



Economic and Social Council

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventieth session

Bangkok, 19-23 May 2014

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the annotated provisional agenda for the seventieth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Annotations

A. Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening addresses

The detailed programme for the opening of the session will be made available upon finalization.

(b) Election of officers

Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Commission states: “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-chairs, as has been the practice at previous sessions, in which case the Commission may elect a bureau of officers composed of a chair and several vice-chairs.

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

The ministerial segment will elect the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/70/L.1)

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/70/L.2)

The provisional agenda was drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the current Chair of the Commission and with the advice of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.

2. Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries

(a) Preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, Samoa, 2014

Documentation

Summary of preparations for the Pacific for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (E/ESCAP/70/1)

Small island developing States face unique challenges in pursuing sustainable development as a result of their small size, long distances from markets and the immediate threat from climate change. The special case of small island developing States was recognized at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in 1992, and reaffirmed during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in 2012. In order to address these unique challenges, the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was convened in 1994. The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will be held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014. The Conference will seek a renewed political commitment to assist small island developing States in overcoming their unique challenges and identify priority areas for future action. Representatives of Pacific small island developing States met in July 2013 to articulate their challenges and priorities in achieving sustainable development. The outcomes of this meeting, along with the outcomes of meetings held in 2013 in the Caribbean and Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea regions and an interregional meeting of small island developing States held in Barbados, will form the basis for discussions at the 2014 international meeting on small island developing States. This preparatory process, together with the unique challenges facing small island developing States, is outlined in the document.

The Special Body may wish to review the key outcomes of these preparatory meetings and provide the secretariat with guidance and comments on how the unique challenges of small island developing States may be addressed.

(b) Sustainable management of oceans for sustainable development and poverty eradication

Documentation

Sustainable management of oceans and seas for sustainable development and poverty eradication in Pacific small island developing States (E/ESCAP/70/2)

Pacific small island developing States have continued to reinforce the importance of the sustainable management of oceans and marine resources to their economies as a fundamental component of food security and for the maintenance of biodiversity. For these States, green economy policies focus heavily on the sustainability of the Pacific Ocean and its resources. In its resolution 69/17, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to submit a report detailing the manner in which the secretariat can support

member States in the sustainable management of oceans and seas for sustainable development and poverty eradication to the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries at the seventieth session of the Commission. A summary of this report is given in document E/ESCAP/70/2.

The Special Body may wish to review the key outcomes of this analysis and provide the secretariat with guidance and comments on how the secretariat can support member States in the sustainable management of oceans and seas for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

(c) Development issues relevant to least developed countries

Documentation

Summary of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in the Asia-Pacific region (E/ESCAP/70/3)

In May 2011, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries adopted the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (the Istanbul Programme of Action).¹ In the Istanbul Programme of Action, it was noted, among other things, that while the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,² predecessor to the Istanbul Programme of Action, had played a positive role in the development process of the least developed countries, its specific goals and actions had not been fully achieved. The improved economic performance in some least developed countries had had a limited impact on employment creation and poverty reduction. In many least developed countries, structural transformation was very limited and their vulnerability to external shocks had not been reduced.

The overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action is to overcome the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category. The aim of the Istanbul Programme of Action is to enable half the number of least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020 with a strong focus on developing their productive capacities. It is commonly recognized that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need effective national policies, enhanced global support and appropriate mechanisms at all levels for the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Istanbul Programme of Action. As such, the Istanbul Programme of Action focuses on reducing the vulnerabilities of the least developed countries and addresses new challenges associated with development, including the effects of the interlinked food, fuel and economic crises and climate change, with a strong focus on structural transformation through increasing productive capacity. It also aims at generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, particularly for youth.

¹ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

² A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

The Commission, in its resolution 68/2 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in the Asia-Pacific region, urged the countries of the region and international and regional organizations to accelerate the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Regional Road Map for Implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action in the Asian and Pacific Region from 2011 to 2020.³

The Special Body may wish to review the status of implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region. It may also wish to provide further guidance on how the secretariat can assist Asia-Pacific least developed countries, in cooperation with development partners and other international entities while taking into account their respective mandates, in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action, especially in assisting the least developed countries towards graduating out of the least developed country category.

(d) Development issues relevant to landlocked developing countries

Documentation

Summary of the status of implementation of the Vientiane Consensus (E/ESCAP/70/4)

Although significant progress has been made in several areas of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a new Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,⁴ landlocked developing countries continue to face major challenges and development gaps. Lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness and high transit costs continue to impose serious constraints to their development. Additional border crossings substantially increase the total expenses for the transport services. The economic performance of landlocked developing countries reflects the direct and indirect impact of their geographical situation. Many landlocked developing countries are among the poorest countries and their economies are typically heavily dependent on a very limited number of primary resources.

The Commission, in its resolution 69/2 on the final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region, requested the countries of the region and international and regional organizations to endorse the Vientiane Consensus⁵ and urgently consider the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations contained therein.

