



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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**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: MACROECONOMIC POLICY,  
POVERTY REDUCTION AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**

(Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda)

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MACROECONOMIC POLICY,  
POVERTY REDUCTION AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT  
ON ITS FIRST SESSION**

**SUMMARY**

The first session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development was held in Bangkok from 24 to 26 November 2009. The agenda for that session of the Committee focused on the impact of the financial and economic crisis on Asian and Pacific economies and policy responses and options, the implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, 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 (CAPSA), and programme planning and monitoring.

The Committee recommended enhancing regional cooperation with regard to exchange rate policies and crisis management, as well as strengthening the intermediation of regional savings to address the region's investment and consumption needs. In that regard, the Committee requested the secretariat to take a leading role, through analysis and advocacy, to support the development of a regional financial architecture, including a regional crisis management mechanism. The Committee also recommended that the secretariat strengthen its efforts with regard to the sharing of experiences on the effectiveness of measures being employed to deal with the adverse impact of the financial and economic crisis.

The Committee generally endorsed the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 as the secretariat was undertaking several activities at the regional level in that regard. The Committee agreed that CAPSA should promote efforts to diversify the venues for its seminars and workshops in countries throughout the region and suggested that CAPSA address the capacity-building of those engaged in agricultural research, policy analysis and marketing.

In terms of programme planning and monitoring, the Committee reviewed the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 and the highlights of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011. The Committee also reviewed the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013 and expressed its general support for it.

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

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## **I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION**

### **A. Impact of the financial and economic crisis on Asia-Pacific economies, patterns of recovery, policy responses and the relevance of regional and international cooperation**

1. The Committee noted that the crisis and its aftermath had increased the urgency of regional financial and economic cooperation as a means of managing crises and addressing development gaps. It recommended enhancing regional cooperation concerning exchange rate policies and crisis management, as well as strengthening the intermediation of regional savings to address the region's investment and consumption needs. In that regard, the Committee requested the secretariat to take a leading role, through analysis and advocacy, to support the development of a regional financial architecture, including a regional crisis management mechanism.

2. The Committee recommended that regional cooperation be enhanced to support global economic relations, fill in the gaps and put in place building blocks for multilateral cooperation at the global level. The Committee requested the secretariat to play an important role in translating initiatives by major international economic forums, such as the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development,<sup>1</sup> and the G20 Summits, into concrete policy recommendations at the regional level.

3. The Committee noted that domestic demand would need to be sustained by increasing income security for the poor. In that regard, it recommended that social protection systems be strengthened by, inter alia, ensuring universal access to affordable basic health and education services. It also recognized that, during economic recovery, the poor were vulnerable to the re-emergence of food price inflation. The Committee requested the secretariat to undertake a comprehensive review and analysis of social protection initiatives and their related impact on national fiscal balances, as well as of regional food reserve policy.

### **B. Impact of the economic crisis on poverty and inclusive development: policy responses and options**

4. Noting the adverse impact of the economic crisis on poverty reduction and inclusive development, the Committee recommended a comprehensive and well-coordinated approach to address the impact of the crisis:

(a) At the national level, for dealing with current as well as future economic crises, the Committee recommended the development of physical infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, investment in education, health and other social sectors and, above all, the development of comprehensive social protection systems;

(b) At the regional level, the Committee recommended that the secretariat strengthen its efforts with regard to the sharing of experiences on the effectiveness of measures being employed to deal with the adverse impact of the financial and economic crisis and, in that regard, suggested that the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2010* include policy options to mitigate the adverse impact of the crisis.

5. The Committee recommended that South-South cooperation and triangular development cooperation be promoted as effective tools for enhancing financial and technical assistance for countries with special needs in the region.

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<sup>1</sup> See General Assembly resolution 63/303.

6. The Committee recommended that the secretariat compile and disseminate good practices in poverty alleviation, and initiatives related to universal access to affordable basic health and education services, while successfully addressing the cost implications for fiscal balances.

