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

Bangkok, 21–23 November 2018

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Committee on Environment and Development (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Environmental challenges in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. Benefits of and opportunities for addressing emerging environmental challenges through regional cooperation.
4. Solutions to accelerate progress with respect to the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme.
6. Consideration of draft resolutions, recommendations and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifth session.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening statements

The programme for the opening of the session will be available online in due course at www.unescap.org/events/committee-environment-and-development-fifth-session.

(b) Election of officers

The list of the participants will be available online at www.unescap.org/events/committee-environment-and-development-fifth-session.

The Committee will elect a chair and vice-chair(s) for the session.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/CED/2018/L.1)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the agenda, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

2. Environmental challenges in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Documentation

Key environmental issues, trends and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP/CED/2018/1).

Annotation

The Committee will review the main environmental impact of current development models and their implications with respect to achieving sustainable development. The document contains an analysis, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, key environmental and developmental issues, trends and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, such as the unsustainable use of natural resources, dwindling ecosystems services, the increase in pollution and waste, and the effects of climate change, as well as the relationship between such issues and rapid, unplanned urbanization.

In the document, challenges are highlighted for countries with special needs – including landlocked developing countries, least developed countries, countries aspiring to graduate from the status of least developed country and those that have recently graduated – with a focus on the four key areas of resource use, ecosystems degradation, pollution and waste, and climate change.

The Committee is invited to share views on the analysis, and on the frequency of periodic reviews of environmental issues, trends and challenges with regard to the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development

for Asia and the Pacific, 2017, adopted by the seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific.

3. Benefits of and opportunities for addressing emerging environmental challenges through regional cooperation

Documentation

Benefits of environmental action, including through enhanced regional cooperation (ESCAP/CED/2018/2)

Annotation

The Committee will discuss the benefits of and opportunities for accelerating progress with respect to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals through rigorous environmental action, supported by enhanced regional cooperation. The document contains scenario analyses of opportunities that may be available at the regional and subregional levels and may support transformation towards environmentally sustainable economic growth.

The analysis will highlight the potential benefits and co-benefits of environmental action and the costs of inaction. These benefits will be analysed in the context of the outcomes and recommendations of the seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific and the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in key priority areas, including the sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystems conservation and rehabilitation, and climate action to enhance policy coherence and efficient implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Committee is invited to consider ways and mechanisms to strengthen regional cooperation on the key priorities identified in the document, including through science-policy-practice dialogues at the regional and subregional levels and in-depth benefit analysis to identify innovative solutions.

4. Solutions to accelerate progress with respect to the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Documentation

Solutions to accelerate progress with respect to the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/CED/2018/3)

Enabling sustainable food systems through mechanization solutions for production and processing (ESCAP/CED/2018/INF/1)

Annotation

The Committee will discuss innovative and technical solutions being developed and applied throughout the Asia-Pacific region to harness the benefits of action to address environmental externalities, including circular economy and nature-based approaches. The Committee will focus on specific tools to operationalize the means of implementation and capitalize on the opportunities identified in previous sessions. The Committee will also discuss options for achieving healthy oceans and pathways towards the sustainable cities of the future. Given the increasing recognition of the importance of food

systems in achieving sustainable development, the Committee will also review solutions for making food systems more environmentally sustainable.

The document (ESCAP/CED/2018/3) contains a proposal for innovative action, addressing both technical solutions as well as the means of implementation, to be taken by countries in the region to effectively implement resource-efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, tackle pollution and waste, strengthen ecosystem services and accelerate climate action. This action will address the challenges outlined under agenda item 2 and reinforce the co-benefits outlined under agenda item 3, including transitions towards a more circular economy, in particular promoting more resource-efficient pathways to address pollution and waste management in cities. Also in the document, best practices in the application of nature-based solutions in the region, which leverage integrated ecosystem-based planning and promote ecosystem-based adaptation solutions for climate action in coastal cities in the Asia-Pacific region, will be highlighted. This will complement the secretariat's work in promoting sustainable oceans and the effective implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 across the oceans-climate-development nexus.

In the information document (ESCAP/CED/2018/INF/1), the secretariat's work on sustainable agricultural mechanization as a key solution to support sustainable food systems and natural ecosystems is presented, particularly in relation to balancing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of food production and reducing food loss during the processing stage of the food chain.

The Committee is invited to share best practices and lessons learned from local, national and transboundary applications of natural resources management, including with respect to agriculture, circular economy and ecosystem-based approaches to environment and development in the region, and to provide strategic guidance to the secretariat with a view to informing the future focus of its programme of work.

5. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme

Documentation

Preparation of the draft programme of work for 2020 (ESCAP/CED/2018/INF/2)

Annotation

The Committee may wish to provide guidance on the focus of the short- and longer-term work of the secretariat on environment and development, taking into account the programme directives and priorities outlined in the programme of work for the biennium 2018–2019. The Committee may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on incorporating the outcome of the Committee's deliberations into the secretariat's strategic planning process, including the preparation of the programme of work for 2020.

6. Consideration of draft resolutions, recommendations and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session

Under this agenda item, member States may wish to circulate, in advance, proposals and/or texts of draft resolutions on priority issues related to environment and development for consideration by the Commission at its seventy-fifth session.

7. Other matters

The Committee may wish to consider any other matter not addressed under the items mentioned above.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifth session**Documentation**

Draft report (ESCAP/CED/2018/L.2)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its fifth session for submission to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session, in 2019.
