of ESCAP. The document also suggests a number of criteria that could be used in determining the focus of the future programme of work of ESCAP. Furthermore, it identifies key programmatic and managerial issues relating to the comparative advantages of ESCAP and implementation modalities. As background for the review, the Commission will also have before it document E/ESCAP/63/20 transmitting the report of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and the Environment: Delivering as One.

The Commission is invited to consider the documents against the background of ongoing discussions in the General Assembly on United Nations reform. The outcome of the Commission's deliberations will guide the Executive Secretary in the planning of the future strategic direction of the programme of work of ESCAP.

(b) Implementation of Commission resolution 58/1: final review of the revised conference structure

Implementation of Commission resolution 58/1: final review of the revised conference structure
E/ESCAP/63/21

At its fifty-seventh session, in May 2001, the Commission instituted a new, focused programme structure based on the themes of reducing poverty, managing globalization and tackling emerging social issues. In order to provide proper guidance for its programme of work, in its resolution 58/1 of 22 May

2002, the Commission subsequently aligned its conference structure with its programme structure. Accordingly, a total of 13 intergovernmental subsidiary bodies were established, including three thematic committees, corresponding to the above-mentioned programmatic themes, along with eight sector-focused subcommittees and two special bodies. The effectiveness of the conference structure was reviewed by the Commission at its sixty-first session.

Document E/ESCAP/63/21 provides an overview of the experience gained thus far. The Commission will undertake a final review of its conference structure, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, taking into account the outcome of the mid-term review of the conference structure.

7. Management issues

(a) Draft programme of work for the period 2008-2009

Draft programme of work for the period 2008-2009
E/ESCAP/63/22

Document E/ESCAP/63/22, containing the proposed programme of work for the period 2008-2009, is presented for the Commission's review and endorsement. The document provides an overview of the secretariat's work for the biennium 2008-2009, as well as the expected accomplishments and outputs for each of the eight subprogrammes. The proposed programme of work has been prepared in accordance with the strategic framework for the period 2008-2009, as approved by the General Assembly. The proposed programme of work was reviewed by all three thematic committees in late 2006 and was initially reviewed by ACPR in early 2007.

The Commission is invited to review the document and provide guidance on the overall direction of the eight subprogrammes.

(b) Work of the regional institutions

Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
E/ESCAP/63/23

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
E/ESCAP/63/24

Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery
E/ESCAP/63/25

Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific
E/ESCAP/63/26

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
E/ESCAP/63/27

The work programmes of the five ESCAP regional institutions are now aligned with the strategic framework and programme budget for the relevant subprogramme. The annual reports, reviewing the administrative and financial status of the regional institutions and the implementation of their programmes of work, highlight major events and other related developments. The reports are contained in the above documents.

The Commission may wish to comment on the documents and provide guidance for the future work of the regional institutions.

8. Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

Overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contribution
E/ESCAP/63/28

Document E/ESCAP/63/28 summarizes the secretariat's technical cooperation activities in 2006, in accordance with the ESCAP programme of work 2006-2007, its technical cooperation strategy and Commission resolution 60/3 of 28 April 2004 on the work of ESCAP in implementing its technical cooperation projects. The document also provides an overview of the extrabudgetary resources mobilized in 2006 for implementing technical cooperation activities.

The Commission is invited to provide guidance to the secretariat on future technical cooperation activities. Individual members are invited to announce intended contributions for 2007.

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

Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other
Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
E/ESCAP/63/29 and Add.1

Documents E/ESCAP/63/29 and Add.1 cover the activities of ACPR since the sixty-second session of the Commission. ACPR continues to provide support to the Executive Secretary on matters related to programme planning, implementation and monitoring. During the period under review, ACPR focused its advice on proposals for implementing key recommendations from the external evaluation of ESCAP, and provided valuable inputs to the review of the revised conference structure.

The Commission is invited to take note of the report and provide guidance for the future work of ACPR.

10. Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and
Southeast Asia
E/ESCAP/63/30

Report of the Mekong River Commission
E/ESCAP/63/31

Report of the Typhoon Committee
E/ESCAP/63/32

Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones
E/ESCAP/63/33

The Executive Secretary will transmit the above reports for information. The Commission may wish to take note of them.

11. Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission

Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission
E/ESCAP/63/34

Unless otherwise specified, it is expected that the Commission will decide to hold its sixty-fourth session in Bangkok in April/May 2008. Under this item, the Commission may also wish to select a theme topic for the session.

12. Other matters

The Commission may wish to consider any other matter that may be brought to its attention.

13. Adoption of the report of the Commission

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

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