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**PROGRAMME PLANNING AND MONITORING**

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**REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK  
FOR 2008-2009 AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME  
OF WORK FOR 2010-2011**

*Note by the secretariat*

**SUMMARY**

The present document describes the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 in respect of subprogramme 6, Environment and sustainable development.

The present document also gives highlights of the programme of work for 2010-2011, which was endorsed by the Commission at its sixty-fifth session and will be considered by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

The Committee may wish to review the programme delivery status and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future development of the subprogramme.

**Introduction**

1. The Committee may wish to review the progress made so far in the implementation of the programme of work in respect of subprogramme 6, Environment and sustainable development, based on the accomplishment account reported to United Nations Headquarters at the 18-month mark.

2. The Committee may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance for the future implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 in respect of subprogramme 4, Environment and development.

## I. REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2008-2009

3. The following table is extracted from the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009.<sup>1</sup>

**Objective of the Organization:** To improve the environmental sustainability of economic and social development and natural resources management in line with internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved national capacity to develop and implement policies and programmes that contribute to green growth	(a) Increased percentage of participants in ESCAP activities who indicate that they can use or have used knowledge and skills in applying a green growth approach
(b) Increased national capacity to develop and apply socio-economic policy instruments to improve environmental management and performance	(b) Increased percentage of participants in ESCAP activities who indicate that they can use or have used knowledge and skills in applying socio-economic policy instruments to improve environmental management and performance
(c) Enhanced national capacity to identify effective policies and programmes for efficient and cleaner production, management and use of energy resources on the national, subregional and regional levels	(c) Increased number of measures taken by policymakers and planners in promoting energy security, improving energy efficiency and supporting subregional and regional cooperation in energy sector development
(d) Increased national capacity in formulating and implementing effective sustainable development policies and strategies on management of water resources and natural disasters in particular in disaster-prone countries, in terms of preparedness, response and recovery	(d) Increased number of measures taken that reflect ESCAP-promoted initiatives on management of water resources and natural disasters, in particular measures in disaster-prone countries to prepare for and respond rapidly to natural disasters and mitigate their impact

4. Presented below is a summary of results based on the 18-month report on the accomplishment accounts for the subprogramme, as of June 2009.

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/61/6/Rev.1), pp. 212-213.*

**A. Expected accomplishment (a)**

<p><i>Results</i></p>	<p>The compilation of the feedback from participants in ESCAP meetings and events during 2008-2009 is ongoing. However, a preliminary analysis done at the end of 2008 shows positive results in improved national capacity to develop and implement policies and programmes that contribute to green growth. Following the interventions of ESCAP, a number of countries initiated a process, or expressed an intention, to develop green growth policies. For example, Cambodia established the Inter-ministerial Green Growth Working Group and the National Green Growth Secretariat, and is finalizing the preparation of the National Green Growth Roadmap. Kazakhstan is preparing a national report on the application of green growth policy tools in strategic planning, and the Republic of Korea has adopted a national strategy on low carbon, green growth and the “green new deal”. China, India, the Philippines and Thailand are developing various programmes and establishing institutions to support national innovation systems for the greening of their production sectors. The Province of Aceh in Indonesia will develop a payment for ecosystem services (PES) policy. ESCAP has received requests from Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, the Philippines, Tajikistan, Thailand and Turkmenistan for capacity-building support in applying green growth policy tools to strengthen the implementation of national sustainable development strategies. Participants in regional training of trainers events expressed their readiness to play a catalytic role in their national environmental policies. Cambodia and Viet Nam received support from ESCAP in developing an eco-efficiency indicators framework.</p>
<p><i>Events/Actions</i></p>	<p>Activities focused on policy advocacy, capacity-building and awareness raising to assist member States to develop and implement policies and programmes that contribute to green growth in key areas such as resource efficiency and resilience, the greening of businesses, sustainable consumption and production, sustainable and eco-efficient urban infrastructure, PES and the development of eco-efficiency indicators.</p> <p>ESCAP developed and initiated a regional and subregional training of trainers programme and training toolkit, comprehensively covering green growth policy tools in key focus areas. In this context, a regional training facility has been developed in partnership with the China Standardization Information Centre and the Regional Help Desk on Sustainable Consumption and Production established by ESCAP and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Pilot projects have been and are being developed for the Greater Mekong Subregion with a focus on Cambodia, for Central Asia with a focus on Kazakhstan, and for Pacific island countries.</p> <p>ESCAP, in partnership with UNEP and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, held the Climate Game Change: Innovation and Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation in South-East Asia conference in Bangkok on 22 January 2009. At the conference, participants discussed the region’s response to climate change, highlighting the opportunities in strengthening collaboration with the business sector.</p>