7. Recognizing the importance of the agriculture sector in most countries of the region for sustaining the livelihood of the bulk of populations, the Committee recommended that Governments allocate more resources to the development of the agriculture sector, particularly for research and extension services.

**C. Implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010: progress made, obstacles encountered and the way forward**

8. The Committee generally endorsed the review of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010<sup>2</sup> contained in the note by the secretariat.<sup>3</sup> It noted that the secretariat was undertaking several activities at the regional level in response to General Assembly resolution 63/227 of 19 December 2008.

9. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/227, each least developed country had been requested to be responsible for preparing its own national report on the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, for which a set of guidelines had been issued.<sup>4</sup> The Committee noted with satisfaction that the secretariat was facilitating the process, including the preparation of two subregional reviews and one regional review.

10. The Committee requested the guidance of the Commission on the basis of the outcome document of the regional review that will be held in Dhaka from 12 to 14 January 2010 to facilitate the preparation of a report assessing the progress made by the least developed countries in the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action during the decade 2001-2010 as well as identifying future priorities at the regional level, and which will constitute the Asia-Pacific regional input to the global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2011.

**D. 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**

11. The Committee noted the need for the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA) to address macroeconomic policy issues related to sustainable agriculture, as indicated in the note by the secretariat.<sup>5</sup>

12. The Committee also noted the importance of adding capacity development in training courses in secondary crops policy and issues to improve the Centre's visibility. It also stressed the need for CAPSA to redouble efforts to increase member State contributions and, in that regard, viewed the funding mechanisms described in the note by the secretariat<sup>6</sup> as a good step forward.

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<sup>2</sup> A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

<sup>3</sup> E/ESCAP/CMP/3.

<sup>4</sup> E/ESCAP/CMP/INF/3.

<sup>5</sup> E/ESCAP/CMP/4.

<sup>6</sup> See E/ESCAP/CMP/4, paras. 25-31.

13. The Committee welcomed the new approach of CAPSA to include research which analyses the effects of climate change on secondary crops and to undertake more research and development regarding secondary crops for drought-affected and saline areas.

14. The Committee agreed that CAPSA should promote efforts to diversify venues for its seminars and workshops in countries throughout the region and suggested that CAPSA address capacity-building for those engaged in agricultural research, policy analysis and marketing.

15. The Committee suggested that CAPSA, with the support of member States, expand its information and communications technology system to include a data bank of secondary crops research and that the new technologies for secondary crops be incorporated in the programme of work of CAPSA.

16. The Committee suggested that CAPSA conduct an assessment of the impact of projects already completed.

### **E. Programme planning and monitoring**

#### **1. Review of 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**

17. With regard to expected accomplishment (e), “improved capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate and implement policies and programmes for reducing rural poverty, including those with a gender dimension, through the sustainable development of secondary crops”,<sup>7</sup> the Committee recommended the following:

(a) Capacity-building activities, such as training courses on secondary crops development and poverty reduction policy issues, should be included;

(b) The planned activity “Workshop on secondary crops and poverty alleviation” should be designed in such a way as to establish a network and foster cooperation among the research centres dealing with secondary crops and poverty alleviation in the region.

#### **2. Review of the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013**

18. The Committee expressed its general support for the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013.<sup>8</sup>

19. The Committee recommended that the secretariat focus on inclusive and sustainable growth and regional economic integration in the strategic framework for 2012-2013, to assist member States in finding solutions to their development problems.

### **F. Regional financial cooperation**

20. Noting the need for a stable financial system, the Committee requested the secretariat to explore the possibilities for enhancing regional financial cooperation, taking into account possible synergies with global multilateral financial institutions.

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<sup>7</sup> See E/ESCAP/CMP/5.

<sup>8</sup> See E/ESCAP/CMP/6.

## II. PROCEEDINGS

### **A. Impact of the financial and economic crisis on Asia-Pacific economies, patterns of recovery, policy responses and the relevance of regional and international cooperation**

21. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on 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 (E/ESCAP/CMP/1).

