Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Committee on Environment and Development
Eighth session
Bangkok, 16–18 October 2024

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Committee on Environment and Development (sect. I) and the annotations thereto (sect. II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:
   (a) Opening addresses;
   (b) Election of officers;
   (c) Adoption of the agenda.

2. Pursuing sustainable urban development to address regional environment and development crises.

3. Review of the programme of work of the secretariat to address environment and development challenges.

4. Strengthening regional cooperation to address environment and development challenges: modalities and emerging areas of cooperation.

5. Other matters.

6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its eighth session.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

   (a) Opening addresses

   Opening addresses will be delivered by the Executive Secretary, other senior officials and government representatives.
(b) **Election of officers**

The Committee will elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs for the session.

(c) **Adoption of the agenda**

**Documentation**

Provisional agenda (ESCAP/CED(8)/1)

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/CED(8)/1/Add.1)

**Annotation**

The provisional agenda will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

The list of participants and the programme for the session will be available online at www.unescap.org/events/2024/ced8.

2. **Pursuing sustainable urban development to address regional environment and development crises**

**Documentation**

Cities at the forefront of regional environment and development challenges (ESCAP/CED(8)/2)

Creating the conditions for enabling climate-sensitive urban development (ESCAP/CED(8)/3)

**Annotation**

The secretariat will present information on the challenges, opportunities and priorities for localizing action on the environment and development. It will focus on sustainable urbanization and on the following five priority areas, which are set out in the Ministerial Declaration on Protecting Our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific and were adopted by the Committee at its seventh session: low-carbon transition and low-greenhouse-gas emission development strategies; air pollution; ocean protection; sustainable urban development; and access to information concerning the environment and public participation in decision-making processes.\(^1\) In addition, the secretariat will present information on its work to support localization efforts, including city- and subnational-level reviews of progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Under this agenda item, consideration will be given to the conditions for enabling urban climate finance and strengthening multilevel governance to accelerate local climate action. The secretariat will share key recommendations based on its analysis on urban climate finance and multilevel governance.

The Committee may wish to highlight specific concerns regarding environment and development challenges affecting the region at the national and subnational levels. It may also wish to identify opportunities for action in cities through sustainable urbanization and localization initiatives, as well as

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\(^1\) See ESCAP/CED/2022/4/Add.1, para. 14 (a)–(e).
climate finance initiatives. The Committee may further wish to suggest cooperation areas and modalities for strengthening the action taken by local and subnational authorities within the priority areas of the programme of work of the secretariat.

3. **Review of the programme of work of the secretariat to address environment and development challenges**

**Documentation**

Review of the programme of work of the secretariat to address environment and development challenges (ESCAP/CED(8)/4)

**Annotation**

In the document, the secretariat presents the results of its review of the work done under the subprogramme on environment and development since the seventh session of the Committee, focusing on the following five priority areas: low-carbon transition and low-greenhouse-gas emission development strategies; air pollution; ocean protection; sustainable urban development; and access to information concerning the environment and public participation in decision-making processes. The secretariat will also present information on the work of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization.

In the same document, the secretariat highlights cross-sectoral activities and key modalities, including inter-agency collaboration. Under the agenda item, the Chair of the Technical Expert Group on Environment and Development will brief the Committee on the work done by the Technical Expert Group since it started operating in 2024. In addition, other stakeholders and experts may provide inputs.

The Committee may wish to provide feedback on the review and on the support provided by the secretariat on those issues. It may also wish to identify specific areas where additional support is needed and opportunities for strengthening work modalities, including through the engagement of the Technical Expert Group on Environment and Development. Furthermore, it may wish to make recommendations on actions to close gaps and strengthen implementation.

4. **Strengthening regional cooperation to address environment and development challenges: modalities and emerging areas of cooperation**

**Documentation**

Strengthening regional cooperation to address environment and development challenges: modalities and emerging areas of cooperation (ESCAP/CED(8)/5)

**Annotation**

In the document, the secretariat sets out potential areas and modalities for implementing Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions 79/1 on accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development, 79/2 on regional cooperation to accelerate climate action on oceans in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development and 79/7 on advancing regional cooperation for sustainable urban development and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, as well as the Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution. In particular, with regard to regional cooperation, the secretariat highlights the importance of the
urban and local contexts in implementing the resolutions and the Regional Action Programme. The Committee may wish to provide recommendations to the secretariat in that regard.

Emerging global and multilateral processes, including on plastic pollution, water and other environment and development challenges, will be discussed.

The secretariat will present information about its work to strengthen regional cooperation, including the launch of a platform to support member States in localizing the Sustainable Development Goals and on the voluntary local reviews. It will also present proposals for new or strengthened modalities for cooperation in other key and emerging areas of regional cooperation. Furthermore, the secretariat will inform the Committee about the outcomes of the regional dialogues on ocean-based climate action, to be held in Bangkok and online on 19 September 2024, in accordance with Commission resolution 79/2, and related side events.

The Committee may wish to encourage member States to propose specific initiatives and request support from the secretariat in that regard. It may also wish to make recommendations on measures to strengthen regional cooperation and enhance support for proposed actions. Furthermore, the Committee may wish to provide recommendations on the role of the Commission with regard to emerging global environmental agendas, which may contain calls for the development of regional cooperation. The Committee may also wish to identify lessons learned and best practices in regional multilateral cooperation and the role of the secretariat in that regard and provide recommendations to the secretariat on areas and modalities for strengthening cooperation. Members and associate members may also propose leadership initiatives on regional collaboration on specific themes of relevance to the Committee.

5. **Other matters**

The Committee may wish to consider other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.

6. **Adoption of the report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its eighth session**

**Documentation**

Draft report (ESCAP/CED(8)/L.1)

**Annotation**

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its eighth session for submission to the Commission at its eighty-first session.