	<p>ESCAP, the secretariat of the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth and UNEP held the 3rd Policy Consultation Forum of the Seoul Initiative on Green Growth: Green Growth and Sustainable Consumption and Production for Climate Action. The Forum was held in parallel with the 8th Asia Pacific Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Cebu, Philippines, from 18 to 20 September 2008.</p> <p>As part of its activities on sustainable infrastructure, ESCAP is coordinating the implementation of a Development Account project entitled “Eco-efficient and sustainable urban infrastructure development in Asia and Latin America”, jointly implemented with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and in partnership with UN-Habitat. The project is to develop the capacity of decision makers, policymakers and planners from developing countries in Asia and the Pacific and Latin America to assess the eco-efficiency of their infrastructures in an integrated manner. The project is in its early stages, and the focus so far has been on planning and on analytical activities.</p> <p>Regarding PES, ESCAP provided technical assistance, including reviewing and analysing draft pilot PES policy in Viet Nam, in initiating a project on PES policy development for the Province of Aceh in Indonesia, and supporting capacity-building in Aceh, as well as in Cambodia and other countries in the region. The South-East Asia Regional Workshop on Payment for Ecosystem Services, co-organized by ESCAP, the Asia Regional Biodiversity Conservation Programme, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Centre for Biodiversity and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), was held from 29 June to 1 July 2008.</p> <p>ESCAP worked with the Central Institute for Economic Management in Viet Nam to implement the first national application of eco-efficiency indicators. Produced in June 2009, the application outcome confirms the value of energy efficiency indicators in presenting national trends in eco-efficiency and in guiding policy directions.</p>
<i>Learning</i>	<p>The policy relevance of green growth, as well as its critical importance in responding to the region’s major development challenges, including multiple crises and climate change, has been increasingly highlighted by member States. Recognizing this importance, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland committed strong support for green growth capacity-building, which comprehensively covers specific policy options in key areas.</p> <p>The same recognition is also being shared by a broad range of stakeholders, in addition to Governments. Experiences from recent activities on sustainable infrastructure show that mayors and other senior city officials are generally aware of the need to integrate environmental and social considerations into urban infrastructure development following the green growth concept, and many interventions are being undertaken to address specific problems. At present, however, such interventions focus mainly on actions in individual sectors, such as solid waste management or transport, and there is therefore a significant need for a more holistic and</p>

	<p>integrated approach. In pursuing a holistic and integrated approach to local actions, especially in relation to urban infrastructure development and urban planning, city officials acknowledged the importance of developing and applying certain criteria and indicators for assessing the eco-efficiency of certain policies, projects and localities. In this connection, they also welcomed the projects developed by ESCAP, aimed at building capacities for identifying more eco-efficient infrastructure development solutions. A strengthened partnership between ESCAP and United Nations agencies has provided a very effective and efficient means for promoting the green growth approach and policy tools, and for reaching the critical mass of governmental officials in the region who understand and will be willing to apply green growth policy tools.</p>
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### B. Expected accomplishment (b)

<p><i>Results</i></p>	<p>Feedback from the participants of ESCAP meetings/events during 2008-2009 is currently being compiled. A preliminary analysis shows that 78 per cent of the participants at the Expert Group Meeting on Sustainability of Economic Growth, Resource Efficiency and Resilience, held in Bangkok in October 2008, indicated that their knowledge of the policy relevance and concepts of resource efficiency and resilience had increased significantly. Also, 80 per cent of participants indicated that they had found the knowledge and skills provided by ESCAP useful.</p> <p>Indications of increased national capacity to develop and apply socio-economic policy instruments to improve environmental management and performance include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At the Expert Group Meeting on Sustainability of Economic Growth, Resource Efficiency and Resilience, the ESCAP secretariat noted the participants' views on key challenges to the region's sustainable development, and on the areas of relevant policy response. Examples of key challenges include multiple risks of future environmental crises and the enhancement of resource efficiency and resilience, which constitute the key messages to be highlighted at the 6th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED), which will build on the landmark outcome of the previous conference.</li> <li>2. The cities participating in the Kitakyushu Initiative Network continued to promote local initiatives focusing on environmental and socio-economic co-benefits, with specific quantitative targets. These cities are making collective efforts to establish national mechanisms to promote such initiatives at the local level, in cooperation with various national institutions, for example, national commissions on solid waste management, a national mayors' forum and a league of local governments.</li> <li>3. Sustainable urban infrastructure: As a result of the 1st Asia-Pacific Mayors' Forum on Environmentally Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Development, held in Ulsan, Republic of Korea, seven cities in four countries (Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka) requested the assistance of ESCAP in developing activities to promote sustainable urban infrastructure.</li> </ol>
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	<p>Moreover, six months after the Forum, one city in Nepal and one city in the Philippines reported that the activity had been very useful in developing and applying policies and activities to support sustainable urban infrastructure development.</p> <p>4. North-East Asian Subregional Programme on Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC): North-East Asian countries expressed their commitments to participate in activities on improving the eco-efficiency of their economies by launching the Eco-efficiency Partnership in North-East Asia. NEASPEC countries also agreed to undertake a project on dust and sandstorms, and a project on nature conservation in transboundary areas. They collectively requested ESCAP to coordinate the development and implementation of the projects from 2009. The Russian Federation decided to provide financial support for these projects, which shows the country's commitment to environmental cooperation in North-East Asia.</p> <p>5. The support of ESCAP for subregional dialogues on climate change resulted in tangible outcomes: (a) South-East Asian countries conveyed that the subregional consultation on climate change was highly useful in helping them to strengthen their positions on climate change negotiation at the United Nations Climate Change Conference forums, and requested ESCAP to continue its support for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009; (b) North-East Asian countries, under the leadership of Mongolia, agreed to organize a climate summit for North-East Asia.</p>
<i>Events/Actions</i>	<p>While supporting the activities to achieve expected accomplishment (a), the activities for expected accomplishment (b) focused on awareness-raising, capacity-building and technical support for environmental protection/management bureaus and other relevant authorities at the national and local levels. These authorities are taking the lead in developing and applying more coherent socio-economic policies to bring about effective improvement in environmental performance. Focus areas included urban environmental management, air pollution and climate change, land use management and nature conservation.</p> <p>ESCAP is preparing a regional report on sustainable development to be the key input for the 6th MCED. In this context, an expert group meeting was held in October 2008 to identify key challenges to the region's environmental sustainability and development, particularly in reference to resource efficiency and resilience, and to help to determine the highlights of the 2010 report.</p> <p>ESCAP continued to implement the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, with a focus on promoting local initiatives that maximize environmental and socio-economic co-benefits. In this context, a number of regional/subregional workshops were held in Bangkok, Bago (Philippines), Dhaka, Kitakyushu (Japan) and Surabaya (Indonesia), as well as other cities, to share practical approaches and to establish clear links among the improvement in solid waste management, social benefits and local economic livelihoods. Thereafter, demonstration projects were piloted in these cities. The strengthening of national and regional mechanisms was also discussed in various meetings/events organized by the Kitakyushu Initiative Network.</p>