The Special Body may wish to review the status of implementation of the Vientiane Consensus and provide the secretariat with further guidance on how the secretariat could assist landlocked developing countries in the region, in cooperation with development partners and other international entities while taking into account their respective mandates, in implementing the recommendations of the Vientiane Consensus and in building their capacity

³ See E/ESCAP/68/23.

⁴ *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.*

⁵ See E/ESCAP/69/1, annex.

to make appropriate policy responses that mitigate the impact of economic crises, restore growth, contribute towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and explicitly address emerging development challenges with a view to shaping the development agenda beyond 2015 with sustainable development at its core.

(e) Other matters

The Special Body may wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions

The documents listed below contain information spanning all of the subprogrammes and the relevant sections will be deliberated under each subprogramme as required.

Documentation

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6)

Programme performance report for the biennium 2012-2013 (E/ESCAP/70/INF/3)

Item 3 of the provisional agenda focuses on: (a) addressing the issues and challenges pertaining to the eight subprogrammes, including the work of the regional institutions; (b) the reports of subsidiary bodies of the Commission (where sessions have been held since the last Commission session); (c) reports of other intergovernmental bodies; and (d) progress in the implementation of Commission mandates. In the documents under this agenda item, key priorities and emerging issues that take into consideration the subregional perspectives are identified.

The expected outcomes under this agenda item are: (a) the identification of emerging development issues that merit policy dialogue; (b) the identification of progress achieved and gaps requiring priority attention with regard to the implementation of Commission mandates; (c) follow-up actions to major global conferences; (d) the articulation of Asian and Pacific perspectives on issues that will be addressed in major global forums in 2014; (e) the endorsement of the reports of the subsidiary bodies that have held sessions since the sixty-ninth session of the Commission; and (f) the identification of key issues to be taken up in meetings of subsidiary bodies in 2014.

(a) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development

Documentation

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section I)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6, resolutions 68/10, 69/2)

Report of the Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/7)

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its tenth session (E/ESCAP/70/8)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section I)

The document provides an overview of the challenges that member countries face in achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable development by promoting sustained and equitable economic growth, inclusive social development and environmental sustainability. These issues are discussed in the context of the ongoing uncertainty, which continues to affect developed economies and — through trade and financial channels — is having a negative impact on the region's development, and the need to accelerate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In the document, the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and the work of the secretariat in support of those countries are highlighted. The document also contains a discussion on the vital role of sustainable agriculture in tackling food insecurity and rural poverty, and the work of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) in that regard.

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member States.

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6)

The document contains summaries of progress made in the implementation of Commission resolutions 68/10 on enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific and 69/2 on the final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with further guidance for effective implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions.

Report of the Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/7)

The Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific was organized by ESCAP and held in Bangkok in December 2013. The Conference highlighted the need to foster regional economic integration as part of a long-term strategy to build an Asia-Pacific economic community. As part of such a strategy, the secretariat pointed to the four-pronged policy agenda that was highlighted in the 2012 theme study *Growing Together – Economic Integration for an Inclusive and Sustainable*

Asia-Pacific Century.⁶ The outcome of the Ministerial Conference, the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, is submitted for the consideration of and possible endorsement by the Commission.

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its tenth session (E/ESCAP/70/8)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Centre.

(b) Trade and investment

Documentation

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section II)

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6, resolution 68/3)

Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its third session (E/ESCAP/70/9)

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/70/10)

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/70/11)

Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/5, section II)

The document contains a review of recent trends and developments as well as emerging issues associated with trade- and investment-driven regional integration and cooperation. In the document, key areas of policy responses that countries in the Asia-Pacific region could pursue in order to strengthen the resilience of their economies and their ability to achieve inclusive and sustainable development are examined. In particular, the document focuses on policies and strategies to ensure that trade and investment leads to inclusive development outcomes, with special attention paid to issues related to regional trade and investment agreements, regional/global supply chains, trade facilitation measures and responsible business practices. Particular consideration is given to the role of private sector activities to ensure that they — through trade, investment and technology transfer — contribute to a set of developmental outcomes in the region. The document also contains a summary of the secretariat's initiatives to support countries in those efforts, including through initiatives undertaken by the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM).

⁶ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Growing Together: Economic Integration for an Inclusive and Sustainable Asia-Pacific Century* (ST/ESCAP/2629).

The Commission may wish to provide guidance on the policy options identified and the initiatives being undertaken by the secretariat to support member States.

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6)

The document contains a summary of the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolution 68/3 on enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable intraregional trade facilitation.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with further guidance for effective implementation of the resolution.

Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its third session (E/ESCAP/70/9)

The Committee held its third session in Bangkok from 20 to 22 November 2013. It reviewed recent trends and developments in the area of trade and investment, and discussed how to promote more inclusive trade and investment. The Committee also discussed ongoing regional initiatives under the subprogramme and global initiatives with implications for the work of ESCAP on trade and investment, as well as the activities APCTT and CSAM and the implementation of Commission resolution 68/3. Collaboration with other global and regional organizations and initiatives and the strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Trade and Investment were also reviewed. The Committee considered the proposed strategic framework 2016-2017 in respect of the subprogramme on trade and investment, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventieth session.

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

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/70/10)

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat guidance for the future work of the Centre.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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