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

Third session

Bangkok, 29-31 October 2013

Annotated provisional agenda

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

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Towards achieving sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific: regional agenda-setting for sustainable development.
5. Outcomes of key regional dialogues on sustainable development:
 - (a) Asian and Pacific Energy Forum;
 - (b) Asian and Pacific Regional Implementation Meeting on Rio+20 Outcomes;
 - (c) Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit;
 - (d) Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015;
 - (e) Meeting of Stakeholders of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme.
6. Regional preparations for the seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific and for the third United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat III).
7. Consideration of draft resolutions, recommendations and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventieth session.
8. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

Documentation

Tentative programme (E/ESCAP/CED(3)/INF/3)

Annotation

The programme for the opening of the session will be announced in due course.

2. Election of officers

Documentation

Provisional list of participants (E/ESCAP/CED(3)/INF/2)

Annotation

A chair, vice-chair(s) and rapporteur will be elected for the session.

3. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CED(3)/L.1)

Annotation

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

4. Towards achieving sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific: regional agenda-setting for sustainable development

Documentation

Towards achieving sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific: regional agenda-setting for sustainable development (E/ESCAP/CED(3)/1)

Annotation

The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”,¹ reaffirmed the political commitment to strengthen international cooperation to address the persistent challenges related to sustainable development for all, in particular in developing countries, and emphasized that the regional commissions have a significant role to play in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The secretariat provides an overview of emerging and persistent issues related to sustainable development — in particular in relation to environmental sustainability, energy security, water resource management and sustainable urban development — together with a discussion of the necessary strategies for a balanced integration of the three dimensions of any such development.

¹ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Within this context, the document contains an examination of a number of key priority and emerging issues as identified by delegations at the sixty-ninth session of the Commission. The role of regional cooperation in integrating energy considerations into sustainable development is also examined in this document. Pursuant to Commission resolution 69/8 on enhancing knowledge-sharing and cooperation in integrated water resources management in Asia and the Pacific, the secretariat intends to identify ways to: (a) share experiences, best practices and technologies in managing integrated water resources management; (b) develop a capacity development framework in order to build resilience to water-related disasters and to manage water-related risks; and (c) promote awareness of the importance of integrated water resources management. In noting the increasingly important role of urban areas in the region's development, the secretariat seeks to enhance the capacity and cooperation of member States and key stakeholders to support urban development that integrates the three dimensions of sustainability as well as effective and participatory governance.

The document also incorporates a review of progress made to date by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which was established as an outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference), and a discussion of regional dialogue and agenda-setting as part of the follow-up to the Conference.

5. Outcomes of key regional dialogues on sustainable development

- (a) **Asian and Pacific Energy Forum**
- (b) **Asian and Pacific Regional Implementation Meeting on Rio+20 Outcomes**
- (c) **Second Asia-Pacific Water Summit**
- (d) **Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015**
- (e) **Meeting of Stakeholders of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme**

Documentation

Outcomes of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (E/ESCAP/CED(3)/2)

Outcomes of key regional dialogues on sustainable development (E/ESCAP/CED(3)/3)

Annotation

The Asian and Pacific Energy Forum was organized by ESCAP and hosted by the Government of the Russian Federation in Vladivostok from 27 to 30 May 2013. Document E/ESCAP/CED(3)/2 contains a brief summary of the background and preparatory process and the proceedings of the Forum, which adopted two outcome documents,² namely: (a) the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific: Shaping the Future of Sustainable Energy in Asia and the Pacific; and (b) the Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific, 2014-2018. The Forum recommended that the

² See E/ESCAP/APEF/3.

Commission endorse the outcome documents and invited the Executive Secretary to review periodically, in close consultation with members and associate members, the progress made in implementing the Plan of Action and to take the necessary decisions in this regard.

The note by the secretariat also includes details of the measures that could be taken by the secretariat to facilitate implementation of the Plan of Action, in particular as part of the review and assessment mechanism contained therein. The Committee will be invited to review and make recommendations on the proposed actions by the secretariat as contained in the document.

In the light of ongoing international deliberations pertaining to sustainable development and Rio+20 outcomes, the Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, document E/ESCAP/CED(3)/3 contains an overview of (a) ongoing international and regional processes that are shaping future engagement on issues related to the environment, development and sustainability and (b) outcomes of recent meetings held on these issues.

During the session, the secretariat will present the key outcomes of the Asia and Pacific Regional Implementation Meeting on Rio+20 Outcomes, which was held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 April 2013; it will also invite presentations from host Governments on the outcomes of recent meetings held within this context, specifically:

(a) The second Asia-Pacific Water Summit, which was hosted by the Government of Thailand in Chiang Mai from 14 to 20 May 2013, on the theme of “Water security and water-related disaster challenges: leadership and commitment”;

(b) The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015, to be hosted by the Government of Thailand in Bangkok from 26 to 28 August 2013;

(c) The Meeting of Stakeholders of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme — as indicated in resolution 69/9 on the implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme towards voluntary follow-up to the Rio+20 outcome “The future we want” — which will be held on 30 September and 1 October 2013 in Astana.

The secretariat will seek the Committee’s guidance on the role ESCAP should play in implementing the outcomes of these meetings.

6. Regional preparations for the seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific and for the third United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat III)

Documentation

Overview and preparations for the seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CED(3)/4)

Regional preparations for Habitat III (E/ESCAP/CED(3)/5)

Annotation

The seventh Ministerial Conference will mark 30 years since its inception. Document E/ESCAP/CED(3)/4 contains a summary of the achievements to date, including the results of a midterm review of the sixth session (pursuant to the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2010³ and Commission resolution 67/3). Member States will be invited to present country statements, including suggestions for the theme topic and host country for the seventh Conference, together with their views on the future role of the Conference.

The third United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat III) will be convened in 2016, as a follow-up to the second (1996) and first (1976) conferences, to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assessing accomplishments to date, addressing poverty, and identifying and addressing new and emerging challenges. The focus of the Conference will include, but will not be limited to, the theme “Sustainable urban development: the future of urbanization”, which will be discussed and refined during the preparatory process. The conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document, which will reinvigorate the global commitment to and support for housing and sustainable urban development and the implementation of a “new urban agenda”.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/216 and resolution 24/14 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the regional commissions are requested to contribute to each stage of the preparatory process, including through the preparation of regional reports, contributions to a global report, the convening of regional meetings and the utilization of their regular sessions to provide inputs. Document E/ESCAP/CED(3)/5 contains a brief account of the background to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and its previous outcomes, an overview of the agreed preparatory process at the national, regional and global levels, and a report on actions taken by the secretariat in this regard. The Committee may wish to review the document and provide guidance on substantive and organizational issues.

7. Consideration of draft resolutions, recommendations and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventieth 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 seventieth session.

8. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme

Under this agenda item, 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 of work for the biennium 2014-2015, and in preparation for the strategic framework for 2016-2017.

³ E/ESCAP/MCED(6)/11.

9. Other matters

The Committee may raise any matter not covered under the items mentioned above.

10. Adoption of the report

Documentation

Draft report (E/ESCAP/CED(3)/L.2)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its third session for submission to the Commission at its seventieth session, in 2014.