In partnership with the City of Ulsan, Republic of Korea, ESCAP held the 1st Asia-Pacific Mayors' Forum on Environmentally Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Development from 21 to 23 April 2008. Participants reviewed and discussed emerging practices and challenges, and identified priority areas in making urban infrastructure more sustainable. Approximately 50 representatives from 18 cities in the region participated in the Forum.

ESCAP joined other partners in co-organizing the Better Air Quality 2008 workshop, held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 November. The workshop brought together more than 1,000 experts from governmental, academic, research, business and civil society sectors across Asia and other parts of the world. The workshop facilitated exchanges on how central and local governments in Asia can take a more active part in climate change mitigation in a cost-effective way by adopting a co-benefits approach, which integrates urban air-quality management activities, energy management and climate change mitigation activities.

ESCAP also co-organized the ASEAN+6 City Forum on Climate Change, held in Bangkok on 26 and 27 June 2008. The meeting brought together mayors and senior representatives from nine Asian cities, and provided representatives from participating cities with an opportunity to share ideas and experiences in tackling challenges related to climate change and to explore opportunities for inter-city cooperation.

In addressing the region's multiple challenges, particularly in the context of food security and its implications for climate change, ESCAP, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Meteorological Organization, held the International Symposium on Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia in Dhaka from 25 to 30 August 2008. At the Symposium, the potential impacts of climate change on food production in South Asia were deliberated on, and the Regional Agriculture Mitigation and Adaptation Framework for Climate Change in South Asia was adopted.

ESCAP continued to assist member countries in promoting subregional environmental cooperation. The ESCAP secretariat continued to provide NEASPEC with support. The International Conference on Transboundary Air Pollution in North-East Asia, held in Tokyo from 17 to 19 December 2008, and the 14th Senior Officials Meeting of NEASPEC, held in Moscow on 9 April 2009, strengthened the level and scope of subregional action on priority areas by confirming support for the project on transboundary air pollution from coal-fired power plants. The same senior officials meeting also approved new projects on nature conservation in transboundary areas, the prevention of dust and sandstorms, and the launching of the Eco-efficiency Partnership in North-East Asia.

ESCAP supported regional and subregional dialogues on climate change, in particular, by facilitating exchanges on the regional perspective on effective policy responses and actions for climate change mitigation. Specific actions include: (a) technical and logistical support for subregional dialogues among South-East Asian and North-East Asian countries; and (b) in partnership with Japan, the development of the Asia-Pacific Gateway to Climate and Development, a knowledge management tool on integrated

	policy options for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and on internationally agreed development goals.
<i>Learning</i>	<p>In implementing the activities for expected accomplishment (b), it was observed that the links among environmental, economic and social issues were becoming increasingly weak, and the need for more holistic policy interventions beyond the authority of environmental agencies/bureaus was becoming more obvious. This leads to a stronger justification for integrating the activities under expected accomplishments (a) and (b).</p> <p>The Better Air Quality 2008 workshop showed that air quality and climate change issues are linked, and that there are considerable opportunities in applying a co-benefit approach. Stakeholders, however, are just beginning to acknowledge the significance of, and the need for, strengthening policy advocacy and awareness-raising efforts on the co-benefit approach. This is an emerging field in which regional and subregional collaboration must be enhanced, and ESCAP has a unique role to play.</p>

