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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**  
**Committee on Social Development**

**Fourth session**  
Bangkok, 28-30 March 2016

## **GUIDELINES FOR GOVERNMENT DELEGATES**

The purpose of this document is to assist delegates to prepare for their participation at the fourth session of the Committee on Social Development.

The rules of procedure of the Commission, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Committee on Social Development, which is a subsidiary organ of the Commission as mandated in ESCAP Resolution 64/1 on "Restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission"

The Committee will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation in Chinese, French and Russian, which are the working languages of the Commission. All official documentation for the Committee will be available in English, Chinese, French and Russian.

Committee-related materials can be accessed from the following website: <http://www.unescap.org/official-documents/committee-on-social-development/session/4>. Please note that, in accordance with the current efforts of the United Nations towards a digitized Secretariat, the ESCAP secretariat will be issuing only one set of printed Committee documents per delegation.

It should be noted that, aside from the delivery of country statements, time will be allocated for interactive discussions under each agenda item to maximize the sharing of national experiences with a view to promoting regional cooperation.

**Agenda Item 2: : Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific**

**(a) Review of social development issues and challenges in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals**

**Time allocation:** 105 minutes.

**Expected outcome:** Member States gain an overview of main social and demographic trends and challenges in the Asian and Pacific region, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. This is achieved through member States' sharing good practices, especially focusing on reducing inequalities, promoting gender equality and, as advocated for by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reaching the people who are the farthest behind. The outcomes of the deliberations are intended to increase understanding of country needs, especially with regard to the most excluded segments of society.

**Requirements for intervention:** The secretariat will introduce the agenda item through a presentation, to be followed by the Chair of the Committee opening the floor to member States to make statements. Member States wishing to make statements are asked to inform the conference officer in the meeting room. Statements should be a maximum of three minutes per country, highlighting, where appropriate: (1) how the social trends discussed in the background document can be addressed in the country; (2) good practices in terms of the government response to the challenges to integrating the social dimension into the other dimensions of sustainable development; and (3) the data and research gaps in the area of social development in the country and how these can be narrowed. *(Please refer to background document E/ESCAP/CSD(4)/1.)*

**Agenda Item 2: : Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific**

- b) Consideration of building institutional capacity and adopting innovative approaches to strengthen the social dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

**Time allocation:** 150 minutes.

**Expected outcome:** Member States acquire greater understanding and knowledge of the key modalities for implementing the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including national ownership, institutional capacity, finance and budgeting, technology, partnership, monitoring and review. This is attained by means of member States sharing good practices in the context of approaches to achieve sustainable development in a balanced and integrated manner.

A roundtable discussion on “How to reach the farthest behind first” will also take place under this agenda item. It is expected that this will raise awareness of the challenges the most disadvantaged segments so society face and what can be done to ensure they also benefit from the fruits of development.

**Requirements for intervention:** The secretariat will introduce the agenda item through a presentation, to be followed by the Chair of the Committee opening the floor to member States to make statements. Member States wishing to make statements are asked to inform the conference officer in the meeting room. Statements should be a maximum of three minutes per country, highlighting, where appropriate: (1) the national mechanisms needed to be put into place to ensure a balanced integration of the social, economic and environment dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the country; (2) the kind of financing framework needed to strengthen the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda in the country; and (3) the technical assistance and support required from the regional Commission in addressing social concerns and emerging priorities. *(Please refer to background document E/ESCAP/CSD(4)/2.)*

Subsequent to initial comments from the panellists of the roundtable, the floor will be opened for interventions by delegates. Delegations may wish to exchange information, experiences and lessons learned in the context of policies and programmes that focus on addressing the needs of disadvantaged groups. As the discussions would be part of an interactive roundtable discussion, interventions are expected to be focused in the form of questions to the panellists or short comments focused on the agenda item.

**Agenda Item 3: Consideration of regional trends regarding the transition from school to work**

**Time allocation:** 135 minutes.

**Expected outcome:** Member States gain an overview of the fundamental challenges numerous young people across Asia and the Pacific face in their school-to-work transition and what is being done by countries to assist them in overcoming some of these hurdles. Member States are invited to share good practices on smoothing the transition from education into decent jobs, including through promoting public employment services entrepreneurship, and technical and vocational education and training. In addition they are informed of a proposed online interactive Youth Toolbox aimed at inspiring and supporting policymakers and young people with a range of policy options and training modules.

A roundtable discussion on “How to facilitate school-to-work transitions” will also take place under this agenda item. It is expected that this will promote understanding of issues young people and employers face in the context of, among others, skills development and satisfactory labour market outcomes, as well as interventions that support the transition from education into decent employment.

**Requirements for intervention:** The secretariat will introduce the agenda item through a presentation, to be followed by the Chair of the Committee opening the floor to member States to make statements. Member States wishing to make statements are asked to inform the conference officer in the meeting room. Statements should be a maximum of three minutes per country, highlighting, where appropriate: (1) good practices on new and innovative approaches to facilitate young people’s transition from school to work; (2) regional priorities and areas for policy support, research and capacity-building needs and opportunities for multi-stakeholder and South-South cooperation with regard to enhancing education and employment prospects for youth in Asia and the Pacific; and (3) broad programmatic direction of the work of the secretariat on youth, given the mandates and frameworks referred to in the background document; and (4) feedback on the concept of the proposed Youth Toolbox. *(Please refer to document E/ESCAP/CSD(4)/3.)*

Subsequent to initial comments from the panellists of the roundtable, the floor will be opened for interventions by delegates. Delegations may wish to exchange information, experiences and lessons learned in the context of policies and programmes that enhance the transition from school to decent work. As the discussions would be part of an interactive roundtable discussion, interventions are expected to be focused in the form of questions to the panellists or short comments focused on the agenda item.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme**

**Time allocation:** 15 minutes.

**Expected outcome:** Member States provide recommendations on the focus of work of the subprogramme in the area of social development, taking into account the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as drawing from the recommendations resulting from the discussions under agenda items 2 and 3.

**Requirements for intervention:** Member States provide guidance on the focus of work of the subprogramme, in particular with regards to the preparation of the Work Programme for the biennium 2018-2019, which will be prepared in the second half of 2016.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Consideration of draft resolutions for submission for the Commission at its seventy-second session**

**Time allocation:** 15 minutes.

**Expected outcome:** Member States endorse proposed resolution(s) by member State(s) for submission for the consideration of the Commission at its seventy-second session.

**Requirements for intervention:** Member States may wish to circulate draft resolutions on priority issues in the field of social development for onward submission to the Commission at its seventy-second session. Under this agenda item, member States will be requested to review and comment on any such draft resolution, as submitted by a member State.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Other matters**

**Time allocation:** 15 minutes.

**Expected outcome:** Member States are informed and decide on any outstanding concerns related to the Committee on Social Development, including the timing of the holding of the fifth session of the Committee on Social Development.

**Requirements for intervention:** Any member State wishing to comment on any outstanding issue may do so.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fourth session**

**Time allocation:** 75 minutes.

**Expected outcome:** The Committee adopts its draft report for submission to the Commission at its seventy-second session.

**Requirements for intervention:** Member States consider the draft report (E/ESCAP/CSD(4)/L.2) and propose amendments, as appropriate.