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Agenda item 7

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-second session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Imelda Smolcic (Uruguay)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 16

Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 13th meeting, on 12 June 2012, the Committee considered programme 16, Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 16)).
2. The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for programme 16, Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 16)) and for the work of ESCAP in the region, which constituted two thirds of the world's population. Appreciation was expressed for the support provided to least developed countries.
4. In the context of the overall orientation of the programme, concern was expressed with the reflection of a pessimistic view of the status and condition of the Asia-Pacific region. Clarification was sought regarding inclusion of all existing mandates into the strategic framework for the period 2014-2015. With reference to interregional and intraregional cooperation, clarification was sought regarding the



extent of cooperation and collaboration of the regional commissions with other organizations in their respective regions and among themselves when determining their activities.

5. With regard to subprogramme 4, clarification was sought regarding inclusion of the word “societies” in the objective of the subprogramme. The view was expressed that that term should be properly reflected in the objectives of all subprogrammes.

6. As to subprogramme 5, the view was expressed that, similar to the objective, the title of the subprogramme should include the word “management” and read “Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management”.

7. Regarding subprogramme 6, clarification was sought regarding the meaning of the phrase “equality for all social groups” in the objective of the subprogramme. The view was expressed that it should be replaced with “equal opportunities for all social groups”.

8. The view was also expressed that, given the importance of gender-sensitive approaches in the programme of work, that should be standardized throughout all subprogrammes for ease of reference. Moreover, it was recommended that the titles of subprogrammes in the strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 should be harmonized for better clarity and understanding.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 16, Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 16.4

Replace the third and fourth sentences with: “As the regional arm of the United Nations, ESCAP is a platform for each member State, with the Commission acting as a United Nations regional assembly for all. Promoting regional cooperation will be at the core of the efforts of ESCAP.”

Paragraph 16.7

Replace the third sentence with: “Advocacy work of ESCAP will be underpinned by evidence-based analysis to capture differences and disparities among and within countries, including between men and women, according priority to ensuring that the concerns of countries with special needs are addressed, particularly those of the least developed, landlocked developing and small island developing States.”

Paragraph 16.11

Replace the second sentence with: “To that end, ESCAP will reinforce its leading role as the convener of the regional coordination

mechanism of all the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in the region and its active participation in the United Nations Development Group.”

Subprogramme 2
Trade and investment

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace the text of expected accomplishment (a) with: “Enhanced knowledge of ESCAP member States of trends, emerging issues and evidence-based policy options in the area of trade, investment, enterprise development and technology transfer in support of inclusive and sustainable development”.

Indicators of achievement

Replace the text of indicator of achievement (b) (ii) with: “Number of ESCAP member States participating in or indicating that they find regional cooperation mechanisms promoted by the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery to foster innovation, to develop and transfer technology, or in the area of agricultural mechanization, useful for their country”.

Replace the text of indicator of achievement (c) (ii) with: “Percentage of participants in activities of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery indicating that they have increased their capacity to formulate or implement more effective and coherent policies to foster innovation, to develop and transfer technology, or in the area of agricultural mechanization”.

Paragraph 16.18

Replace the sixth sentence with: “The proposed Asia-Pacific Network for Testing Agricultural Machinery will play an important role in promoting and facilitating trade of sustainable and safe agricultural machinery.”

Subprogramme 3
Transport

Strategy

Paragraph 16.21

Replace the third sentence with: “In this regard, the Transport Division will strengthen cooperation with subregional offices to foster transport cooperation at the subregional level, and with other Divisions and Offices, in particular with the Trade and Investment Division, to improve coordination on trade and transport facilitation measures; with the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division to promote the use of information and communications technology

applications for transport operations; with the Environment and Development Division to raise awareness and build capacity in environmentally sustainable transport; with the Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division to study and promote new approaches to financing transport infrastructure; with the subregional office for North and Central Asia to support the activities of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia working group on transport and border crossing; and with the subregional office for the Pacific to analyse and identify policy options for inter-island shipping.”

**Subprogramme 4
Environment and development**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace the text of expected accomplishment (b) with: “Improved capacity of Governments and other stakeholders in developing and implementing environmental, energy, water and urban policies and strategies for inclusive and sustainable development”.

Indicators of achievement

Replace the text of indicator of achievement (b) with: “Number of policies, strategies and initiatives developed by Governments and other stakeholders reasonably attributable to ESCAP interventions in the areas of environment, energy, water and urban policies and strategies for inclusive and sustainable development”.