### C. Expected accomplishment (c)

<i>Results</i>	<p>ESCAP recorded five measures taken by policymakers and planners to promote energy security, improve energy efficiency and support subregional and regional cooperation in energy sector development. These measures contributed to the progress made towards an enhanced national capacity to identify effective policies and programmes for efficient and cleaner production, management and the use of energy resources at the national, subregional and regional levels.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commission resolution 64/3 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific serves as an essential record of the determination of member States to address the issue and take action to provide solutions for the wider dissemination of renewable technologies in the region.</li> <li>2. Participants at a policy dialogue on biofuels held in Beijing in September 2008 were determined to shape policies that would make biofuels more ecologically acceptable and ensure their inclusion in energy planning. In terms of future biofuel development, participants emphasized the importance of standards and criteria that take into consideration the specificities of Asian countries. Participants expressed their wish to have a greater exchange of ideas, information and data for formulating policies at the regional level.</li> <li>3. At a consultation involving South-East Asian countries, held in Bangkok in 2008, experts discussed a post-2012 climate change framework with a focus on balancing economic development and greenhouse effects through market mechanisms, which received strong support from South-East Asian countries and member States in other regions. Requests for further consultations and workshops are under consideration.</li> <li>4. The activities of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia have culminated in an agreement to develop three project proposals: (a) promoting sustainable building</li> </ol>
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	<p>design in the region; (b) facilitating the establishment of energy efficiency centres in countries in the region; and (c) facilitating the development of a subregional concept on energy efficiency.</p> <p>5. Through the Asia Low Carbon Economy Forum, the ESCAP secretariat engaged in a discussion with various stakeholders in the region and abroad on the conceptualization of a low-carbon development path to shift the paradigm from a carbon-intensive model to a low emissions model. Participants committed to take a low carbon approach as their priority in developing national strategies.</p>
<p><i>Events/Actions</i></p>	<p>ESCAP was able to raise the level of awareness about energy security issues by undertaking an in-depth study on energy security and sustainable development during the sixty-fourth session of the Commission. A ministerial round table with an interactive discussion format for high-level speakers/panelists was organized during the session to highlight some of the energy challenges facing the region.</p> <p>ESCAP organized a policy dialogue on biofuels and engaged policymakers and experts from a number of selected member States with extensive experience in biofuel production and utilization. The goal was to further enhance awareness of the benefits and challenges of biofuel production and to identify technical and policy measures for ensuring its sustainability.</p> <p>With respect to regional cooperation, ESCAP held numerous forums to continue discussions on energy in Central Asia and North-East Asia. The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia continued the Project Working Group on Water and Energy Resources and held a workshop on energy efficiency opportunities. To support the recommendations of this workshop, ESCAP has included Tajikistan and Mongolia as partners in the project entitled “Eco-efficient and sustainable urban infrastructure development in Asia and Latin America”, which focuses on energy efficiency in public buildings. In addition, ESCAP is seeking funding to undertake activities to develop an energy efficiency concept for Central Asia.</p> <p>The fourth session of the Senior Officials Committee on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia, which had originally been scheduled for December 2008 in Busan, Republic of Korea, was held on 19 and 20 February 2009. The Working Group on Energy Planning and Policy, under the framework of the Intergovernmental Collaborative Mechanism on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia, held its seventh meeting in Bangkok on 3 and 4 June 2009. The working group met to review the preliminary findings for a joint study on energy production potential and development plans in North-East Asia. This two-year study is expected to highlight possible energy cooperation projects to be undertaken by North-East Asian countries. The working group also discussed the development of the five-year strategy to implement the collaborative mechanism, as well as preparations for the fifth session of the Senior Officials Committee and the second session of the North-East Asia Government-Business Dialogue on energy cooperation. The dialogue will serve as a platform for government officials and business representatives to discuss recent</p>

	<p>subregional energy issues and provide valuable inputs for the implementation of the energy cooperation mechanism in North-East Asia.</p> <p>ESCAP has assisted Pacific island countries in improving energy security and access. ESCAP was represented at a policy dialogue on the collective purchasing of petroleum products for Pacific island countries and provided policy and technical advice. ESCAP is working with several Pacific island countries to develop a project that aims to strengthen national capacity on renewable energy and energy efficiency through South-South cooperation.</p> <p>ESCAP has made inroads into providing member States with technical cooperation assistance on energy efficiency. One project being implemented takes stock of institutional capacity and policies, and seeks ways to improve legislative and standard-setting measures, in Central, South and South-East Asia.</p>
<i>Learning</i>	<p>There is still much room for improvement in terms of providing member States with effective guidance to follow the low-carbon development path. Overall, countries are focused on fossil fuel development and they need to have more knowledge about effective policies to increase the share of renewables and clean energy solutions in the energy mix. The best way to reach a wider audience is not to work independently but to cooperate with many partners and subregional organizations to achieve a multiplier effect. ESCAP needs to work smarter by establishing long lasting partnerships to build trust and to establish win-win strategies within the region, as well as outside the region.</p> <p>ESCAP has learned that mobilizing resources through agencies and institutes is less cumbersome and quicker than receiving official development assistance. It would be a good strategy for ESCAP to prepare a short project concept note and share it with potential donors during missions and networking opportunities, as well as calling for proposals.</p>

