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Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development

Second session

Bangkok, 7-9 December 2011

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the second session of the Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
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4. Policy challenges for sustaining the dynamism of Asia-Pacific economies.
5. Challenges of poverty reduction and inclusive development amid high inflation.
6. Accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.
7. Issues related to countries with special needs.
8. Capacity-building for poverty reduction through sustainable agriculture.
9. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogramme.
10. Consideration of draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-eighth session.
11. Dates, venue and provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee.

12. Other matters.
13. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

The tentative programme for the opening of the session will be made available in due course.

2. Election of officers

The Committee will elect a chair, vice-chair and rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CMP(2)/L.1)

Annotation

The annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CMP(2)/L.1) shall be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as may be deemed necessary.

4. Policy challenges for sustaining the dynamism of Asia-Pacific economies

Documentation

Policy challenges for sustaining the dynamism of Asia-Pacific economies: growth outlook, emerging headwinds and policy agenda for inclusive and sustainable development (E/ESCAP/CMP(2)/1)

Annotation

The Asia-Pacific region emerged from the financial crisis of 2008/2009 as the growth pole of the world economy with a robust 8.8 per cent growth in 2010. However, it faces a number of challenges in 2011 as the economic outlook in the advanced economies is uncertain. The Committee will have before it the document entitled "Policy challenges for sustaining the dynamism of Asia-Pacific economies: growth outlook, emerging headwinds and policy agenda for inclusive and sustainable development" (E/ESCAP/CMP(2)/1). In the document, the secretariat provides an updated growth outlook for countries in the region and analyses the factors contributing to a slowdown in economic recovery. It also analyses emerging macroeconomic challenges, including large volatile capital inflows to developing countries and their impact on future economic growth. Policy options to reverse the slowdown in economic recovery and tackle emerging macroeconomic challenges in the region are discussed. The role of regional financial and economic cooperation in achieving this is also discussed.

Member countries may wish to share their experiences with respect to economic recovery and emerging macroeconomic challenges, and the Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on policy suggestions for consolidating and promoting economic growth. A few prominent experts will be invited to share their expertise on the issues included under the agenda item in order to facilitate the interactive policy dialogue.

5. Challenges of poverty reduction and inclusive development amid high inflation

Documentation

Challenges of poverty reduction and inclusive development amid high inflation and food prices in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CMP(2)/2)

Annotation

High inflation and food prices are emerging as major challenges in many countries of the Asia-Pacific region. These threaten to slow economic growth, poverty reduction, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and inclusive development. The Committee will have before it the document entitled “Challenges of poverty reduction and inclusive development amid high inflation and food prices in Asia and the Pacific” (E/ESCAP/CMP(2)/2). In the document, the secretariat reviews recent trends in income poverty and selected social indicators in countries of the region. The impact of high inflation and food prices on poverty, inclusive development and the Millennium Development Goals is explored and assessed. Policy options for containing inflationary pressures and minimizing their adverse impacts on the poor and most vulnerable in order to promote inclusive development are discussed.

Member countries may wish to share their experiences regarding the impact of high inflation and food prices, and the Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on policy options for mitigating the adverse impact on poverty reduction, inclusive development and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. A few prominent experts will be invited to share their expertise on the issues included under the agenda item in order to facilitate the interactive policy dialogue.

6. Accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: selected issues and options (E/ESCAP/CMP(2)/3)

Annotation

While significant progress has been made in achieving some of the Millennium Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region, many gaps still remain. Moreover, the progress and challenges vary significantly across sectors, subregions and countries, and within countries. The Committee will have before it the document entitled “Accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: selected issues and

options” (E/ESCAP/CMP/(2)/3). As the deadline for achieving the Goals in 2015 approaches, the document takes stock of the progress and challenges in the region and seeks guidance from the Committee on policies that would assist countries in accelerating their progress in achieving the Goals.

7. Issues related to countries with special needs

Documentation

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (E/ESCAP/CMP(2)/4)

Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action for the landlocked developing countries (E/ESCAP/CMP(2)/5)

Annotations

The Committee will have before it two documents highlighting the pertinent issues of countries with special needs: the first document, entitled “Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020” (E/ESCAP/CMP(2)/4), will discuss the priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action that are relevant to the Asia-Pacific least developed countries. The second document, entitled “Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action for the landlocked developing countries” (E/ESCAP/CMP(2)/5), will contain proposals for the final regional review of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2012.

Member countries may wish to share their views on issues raised in the documents and provide guidance on further work in these areas.

8. Capacity-building for poverty reduction through sustainable agriculture

Documentation

Capacity-building for poverty reduction through sustainable agriculture (E/ESCAP/CMP(2)/6)

Annotation

It is well known that agricultural growth in the last four decades has enabled millions of poor people to escape from hunger and poverty. Recent literature, however, suggests that its impact in less-favoured environments and among vulnerable groups has been low, partly owing to the underperformance of smallholder agriculture. There is a growing recognition of the potential of smallholder agriculture to increase agricultural production, thus raising rural incomes and, in the process, helping efforts to ensure food security and poverty alleviation. Utilizing the full potential of smallholder agriculture, however, will require increasing (a) the pace of innovations and transfer of agricultural technologies and (b) the use of economies of scale. It will also require improving (a) the efficiency of value chains and consolidation of supply channels, (b) communication between technology innovators and farmers, (c) public-private partnerships, and (d) the efficiency of markets for technology.

The Committee will have before it the document entitled “Capacity-building for poverty reduction through sustainable agriculture”

(E/ESCAP/CMP(2)/6). In addition to highlighting the areas where further improvements are desired, the document shows the critical capacity-building requirements for improving the efficiency of existing agricultural innovation systems and modalities for the transfer of technology, with emphasis on developing a better policy environment and enhancing awareness of regulatory systems and new modalities that facilitate agricultural innovations and transfer of technology.

Member countries may wish to share their views on issues raised in the document and provide the secretariat with guidance on further work in this area.

9. 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 long-term work of the secretariat in the area of macroeconomic policy and inclusive development, taking into account the programme direction and priorities outlined in the strategic framework for 2012-2013, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/244, and how the outcome of the Committee's deliberations can be integrated into the planning for the strategic framework and programme of work for 2014-2015.

10. Consideration of draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-eighth session

Under this agenda item, member States will be invited to circulate, in advance, proposals and/or texts of draft resolutions on priority issues relating to macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development for the consideration of the Commission at its sixty-eighth session.

11. Dates, venue and provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee

The Committee may wish to deliberate on the tentative dates, venue and provisional agenda for its third session, to be held in 2013.

12. Other matters

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

13. Adoption of the report

Documentation

Draft report (E/ESCAP/CMP(2)/L.2)

Annotation

The Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development will consider and adopt the report on its second session for submission to the Commission at its sixty-eighth session.