



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Environment and Development

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**PROGRAMME PLANNING AND MONITORING: REVIEW OF THE
DRAFT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR 2012-2013**

(Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda)

Note by the secretariat

SUMMARY

The preliminary elements of the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013 in respect of subprogramme 4, Environment and development, are submitted to the Committee for its review, pending issuance of global instructions from United Nations Headquarters for the preparation of the strategic framework for 2012-2013. The Committee may wish to provide its comments on the document, in particular on the overall direction, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and the strategy.

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The present document contains the preliminary element of a draft strategic framework for 2012-2013 in respect of subprogramme 4, Environment and development, for the Committee's review and initial comments. The draft strategic framework for 2012-2013 will be further refined by the secretariat, taking into consideration the Committee's comments and in line with United Nations Headquarters instructions for the preparation of the strategic framework for 2012-2013, which are expected to be issued shortly. The draft strategic framework for 2012-2013 for the entire programme of ESCAP will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) at its special session in February 2010, after which it will be considered by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session, in May 2010, for endorsement.

2. The biennial strategic framework contains the expected accomplishments and strategy for the overall achievement of the objectives of the ESCAP programme consistent with the relevant legislative mandates of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the areas of the work under the purview of ESCAP.

* The late submission of the present document is due to the pending issuance of the global instructions from United Nations Headquarters for the preparation of the strategic framework for 2012-2013.

3. The draft strategic framework for 2012-2013 is guided by the overall programme objective of ESCAP of promoting inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific. Additionally, programme activities will be guided by the formulation and initiation of an Asia-Pacific energy security cooperation framework to promote a low-carbon development path and regional connectivity.

4. The Committee may wish to provide its comments on the overall direction, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and strategy for the subprogramme, as provided in the following section.

2. PRELIMINARY ELEMENTS OF THE DRAFT STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR 2012-2013: SUBPROGRAMME 4, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Objective of the Organization: to assist developing countries in the region in developing policies that integrate environmental sustainability in economic and social development and to enhance regional cooperation on environment, energy and water resources management as well as urban development, including the application of the Green Growth approach, for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

| Expected accomplishments | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Improved awareness among policymakers, industries and civil society on Green Growth strategies for inclusive and sustainable development | (a) Percentage of respondents to surveys among ESCAP clients that embrace Green Growth strategies as a sustainable development approach for Asia and the Pacific |
| (b) Enhanced capacity of local and national governments and other stakeholders to develop and implement Green Growth strategies, including measures for poverty reduction and gender mainstreaming through inclusive and sustainable development in urban and rural areas | (b) Percentage of participants who demonstrate an ability to develop follow-up activities, including for resource efficiency and eco-efficient management of energy and water resources in urban and rural areas |
| (c) Strengthened regional cooperation on the development and implementation of Green Growth strategies in development planning, energy security and water resources management and sustainable urban development for inclusive and sustainable development | (c) Number of initiatives providing better access to basic energy, water, sanitation and urban infrastructure services for the reduction of poverty and gender inequality acknowledged through legislative meetings of ESCAP as useful initiatives |
| (d) Strengthened consensus among member States on regional perspectives in Green Growth strategies, including resource efficiency and efficient management of energy and water resources and eco-city development for inclusive and resilient development | (d) Number of outcome documents that indicate agreement among ESCAP member States on issues related to Green Growth, resource efficiency and efficient management of energy and water resource and eco-city development for inclusive and sustainable development |

Strategy

5. The substantive responsibility of this subprogramme would lie with the Environment and Development Division. The strategic direction of the subprogramme is mainly derived from the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the outcomes of other United Nations conferences and international agreements related to the environment and development since 1992, in particular, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the Shanghai Declaration. This strategic framework will build on the achievements of ESCAP during the previous years on supporting countries in the region in shifting their development paradigm towards Green Growth and on strengthening the framework for energy security, water security and sustainable urban development. The programme of work for 2010-2011 will continue to strengthen the foundation of the work to be completed and carried out in 2012-2013. The Programme will also ensure the implementation of Commission resolutions, in particular, 61/9, 63/6 and 64/4.

6. The subprogramme would focus on using innovative and pragmatic approaches to promote Green Growth for inclusive and sustainable development. Such approaches would promote the more efficient use of resources, including energy and water, increased investment in natural and human capital, decoupling economic and social development from environmental degradation, including regional and local pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. They will contribute directly to reducing poverty and gender inequality and providing access to basic infrastructure and services to all, in particular, the poor in both rural and urban areas, and increase the resilience of urban and rural communities for dealing with climate change and other uncertainties. To achieve this, the Environment and Development Division will further develop partnerships and create synergies within the ESCAP secretariat, as well as with agencies of the regional coordination mechanism (RCM) and with other partners outside the United Nations system.

7. The subprogramme would assist the members of the Commission in integrating environmental sustainability in economic and social development, including key sectors responsible for eco-efficient planning and management related to energy and water resources, ecosystems services and sustainable urban and rural development by serving as a knowledge hub that would build the capacities of all stakeholders, including civil society, at the regional, subregional and national levels in relation to Green Growth. It will also build strong linkages between its normative and operational work by focusing on developing innovative strategies and documenting, analysing and disseminating policy options and good practices. This subprogramme will also facilitate consensus-building among different stakeholders concerning strategies, approaches and cooperation at the subregional and regional levels.

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