**D. Expected accomplishment (d)**

<i>Results</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community-based disaster risk management: Six policy measures have been adopted by countries in South-East Asia to integrate community-based disaster risk management into socio-economic development. This is a result of the efforts of ESCAP in cooperation with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and funded by the European Community Humanitarian Office.</li> <li>2. Commission resolution on disaster risk reduction: At its sixty-fourth session, the Commission adopted resolution 64/2 on regional cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific. Subsequently, ESCAP, in cooperation with the inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the Government of Malaysia, held the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Kuala Lumpur in December 2008, which adopted a programme of action on disaster risk reduction.</li> </ol>
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	<p>3. Eco-efficient infrastructure: The Republic of Korea is funding the ESCAP project entitled “Development of eco-efficient water infrastructure for socio-economic development in Asia and the Pacific”. In addition, the Development Account project entitled “Eco-efficient and sustainable urban infrastructure development in Asia and Latin America” includes a component on eco-efficient water infrastructure in urban areas. Under these projects, it is expected that 10 case studies will be conducted in 2009 and 2010 and, as a result, 10 specific policy measures will be proposed.</p> <p>4. Council of ministers on water in Asia and the Pacific: ESCAP has received support for its initiative to establish a council of ministers on water in Asia and the Pacific from key partners (that is, the Japan Water Forum and ADB), which, along with ESCAP, established the Asia-Pacific Water Forum in Mexico City in March 2006. During the regional ministerial meeting on water at the 5th World Water Forum, held in Istanbul in March 2009, several ministers expressed their support for the initiative. The next step is to identify policy options for regional cooperation and the implementation of the initiative in the Asian and Pacific region.</p> <p>5. Monitoring investment in and results of water resources management: Policy measures related to the implementation of integrated water resources management as part of the recommendations of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation are expected to be discussed at regional meetings in preparation for the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit. These policy measures could be subsequently adopted by interested countries in the region. These activities are being organized by ESCAP in its capacity as the team leader for Key Result Area 4: Monitoring Investments and Results, for water resources management, a focus area identified at the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit. Pilot studies in at least three developing countries will assist them in developing policy measures for adoption.</p> <p>6. Coping with climate change: With assistance from ESCAP, the member countries of the Typhoon Committee are expected to launch initiatives to improve their readiness to mitigate the impacts of climate change on their water resources and the related effects on socio-economic development.</p>
<p><i>Events/Actions</i></p>	<p>The major threats to water security in the Asia and the Pacific region lie in its rapid, environmentally unsustainable patterns of economic growth. Building on its regional convening power and transboundary mandate, ESCAP has been developing a water security framework, which will serve as an analytical and practical tool for researchers and policymakers. By promoting key tools and concepts, such as the water insecurity index and the identification of water insecurity hot spots, ESCAP is positioning itself as a regional knowledge hub and a research leader.</p> <p>A founder and active member of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, ESCAP is the leader of the Key Result Area 4: Monitoring Investments and Results to prepare for the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit, planned for 2010. To further promote regional cooperation and dialogue on the important issue of investment in water and sanitation, ESCAP has established a close partnership with FAO, the World Health Organization, the United Nations</p>

	<p>Children's Fund and the World Bank. ESCAP and FAO have been working on adapting lessons learned from other areas (such as Africa and Latin America) regarding irrigation investment and improvement in data collection and analysis.</p> <p>Since the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit, held in December 2007, ESCAP has built the necessary momentum and created partnerships to spearhead the establishment of a council of ministers on water in Asia and the Pacific. Seizing the extraordinary networking and convening opportunity of the 5th World Water Forum, ESCAP, in cooperation with the secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum and ADB, held the regional Ministers for Water Security Initiative as one of the regional forums of the World Water Forum. Participants, including ministers from the ESCAP region, senior officials and specialists from key international organizations, and a representative from the G8 Experts Group on Water and Sanitation, confirmed their support for the Initiative. The meeting called for water security to be mainstreamed in national development agendas, and recognized that more investments and regional cooperation were needed to address water security challenges. ESCAP is planning to hold an expert group meeting from 11 to 13 November 2009 to further develop the concept of the council of ministers on water security and to explore its possible structure and authorities, seeking support from Governments and other stakeholders.</p> <p>ESCAP also organized various activities to implement activities for the International Year of Sanitation. In March 2008, ESCAP organized a roundtable workshop on the implementation of activities for the International Year of Sanitation, in conjunction with the celebration of World Water Day. In late 2008, ESCAP conducted a survey to collect information from, and highlight the good practices of, ESCAP member countries on the improvement of sanitation. The findings of the survey were compiled in a report and presented at a regional workshop, which was held in Macao, China, from 4 to 6 November 2008. A total of 20 representatives from Governments across Asia participated in the workshop and reached a consensus on the key institutional changes needed to meet the Millennium Development Goal on sanitation, such as the decentralization of sanitation funds and the empowerment of communities. The outcomes served as an input to the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Sanitation, 2008 (A/64/169).</p> <p>World Water Day 2009 was celebrated by the United Nations in Bangkok on 25 March 2009 with the theme "Shared waters: shared opportunities". In organizing World Water Day 2009, ESCAP enlisted the assistance of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand, United Nations agencies and international organizations, including the Stockholm Environment Institute and the Asian Institute of Technology. The theme of the panel discussion was "Energy crisis, food crisis, financial crisis and climate change in transboundary rivers: opportunities and challenges".</p> <p>To promote eco-efficient water infrastructure, ESCAP held the 1st Regional Workshop on the Development of Eco-efficient Water Infrastructure in Asia and the Pacific in Seoul, from 10 to 12</p>
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November 2008. Subsequently, ESCAP has been assisting Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines and Viet Nam in formulating strategies and guidelines in this area. Three pilot projects on eco-efficient water infrastructure are currently being initiated in developing member countries. To maintain the momentum and interest generated by the workshop, the 2nd Regional Workshop was held in conjunction with the World City Water Forum in August 2009, in cooperation with the Korea Water Forum, the Korean Institute of Construction Technology, the City of Incheon, Republic of Korea, and the Korean International Cooperation Agency. The second workshop was attended by some 40 participants directly involved in the project from 16 countries and 3 international organizations, and some 20 participants from the World City Water Forum. In addition, ESCAP convened a special session on the development of eco-efficient urban water infrastructure as part of the U-City and Hydroinformatics Symposium of the Forum, which was attended by some 20 participants.

