



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development

First session
24-26 November 2009
Bangkok

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

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

2. Election of officers

A chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur will be elected for the session.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CMP/L.1) will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as may be deemed necessary. The secretariat will brief the Committee on the background, objective and role of the Committee and how the agenda supports the achievement of the objectives outlined in the terms of reference.

4. Impact of the financial and economic crisis on Asia-Pacific economies, patterns of recovery, policy responses and the relevance of regional and international cooperation

The Committee will have before it the document entitled "Impact of the financial and economic crisis on Asia-Pacific economies, patterns of recovery, policy responses and the relevance of regional and international cooperation" (E/ESCAP/CMP/1). In the document, the secretariat: (a) provides updated information on the impact of the economic crisis and its aftermath; (b) draws on a comparative analysis of past experiences to assess the nature of the incipient recovery process, the region's policy responses, lessons learned and policy gaps that remain; (c) addresses particular issues, such as the efficacy and long-term consequences of fiscal policy in economic crisis management and the role of monetary policies in a post-crisis period; and (d) assesses crisis transmission mechanisms such as trade, capital flows and exchange rate policies.

Policy challenges discussed in the document centre on the post-crisis macroeconomic landscape and the implications arising from reform initiatives at the global level, as well as on the role of regional cooperation and policymaking in

support of global initiatives. In that context the document will include a regional perspective on the recommendations of international initiatives, particularly those of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, held in New York from 24 to 26 June 2009.

Member countries may wish to share their experiences with respect to the impact of the crisis on macroeconomic performance, and the Committee may wish to provide guidance on policy suggestions for reviving 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. Impact of the economic crisis on poverty and inclusive development: policy responses and options

The global economic crisis threatens to roll back the development gains of the last decade and may hasten a human tragedy in many parts of the developing world, including the Asia-Pacific region. The main challenge for policymakers now is how to achieve a quick recovery with a focus on the poor and the most vulnerable and thereby prevent the economic crisis from becoming a human crisis.

The Committee will have before it the document entitled “Impact of the economic crisis on poverty and inclusive development: policy responses and options” (E/ESCAP/CMP/2). In the document, the secretariat reviews recent trends in income poverty, income distribution and selected social indicators in countries of the region. The impact of the global financial and economic crisis on poverty, inclusive development and the Millennium Development Goals is explored and assessed. Countries have been implementing policies and programmes to mitigate the adverse impact in those areas. Such policies and programmes are analysed and further options are suggested at the national, regional and international levels, including those recommended by the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development.

Member countries may wish to share their experiences regarding the impact of the crisis, 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. Implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010: progress made, obstacles encountered and the way forward

The Committee will have before it the document entitled “Implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010: progress made, obstacles encountered and the way forward” (E/ESCAP/CMP/3).

In its resolution 63/227, the General Assembly decided, among other things, to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in the year 2011 to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the least developed countries and their development partners, share best practices and lessons learned, and identify obstacles and constraints encountered as well as actions and initiatives needed to overcome them. In document E/ESCAP/CMP/3, the secretariat: (a) provides a brief

situation analysis of the least developed countries in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals; and (b) briefly discusses the various pledges made in some of the recent regional and global initiatives, such as the Group of Twenty Summit Outcome (The Global Plan for Recovery and Reform), the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the Accra Agenda for Action, and the Doha Development Agenda, and their relevance to the needs of the least developed countries. Members may wish to share their views and experiences with respect to the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action.

The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with further guidance in taking the review process forward and developing concrete cooperation options in: (a) leveraging regional and global processes and measures for recovery from the current economic crisis; and (b) promoting sustainable and inclusive development in favour of the least developed countries of Asia and the Pacific.

7. Implementation of Commission resolution 65/4 on the strengthening of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CMP/4. In it, the secretariat highlights the activities of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA). It also presents a plan for the implementation of Commission resolution 65/4, in order to strengthen CAPSA with a view to enabling it to fulfil its mandate as a regional member-driven centre of excellence that focuses on poverty alleviation through secondary crops development, in particular with respect to addressing food security, hunger and malnutrition. The Committee may wish to review the plan of implementation for the above-mentioned resolution, and provide the secretariat with guidance on the content of the draft implementation plans, as well as with suggestions on the modalities for the implementation of the activities contained therein.

8. Programme planning and monitoring:

(a) Review of the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 and highlights of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CMP/5. In it, the secretariat: (a) summarizes the progress of implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009; (b) provides a preliminary assessment of the achievements of the biennium under subprogramme 1 on poverty and development; and (c) highlights key activities planned for the biennium 2010-2011. The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with inputs and information that might facilitate the preparatory work for the implementation of the proposed work programme for the biennium 2010-2011.

(b) Review of the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013

The Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CMP/6, which contains a draft of the key elements of the ESCAP strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013 for subprogramme 1. Macroeconomic policy and inclusive development. The draft strategic framework contains a set of objectives, expected

accomplishments and a strategy for the implementation of subprogramme 1. The Committee may wish to comment on the proposed priorities and the key results to be achieved by the secretariat for the biennium 2012-2013. Based on the comments of the Committee, the secretariat will finalize the draft strategic framework for further consideration by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session.

9. Other matters

The Committee may wish to raise any matter not covered under the items mentioned above. In particular, based on the discussions, members may wish to consider proposing draft resolutions on priority issues relating to macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development. The Committee may wish to review the draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session.

10. Adoption of the report

The Committee will adopt the report on its first session for submission to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session.

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