Strategy

Paragraph 16.23

Replace the second sentence with: “The strategic direction of the subprogramme is mainly derived from the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the outcomes of other relevant United Nations conferences.”

Paragraph 16.25

Replace the paragraph with: “The subprogramme will focus on improving the integration of all three pillars of sustainable development — economic, social and environmental — and on increasing the quantity and improving the quality of growth in order to reduce the impact of external economic and financial shocks, resource crises characterized by the commodity price volatility and ecological crises.”

Paragraph 16.26

Replace subparagraph (a) with: “The process of increasing the quantity and improving the quality of growth in Asian and Pacific economies”.

Subprogramme 5**Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction**

The title of subprogramme 5 should read: “Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction and management”.

Strategy*Paragraph 16.30*

Replace the third sentence with: “The subprogramme will support and strengthen the Committee on Information and Communications Technology and the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Commission, which form the basis for regional consensus-building for action and represent an effective mechanism for contributing to global mandates.”

Paragraph 16.31

Replace the second sentence with: “The subprogramme will promote integrated and people-centred approaches by providing member States with socioeconomic analysis on rapid advances in information and communications technology, emerging trends, new forms of social networking and communication, and new digital divides, especially among the least developed countries and other countries with special needs.”

Paragraph 16.32

Replace the fourth sentence with: “The efforts will be further augmented by the regional advisory services on disaster risk reduction policies provided to member States, the progress towards an integrated regional early warning system provided through the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and South-East Asian Countries, and capacity-building activities of the established regional mechanisms in the area of information and communications technology, including space-based applications, in support of inclusive and sustainable development.”

Subprogramme 6**Social development****Strategy***Paragraph 16.35*

Replace the second sentence with: “The strategic direction of the subprogramme derives mainly from the commitments agreed upon as part of relevant United Nations intergovernmental processes, including the World Summit for Social Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the 2002 Madrid International Plan of

Action on Ageing, the World Programme of Action on Youth, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the commitments adopted in 2010 by the General Assembly in its outcome document, ‘Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals’, and the ‘Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS’.”

Replace the fourth sentence with: “The outcomes of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference and the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Assessment of Progress against Commitments in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals, the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, and the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing will also provide direction to the subprogramme.”

Paragraph 16.37

Replace the second sentence with: “To extend outreach and to ensure greater depth in the work of ESCAP, the subprogramme will work with the subregional offices, particularly in analysing subregional perspectives on social issues of special significance to each subregion within a regional framework.”

**Subprogramme 7
Statistics**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace the text of expected accomplishment (a) with: “Enhanced understanding among decision makers and members of the public, through statistical information and analysis, of development trends and emerging issues in order to promote inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies.”

**Subprogramme 8
Subregional activities for development**

**Component 1
Subregional activities for development in the Pacific**

Indicators of achievement

Replace the text of indicator of achievement (b) with: “Increase in the number of strategic sustainable development policy objectives and initiatives of the Pacific island countries and territories that are coordinated with or through the ESCAP subregional office for the Pacific”.

Component 4
Subregional activities for development in South and South-West Asia

Indicators of achievement

Replace the text of indicator of achievement (a) (ii) with: “Increased number of references to the subregional work of ESCAP in key media in South and South-West Asia”.

Strategy

Paragraph 16.42

Replace the paragraph with: “The overall responsibility for coordinating the work of the subprogramme will lie with the Office of the Executive Secretary. Activities will be implemented by the ESCAP subregional offices for the Pacific, East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia, and South and South-West Asia, and for activities for the South-East Asian subregion, by the concerned substantive divisions at ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok. Internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, the Almaty Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States provide the mandates and strategic direction for the subprogramme. The subprogramme will also coordinate closely with the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.”

Paragraph 16.45

Replace subparagraph (a) with: “(a) National planning for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and the outcomes of the World Summits on Sustainable Development”.

Paragraph 16.46

Replace the first sentence with: “The work of ESCAP in the Pacific will be implemented through a multidisciplinary and normative approach.”

Paragraph 16.48

Replace the first sentence with: “The office will work closely with the Bangkok-based subprogrammes on the above priority areas and will build synergy with the three ESCAP regional institutions in the region — the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, and the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery.”

Legislative mandates

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

Replace the existing text with:

2009/28 The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2008
