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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Trade and Investment

First session  
4-6 November 2009  
Bangkok

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**1. Opening of the session**

The Executive Secretary will give an opening address followed by a keynote address by a dignitary.

**2. Election of officers**

The Committee will elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson.

**3. Adoption of the agenda**

The provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CTI/L.1) shall be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as may be deemed necessary. The secretariat will brief the Committee on the background, objective and role of the Committee and how the agenda supports meeting the objectives outlined in the terms of reference.

**4. Looking beyond the crisis: trade and investment for achieving inclusive and sustainable development**

This agenda item introduces the subsequent agenda items dealing with specific topics and takes the form of presentations by a round table of experts and senior officials followed by an open discussion. The secretariat will introduce the agenda item.

The Committee may wish to first review and discuss recent trends and developments in trade and investment in the region with particular attention paid to the impact of the current financial and economic crisis. The Committee may also wish to discuss national and regional level policies and strategies to increase the trade and investment of countries of the region to overcome the crisis and ensure long-term sustainable and inclusive development. The discussion may also include mechanisms and modalities to further regional cooperation and integration in the area of trade, investment and business development, particularly in response to the global financial and economic crisis.

## **5. Developing coherent and consistent policies for trade and investment**

The Committee will have before it the document entitled “Developing coherent and consistent policies for trade and investment” (E/ESCAP/CTI/1). The agenda item will be introduced by the secretariat followed by a keynote address and an open discussion. The Committee may wish to review: (a) the contribution of trade and investment to development; (b) the need for mainstreaming trade and investment into overall development policies and strategies; and (c) modalities for ensuring mutually consistent and coherent trade and investment policies.

## **6. The role and primacy of the multilateral trading system in governing international trade**

The Committee will have before it the document entitled “The role and primacy of the multilateral trading system in governing international trade” (E/ESCAP/CTI/2). The agenda item will be introduced by the secretariat followed by a keynote address and an open discussion. The Committee may wish to review and discuss the primacy and essential role of the multilateral trading system (MTS) in managing international trade and the future of MTS in the light of the global financial and economic crisis. In particular, it may wish to review and discuss the various stimulus packages individual countries have implemented to mitigate the effects of the crisis and the conformity of these packages with the rules and principles of MTS.

## **7. Enhancing intraregional trade and investment**

The Committee will have before it the document entitled “Enhancing intraregional trade and investment” (E/ESCAP/CTI/3). The agenda item will be introduced by the secretariat followed by a keynote address and an open discussion. The Committee may wish to discuss opportunities and challenges relating to accelerating the trend towards reducing the dependence of regional economies on traditional export markets and to enhancing intraregional trade. In this regard, it may wish to discuss the proliferation of regional and bilateral trade agreements and the modalities for consolidating and streamlining these agreements as building blocks of MTS, with special attention paid to the role of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement.

## **8. Facilitating trade and investment**

The Committee will have before it the document entitled “Facilitating trade and investment” (E/ESCAP/CTI/4). The agenda item will be introduced by the secretariat followed by a keynote address and an open discussion. The Committee may wish to discuss how the countries in the region could strengthen national and regional trade capacities through the facilitation of trade and investment and the promotion of trade efficiency in order to meet the challenges posed by the crisis and beyond. In particular, the Committee may wish to discuss key short- and long-term policies and measures countries need to have in place in order to enhance trade and investment facilitation and trade efficiency, including the need for uninterrupted trade finance.

## **9. Business survival and development**

The Committee will have before it the document entitled “Business survival and development” (E/ESCAP/CTI/5). The agenda item will be introduced by the secretariat followed by a keynote address and an open discussion. The Committee may wish to discuss other issues related to maintaining and developing the competitiveness of the export-oriented business sector, predominantly in response to

the global economic and financial crisis. In particular, it may wish to discuss issues related to: (a) emerging challenges for the business sector, including agro-industry; (b) creating an enabling environment for domestic and foreign investment, including the facilitation of technology transfer; and (c) linking the business sector to regional and global value chains by developing its capacities, with a special emphasis on promoting the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises and addressing their financial needs.

**10. Programme planning and monitoring**

**(a) Review of the implementation of the programme of work for 2008-2009 and highlights of the proposed programme of work for 2010-2011**

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CTI/6, in which the secretariat summarizes the progress of the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 and provides a preliminary assessment of the achievements of the biennium under subprogramme 4 on trade and investment. Key activities planned for the biennium 2010-2011 are also highlighted. The Committee may wish to provide inputs and information that may facilitate preparatory work for the implementation of the proposed work programme for 2010-2011.

**(b) Review of the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013**

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CTI/7, which contains a draft of the key elements of the ESCAP strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 for subprogramme 2 on trade and investment. The draft strategic framework contains a set of objectives, expected accomplishments and a strategy for the implementation of subprogramme 2. The Committee may wish to provide input on the proposed priorities and key results to be achieved by the secretariat for the biennium 2012-2013. Based on the comments of the Committee, the secretariat will finalize the draft strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 for further consideration by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session.

**11. Date, venue and provisional agenda for the second session of the Committee**

The Committee may wish to deliberate on the tentative date, venue and provisional agenda of its second session in 2011.

**12. Other matters**

The Committee may wish to raise any matter not covered under the items mentioned above. In particular, based on the discussions, members may wish to consider proposing draft resolution(s) on priority issues relating to trade and investment. The Committee may also wish to review the draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session.

**13. Adoption of the report**

The Committee shall adopt the report of its first session for submission to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session.

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