22. The Chief of the Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division introduced the document. Brief presentations were made by two high-level panellists: Mr. Yilmaz Akyuz, Senior Advisor, South Centre, Geneva, and Mr. Mohamed Ariff, Executive Director, Malaysian Institute of Economic Research, Kuala Lumpur.

23. Representatives of the following countries made statements on behalf of their delegation: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Pakistan, Russian Federation and Timor-Leste.

24. The Committee expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the analysis and pertinent recommendations contained in the background paper, noting the valuable discussion on the regional financial and economic cooperation agenda, which would help to prevent crises and improve crisis resilience.

25. The crisis had had a significant impact on the economies of the region, with the strongest being on trade flows due to the slowdown in demand from developed countries. Some economies, notably the Pacific island developing economies, had also experienced declining remittances, which constituted an important source of financial support. The slowdown in capital flows and lending from international private financial institutions was also of concern throughout the region, and the least developed countries were particularly concerned about possible decreases in official development support from international partners.

26. A variety of strategies were used to reduce the impact of the crisis on the Asia-Pacific economies. The measures included primarily fiscal stimulus policies, such as government spending and tax reductions, but also, where appropriate, accommodative monetary policies, such as reduced interest rates and bank charges, sectoral support policies and other measures to facilitate adjustments.

27. The recovery phase of the crisis presented significant challenges which should be managed carefully. Some of the challenges included the need to build economic resilience, particularly for Pacific island economies to broaden their economic base, to reduce dependence on export demand from developed countries by increasing domestic demand and intraregional trade, and managing financial and exchange rate stability with the return of volatile capital flows and rising food and fuel prices.

28. It was emphasized that market access for the region's exports should not be constrained by protectionism. In that regard, the Committee, referring to the decisions made at the Group of Twenty (G-20) meeting in Pittsburgh, United States of America, on 24 and 25 September 2009,<sup>9</sup> the East Asia Summit, held in Hua Hin, Thailand, on 25 October 2009, and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit, held in Singapore in November 2009,<sup>10</sup> noted that the completion of the

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<sup>9</sup> See <http://www.pittsburghsummit.gov>.

<sup>10</sup> See <http://www.apec2009.sg>.

Doha round of international trade negotiations with its development agenda could counter the threat of protectionism.

**B. Impact of the economic crisis on poverty and inclusive development:  
policy responses and options**

29. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on the impact of the economic crisis on poverty and inclusive development: policy responses and options (E/ESCAP/CMP/2).

30. The Chief of the Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division introduced the document. Brief presentations were made by two high-level panelists: Mr. Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka, Colombo, and Mr. Vo Tri Thanh, Vice-President, Central Institute of Economic Management, Hanoi.

31. Representatives of the following countries made statements on behalf of their delegation: China, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation and Timor-Leste.

32. The Committee noted with concern that many countries were not making enough progress in reducing poverty and meeting the Millennium Development Goals. The global financial crisis, as well as the food and fuel price crises that had preceded it, made the attainment of those goals even more uncertain.

33. The Committee was provided with details of the policy responses of countries to protect the poor and vulnerable from the effects of the global economic crisis. They included: the implementation of conditional cash transfer programmes to improve health, nutrition and education, particularly of children; subsidies for poor households with low levels of electricity consumption; emergency employment programmes; and the accelerated disbursement of funds for public infrastructure programmes.

34. The Committee noted the importance of the remittances of overseas workers in many developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and small island developing States. As a result of the global economic crisis, in some countries remittances had fallen while in others, growth in remittances had slowed. If that trend continued, that would create severe hardships for large populations dependent on remittances, particularly families in lower income groups, quite apart from the difficulties with the current account balances.