ESCAP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs held a global capacity development workshop on improving agricultural productivity, water use efficiency and strengthening rural livelihoods. ESCAP provided technical expertise and facilitated the sessions. The meeting, which was held back-to-back with the second meeting of the bureau of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, pointed the way forward for effective and sustainable land and water management.

ESCAP continued to assist the Typhoon Committee in the updating and implementation of its strategic plan for 2007-2011. ESCAP assisted in organizing a regional workshop on coping with climate change in the Typhoon Committee area, held in Beijing in September 2008, to formulate priority areas of work for inclusion in the annual operating plan in 2009. Similarly, ESCAP, in cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization, assisted the Panel on Tropical Cyclones in organizing its thirty-fifth session, held in Bahrain in May 2008, to review its progress of achievement and to prepare a work plan for 2009.

ESCAP also continued to assist the Government of Sri Lanka in developing a pilot community-based multi-hazard early warning system for three selected communities, as part of an intersectoral project entitled "Building community resilience to natural disasters through partnership: sharing experience and expertise in the region". As the final joint activity of this project, the Concluding Regional Workshop on Sharing Experience and Expertise on Building Community Resilience to Natural Disasters through Partnership was held in Bangkok from 21 to 23 April 2008, with the participation of some 40 experts from the 9 member countries affected by the 2004 tsunami. At the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Kuala Lumpur from 2 to 4 December 2008, ESCAP convened a technical session and a high-level round table on resource mobilization for disaster risk reduction. Participants in the technical session shared national and regional experiences, while participants in the round table debated policy options for scaling up investment in disaster risk reduction at the regional, national and local levels. The

	<p>participation of ESCAP in the Ministerial Conference marked its contributions to defining regional policy debates on disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>ESCAP also strengthened its partnership with various international and United Nations agencies, including Cap-Net (the network of the United Nations Development Programme for capacity-building in integrated water resources management), the Global Water Partnership, ADB and subregional organizations, in order to enhance the impacts of capacity-building on water resources management. In this regard, ESCAP had co-organized the following capacity-building workshops:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regional Workshop for Developing Partnership for Climate Change Adaptation in Water Related Issues in Asia and the Pacific, Bangi, Malaysia, 1-5 December 2008; co-organized with the National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM) and ADB;</li> <li>2. Workshop on Developing Water and Climate Change Adaptation Guidelines, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, 26-28 May 2009; co-organized with NAHRIM and ADB;</li> <li>3. Workshop on Hydrologic Data Management and Modelling in South-East Asia, Kuala Lumpur, 21-24 July 2009; co-organized with the University of California at San Diego and the University of Malaya (the universities participating in the Association of Pacific Rim Universities World Institute Research Programme on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies), NAHRIM, AguaJaring and Cap-Net;</li> <li>4. Training of Trainers on Effective Integrated Water Resources Management Implementation in a River Basin for River Basin Organizations, Bangkok, 27-31 July 2009; co-organized with the Department of Water Resources of the Government of Thailand, AguaJaring and Cap-Net.</li> </ol>
<p><i>Learning</i></p>	<p>Recent work with ESCAP developing countries has revealed that there is a need to focus on a new concept of water security. This new concept is closely linked to the existing work on eco-efficient water infrastructure development, effective water resources management and institutional changes to achieve the Millennium Development Goal on water and sanitation. This emerging concept of water security needs to be further developed and adapted to the needs of ESCAP member countries. The limited capacity of member countries with regard to the monitoring of public and private investment in water and sanitation has hampered efforts to synthesize results and undertake comparative analyses and offer policy recommendations.</p>

## II. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2010-2011

5. The objective, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of subprogramme 4, Environment and development, in accordance with the strategic framework for the period 2010-2011,<sup>2</sup> are shown below.