35. The Committee noted the concerns of Pacific island countries that an economic crisis would lower the incomes of both households and national Governments, which would limit the ability of Governments to provide basic services, create jobs and support vital infrastructure. Reduced access to basic goods and services would likely increase poverty levels among vulnerable groups, such as women, children, elderly people and people with disabilities. Recent progress made in the achievement of national goals and the Millennium Development Goals could be compromised as a result of the crisis.

36. The Committee noted with satisfaction the intention of the secretariat to continue to take full advantage of its advocacy role to promote the recovery and development of developing countries in the region, especially the most vulnerable among them, pursuant to the outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> See General Assembly resolution 63/303.

37. The need to promote international and regional cooperation in support of the countries lagging behind in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals was emphasized. It was noted that developed countries had obligations and responsibilities to fulfill commitments with regard to financial and technical assistance, debt forgiveness and market access for trade. In that respect, the Committee observed that, while developed countries needed to honour their aid commitments, developing countries also needed to rely on their own efforts to promote development and reduce poverty.

**C. Implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010: progress made, obstacles encountered and the way forward**

38. The Committee had before it the note prepared by the secretariat on the implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010:<sup>12</sup> progress made, obstacles encountered and the way forward (E/ESCAP/CMP/3), which was introduced by the Senior Adviser and Head of the Special Unit on Countries with Special Needs.

39. The Committee took note of a presentation by Mr. C.P. Chandrasekhar of Jawaharlal Nehru University on the regional review of the progress made and obstacles encountered in implementing the Brussels Programme of Action during the decade 2001-2010.

40. Representatives of the following countries made statements on behalf of their delegations: Bangladesh, China, Japan, Kiribati and Russian Federation.

41. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for the various activities undertaken by it in support of the development needs of the least developed countries.

42. The Committee noted the preparatory work undertaken by the secretariat and looked forward to the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and the outcome of the discussions at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission. It expressed its appreciation to the Government of Bangladesh for agreeing to host the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in Dhaka from 12 to 14 January 2010 as part of the regional preparatory process for the review of the Brussels Programme of Action.

43. The Committee discussed the adverse impact of the economic crisis on the least developed countries and the effects of climate change. It was noted that constraints imposed by geography, limited human resources, and economic and environmental vulnerabilities continued to be significant factors affecting the progress of the least developed countries. The Committee was informed that the economic crisis was having a serious impact on island least developed countries, with detrimental effects on export earnings, remittances, tourist arrivals and income from trust funds. That situation was exacerbated by the vulnerability of those countries to natural disasters and environmental degradation, which had an adverse impact on the livelihood of many, especially the poor.

44. The Committee noted that Asia-Pacific least developed countries were, in general, not well integrated into global and regional financial systems and received very limited amounts of foreign direct investment. To make matters worse, the food-fuel-financial crisis had had an enormous impact on them in 2007 and 2008 and they were still struggling to recover.

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<sup>12</sup> A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.



45. The Committee noted that the situation in the least developed countries in terms of their progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals was already critical before the onset of the food-fuel-financial and economic crises. Although progress had been made with regard to some Goals, including poverty reduction, achieving universal primary school enrolment and attaining gender parity in secondary and primary school enrolment, there were several Goals in which progress had been either slow or insufficient; they included employment generation, increase in the primary school completion rate, creation of more wage employment for women, reducing maternal mortality, increasing forest coverage, and greater use of information and communications technology.

46. Several delegations from the least developed countries outlined the progress made by their countries in meeting the commitments of the Brussels Programme of Action. In that connection, the consensus was that, although some least developed countries had made good progress, the overall progress in meeting the Goals had been slow and uneven.

47. The Committee was informed that some countries of the region were actively supporting the development process of the region's least developed countries. For example, Japan had launched the Development Initiative for Trade in 2005, which encompassed bilateral assistance of \$10 million for trade-related projects and technical assistance cooperation targeting 10,000 persons in trade-related areas from 2006 to 2008, as well as duty-free and quota-free access to Japanese markets for goods from the least developed countries. The representative of Japan announced another Development Initiative for Trade in 2009, which would last for another three years. The measures included bilateral assistance of \$12 million for trade-related projects and an overall review of the Generalized System of Preferences. Similarly, China was assisting least developed countries in infrastructure development, technical assistance and reduction of their debt burden, as well as implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action. China also provided the least developed countries with support in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, through, among other things, South-South cooperation.

**D. 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**

48. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on 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 (CAPSA) (E/ESCAP/CMP/4).

49. The Chief of CAPSA introduced the document and stressed the importance of defining appropriate modalities that, when implemented, would strengthen CAPSA, enabling it to maintain its unique niche for addressing poverty.

50. Representatives of the following countries made statements: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan.

51. Secondary crops were considered a priority for countries that suffered from food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition. In that regard, the Committee agreed that CAPSA needed to be a member-driven centre of excellence in order to be of greater relevance to the Asia-Pacific region and to enhance the sense of ownership among member States. The view was expressed that the existing mandate of CAPSA should not preclude the Centre from undertaking and coordinating research on food security, hunger and malnutrition.

52. The Committee wished CAPSA to regain its stature as a regional hub for policy dialogue, as an effective regional knowledge centre for South-South cooperation, and as a leader in the dissemination of good practices. In that regard, proposals were made regarding the effects of climate change on secondary crops, human resource development, ICT and other technologies. The view was expressed that holding CAPSA seminars and workshops in countries throughout the region would serve to enhance the sense of ownership.

53. The Committee was informed that increased contributions were vital if the Centre was to perform adequately. In that regard, the funding mechanisms described in the note by the secretariat were considered relevant.

## **E. Programme planning and monitoring**

### **1. Review of 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**

54. The Committee had before it the document entitled “Programme planning and monitoring: review of 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” (E/ESCAP/CMP/5).

55. The Chief of the Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division introduced the document.

56. The representative of Indonesia made a statement.

57. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the programme of work for 2008-2009.

### **2. Review of the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013**

58. The Committee had before it the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013 for subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy and inclusive development (E/ESCAP/CMP/6).

59. The Committee was informed that the draft ESCAP strategic framework for 2012-2013 had been developed with the overall goal of reducing poverty through the promotion of inclusive and sustainable development. The Committee was provided with an overview of the process leading to the adoption of the strategic framework by the General Assembly in late 2010.

60. The Committee was informed that two entities would contribute to the achievement of the expected accomplishments of the subprogramme: the Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division as the overall coordinator with the support of the regional institution CAPSA, based in Bogor, Indonesia.

61. The representatives of the following countries made statements: Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines and Russian Federation.

62. In response to a suggestion from one delegation to incorporate the integration of disaster management and disaster risk reduction into poverty reduction strategies in the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013, the secretariat explained that that area would be fully reflected and strengthened under subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction. Linkages across the eight subprogrammes and modalities for ensuring a multidisciplinary approach to overall

programme implementation would be outlined in the first part of the strategic framework, the overall orientation.

63. The usefulness of developing policy solutions for the achievement of sustainable economic growth and economic integration in the region was discussed.

#### **F. Other matters**

64. While noting that there were some signs of early recovery in the Asia-Pacific region from the global economic and financial crises, the Committee recognized that the recovery could be fragile and the recovery process might take some time.

65. It was suggested that the region could diversify its risk by promoting intraregional trade and regional financial capital flows in order to expand domestic demand and consumption. That would require a stable regional financial system, which would, in turn, require supportive financial cooperation.

66. It was pointed out that the financial crisis had also provided an opportunity for the region to consider instituting its own financial system. In that respect, it was felt that the possibilities for enhancing regional financial cooperation should be explored, taking into account possible synergies with global multilateral financial institutions.

### **III. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

#### **A. Opening, duration and organization of the session**

67. The Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development held its first session in Bangkok from 24 to 26 November 2009.

68. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP delivered opening remarks. Mr. Panas Simasathien, Chairman, National Economic and Social Development Board, Government of Thailand, delivered an inaugural address.

69. Two keynote addresses were also part of the opening session. Mr. Atiur Rahman, Governor, Bangladesh Bank, delivered a keynote address on responses to the recent global financial and economic crisis—lessons in bolstering resilience and preventive defenses. The address included some of the main conclusions from the outcome of the Regional High-Level Workshop on Strengthening the Response to the Global Financial Crisis in Asia-Pacific: the Role of Monetary, Fiscal and External Debt Policies, which had been jointly organized by ESCAP and Bangladesh Bank and had been held in Dhaka from 27 to 30 July 2009. The outcome document had been issued as an information note (E/ESCAP/CMP/INF/4). The second keynote speaker, Ambassador K. Kesavapany, Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, addressed the global economic crisis and policy coordination. He noted some of the main conclusions from the outcome of the High-Level Expert Group Meeting on Responding to the Global Financial Crisis: Revisiting the Role of Monetary and Financial Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region, which had been jointly organized by ESCAP and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies on 8 and 9 October 2009 in Singapore. The outcome document had been issued as an information note (E/ESCAP/CMP/INF/5).

70. The Distinguished Persons Lecture delivered by Sir Richard Jolly and Mr. Louis Emmerij on “UN Ideas that Changed the World” was held as a side event on 24 November 2009.

## **B. Attendance**

71. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members of ESCAP: Afghanistan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Malaysia; Maldives; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Thailand; Timor-Leste; United States of America; Vanuatu; and Macao, China.

72. In addition, representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended: United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Population Fund; United Nations Development Fund for Women; and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

73. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Asian Development Bank; and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

## **C. Election of officers**

74. Mr. Domingo Flores Panganiban (Philippines) was elected Chairperson. Mr. Eugene L. Hotulev (Russian Federation) and Mr. Michael Busai (Vanuatu) were elected Vice-Chairpersons. Mr. Md. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan (Bangladesh) was elected Rapporteur.

## **D. Agenda**

75. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Impact of the financial and economic crisis on Asia-Pacific economies, patterns of recovery, policy responses and the relevance of regional and international cooperation.
5. Impact of the economic crisis on poverty and inclusive development: policy responses and options.
6. Implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010: progress made, obstacles encountered and the way forward.
7. 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.
8. Programme planning and monitoring:
  - (a) Review of 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;
  - (b) Review of the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.

*Annex*

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

E/ESCAP/CMP/L.1	Provisional agenda
E/ESCAP/CMP/L.2	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ESCAP/CMP/L.3	Draft report
E/ESCAP/CMP/L.3/Add.1	Draft recommendations of the Committee
E/ESCAP/CMP/1	Impact of the financial and economic crisis on Asia-Pacific economies, patterns of recovery, policy responses and the relevance of regional and international cooperation
E/ESCAP/CMP/2	Impact of the economic crisis on poverty and inclusive development: policy responses and options
E/ESCAP/CMP/3	Implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010: progress made, obstacles encountered and the way forward
E/ESCAP/CMP/4	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
E/ESCAP/CMP/5	Review of 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
E/ESCAP/CMP/6	Review of the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013
E/ESCAP/CMP/INF/1	Tentative programme
E/ESCAP/CMP/INF/2/Rev.1	List of participants
E/ESCAP/CMP/INF/3	General guidelines for country-level preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
E/ESCAP/CMP/INF/4	Outcome of the Regional High-Level Workshop on “Strengthening the response to the Global Financial Crisis in Asia-Pacific: the Role of Monetary, Fiscal and External Debt Policies” jointly organized by ESCAP and Bangladesh Bank, 27-30 July 2009, Dhaka, Bangladesh
E/ESCAP/CMP/INF/5	Outcome of the High-Level Expert Group Meeting on Responding to the Global Financial Crisis: Revisiting the Role of Monetary and Financial Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region, 8-9 October 2009, Singapore

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