<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/63/6/Rev.1)*, pp. 282-283.

**Objective of the Organization:** To improve the environmental sustainability of economic development and effective management of energy and water resources in the ESCAP region in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened consensus among ESCAP member States on an increased number of issues related to environmentally sustainable economic growth	(a) Number of outcome documents that show agreement among ESCAP member States on issues related to environmentally sustainable economic growth
(b) Improved awareness and understanding among policymakers in planning, finance and other relevant ministries and stakeholders in the ESCAP region on effective policy and programme options for promoting environmentally sustainable economic growth	(b) Percentage of participants in ESCAP activities indicating that they have an improved awareness and understanding of effective policy and programme options
(c) Improved capacity of ESCAP member States to develop policy and programme options, including those with a poverty and gender dimension, for promoting environmentally sustainable economic growth	(c) Percentage of participants in ESCAP activities who indicate that their level of competency in developing policies and programmes, including those with a poverty and gender dimension, has increased
(d) Increased national capacity of ESCAP member States to formulate effective policies and strategies for the management and use of energy and water resources	(d) Increased percentage of participants in ESCAP activities who indicate that their level of competency in effective management and use of energy and water resources has increased

6. In accordance with the draft programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 (E/ESCAP/65/18 and Add.1), which was endorsed by the Commission at its sixty-fifth session<sup>3</sup> the selected focus areas and priority activities that are planned for 2010-2011 are listed below.

7. The 6th MCED will be held in Kazakhstan during the second half of 2010. The Conference has been a major regional forum for reviewing regional challenges in achieving sustainable development and formulating regional action plans, such as the Regional Action Programme 2001-2005 and the Regional Implementation Plan 2006-2010, associated with supplementary initiatives, that is the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment and the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth, adopted at the 4th and 5th MCED, respectively. The discussion and key messages of the 6th MCED is expected to build upon the landmark success of 5th MCED in adopting

<sup>3</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 19* (E/2009/39-E/ESCAP/65/32), para. 180.

environmentally sustainable economic growth, or green growth, as a key strategy for achieving sustainable development in the Asian and the Pacific region, and to reinforce the green growth approach taking stock of major outcomes from the latest global, regional and subregional initiatives and meetings on sustainable development.

8. At the 6th MCED, ministers will deliberate on the linkage between green growth and region-wide responses to broadening and intensifying development challenges. These include achieving the Millennium Development Goals, overcoming multiple crises (fuel, food and financial) and adapting to anticipated climate change impacts by, inter alia, integrating a green growth strategy into poverty alleviation and inclusive social and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

9. As reported to the Committee on Managing Globalization in October 2006 (see E/ESCAP/CMG(4/II)/2, para. 23), the *State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific*, which was published every 5 years from 1985 to 2005, is likely to be renamed in order to reflect the strong shift in focus to monitoring trends in the environmental sustainability of economic growth patterns. This new publication, which will be jointly prepared by ESCAP, UNEP and ADB, will be discussed at the 6th MCED. The preparatory process for the publication is ongoing, involving policymakers and leading regional institutions. The key themes covered in this report will include linking green growth policy interventions with sustainable resource use, environmental sustainability and the socio-economic resilience of the region, as well as their implications. These green growth interventions are based on expert analyses showing that the enhancement of resource efficiency, achieved via green growth, would effectively contribute to making Asia and the Pacific more resilient to socio-economic and environmental crises.

10. Promoting a shift to the low-carbon development path will be an integral strategy for developing countries to tackle both development and climate change challenges simultaneously. The Asia-Pacific region faces two great and inextricably linked challenges: overcoming poverty and combating climate change. Failure to tackle one will undermine efforts to deal with the other. A delay in development will increase the socio-economic vulnerability of developing countries to climate change and exacerbate the persistence of extreme poverty. In the context of energy, the low carbon concept is compatible with the sustainable energy security framework with its central tenant that the heavy dependence on fossil fuels will have to be reduced in order to lower carbon dioxide emissions. Studies show that taking voluntary mitigation actions is considered to be one of the most cost-effective responses by developing countries to minimize their adaptation needs, taking into account that the poor and marginalized in developing countries suffer the most severely from the impacts of climate change. It will be critical to introduce progressive policies to promote renewable energy as an alternative energy source, to support energy efficiency technologies, and to increase access to energy services for well-balanced socio-economic and inclusive development. Thus, ESCAP will support developing member States to advance towards low carbon development by facilitating policy dialogue and concrete actions.

11. In line with achieving environmental sustainability through improved access to services or through green growth, ESCAP will develop technical cooperation projects that would support policy advocacy and dialogue. Building on the previous accomplishments of ESCAP, the programme of work for 2010-2011 and existing mandates, the secretariat is seeking to build a portfolio of projects to enhance energy security in the region in the following areas: (a) promoting low-carbon development pathways; (b) widening access to energy services; (c) promoting energy efficiency in cities; and (d) promoting subregional energy cooperation, including South-South cooperation, on renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency.

12. With respect to the promotion of low carbon development, the secretariat will work with the Economic Commission for Europe to replicate the successful Energy Efficiency 21 project in Asia. The secretariat will develop a concept note to seek funding from the fifth tranche of the Global Environment Facility. This will build on current projects related to energy efficiency capacity-building and cooperation. As a follow-up to the Policy Dialogue and Forum on Low Carbon Development, held in Beijing in June 2009, the secretariat will also develop a proposal to strengthen the capacity of cities to promote energy efficiency.

13. To widen access to energy services, the secretariat is preparing a project for implementation in 2010 and 2011. The project is based on the successful implementation of a Pro-Poor Public-Private Partnership project on renewable energy resources, and the goal is to replicate it in more countries in the region and to promote a policy dialogue and an institutional mechanism in support of such replications.

14. With respect to the promotion of regional and subregional energy cooperation, the secretariat will continue to conduct seminars and workshops on the development of a trans-Asian energy system. The secretariat will also continue to support the implementation of the Intergovernmental Collaborative Mechanism on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia, based on the five-year strategy that was adopted at the Senior Officials Committee session held in Ulaanbaatar in September 2009 with the support of participating member States, in particular the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

15. An enhanced and meaningful regional cooperation among Governments on water security will be a key goal of ESCAP for two years in its efforts to strengthen regional cooperation towards achieving water security, with an emphasis on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries with special needs. ESCAP will also continue promoting the establishment of a council of ministers on water security in Asia and the Pacific, along with potential instruments, such as Asia-Pacific water funding facilities on policymaking and decision-making at the regional and subregional levels. Stronger regional cooperation should rely on a more balanced multisectoral approach, information exchange and cooperation. ESCAP will continue to support regional forums, such as the 4th South-East Asia Water Forum and the 2nd Asia-Pacific Water Summit.

16. The water dimension of green growth will continue to be a central feature of the path towards inclusive sustainable socio-economic development. Plans to promote eco-efficient water infrastructure development will materialize, with concrete policy recommendations and the strategic interventions required for the Millennium Development Goals and stipulated in the Hashimoto Action Plan (A/C.2/61/4, annex) and General Assembly resolution 61/192 on the International Year of Sanitation, 2008. ESCAP will sharpen its focus on programme approaches towards eco-city development and on providing rural areas with urban services, and will increase capacity-building for integrated water resources management.

17. The global agenda on climate change and water security will continue to feature in the programmatic priorities of ESCAP during the next biennium. ESCAP hopes to better promote the integration of regional perspectives on water resources into the global initiatives and studies of the United Nations. It will also work for stronger regional cooperation among the United Nations agencies and member countries themselves to encourage information sharing. ESCAP will serve as a regional platform of discussion on emerging water-related issues.

18. ESCAP will continue promoting inclusive and sustainable urban development, with a special focus on sustainable infrastructure and eco-city development. The Development Account project on eco-efficient and sustainable urban infrastructure development in Asia and Latin America, which is being implemented from 2008 to 2011, is expected to advance regional knowledge and tools to integrate eco-efficiency criteria into infrastructure development. The project is expected to provide policymakers with useful guidance on further pursuing integrated urban infrastructure development in the region, and the project's outputs will feed into the follow-up activities of the sectoral work to be undertaken with regard to energy, water, waste management and transport. ESCAP will continue to support regional dialogue in this area, including the Better Air Quality workshop series and the Asia-Pacific Mayors' Forum on Environmentally Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Development.

19. Together with Waste Concern, a non-governmental organization in Bangladesh, and with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, ESCAP will implement the multi-year regional project "Pro-poor and sustainable solid waste management in secondary cities and small towns". The project builds upon the previous work of ESCAP on successfully adapting the neighbourhood-based composting approach of Waste Concern in Viet Nam and Sri Lanka. It expands the original approach into decentralized integrated resource recovery centres and then widening the scope to include city-wide coverage. The project puts into action the concept of green growth for inclusive development by treating waste as a resource. The centres are designed to generate profits, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimize transportation costs, improve waste collection services, provide a better income and working conditions for waste pickers, and return organic matter to the soil. While the centres' multiple income streams are designed to cover operational costs, initial capital costs are recouped by selling carbon credits on the open market through the solid-waste management revolving equity fund, which is to be established as part of the project. As money in the fund grows, more centres can be built to solve solid waste and sanitation problems in cities across Asia and the Pacific.

20. In close cooperation with regional networks, such as CITYNET, United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG-ASPAC), the Network of Local Government Training and Research Institutes in Asia and the Pacific (LOGOTRI), and the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR), ESCAP will continue to strengthen the capacity of local governments and other stakeholders regarding the issues of urban environmental sustainability and poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific. Training programmes, exchange visits and advisory services will focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation in cities and towns, explore the possibility of carbon financing for environmental infrastructure development, and promote knowledge transfer regarding successful approaches to, and principles of, low-income housing. In this regard, a key tool is the seven Quick Guides on Housing the Urban Poor, prepared by ESCAP and UN-Habitat, which contain concepts, lessons and best practices on urbanization, low-income housing, land, community organization and other related themes.

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