



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Sixty-sixth session
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**REVIEW OF ISSUES PERTINENT TO THE SUBSIDIARY STRUCTURE OF
THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING THE PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE
REPORT FOR THE BIENNIUM 2008-2009 AND THE WORK OF THE
ESCAP REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS: ENVIRONMENT
AND DEVELOPMENT**

(Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda)

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND DEVELOPMENT ON ITS FIRST SESSION**

SUMMARY

The first session of the Committee on Environment and Development was held in Bangkok from 2 to 4 December 2009. The Committee discussed trends and reviewed the progress made in the field of environment and development, including progress in implementing the green growth approach, which had been adopted at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in 2005. The Committee also discussed challenges in the provision of water, sanitation and energy services, as well as housing, for the poor, and the measures needed to address those issues. The Committee agreed on a range of issues to be addressed in connection with the preparations for the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development. The Committee also expressed general satisfaction with the proposed list of outputs for inclusion in the programme of work for 2010-2011.

The Commission may wish to consider the matters calling for its action by the Commission or brought to its attention, which are presented in chapter I. The Commission may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on those matters.

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I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Trends and progress in the field of environment and development

1. Integration of environmental sustainability in development policy

1. Reaffirming the importance of integrating environmental stability into development policy, including through green growth, and noting the growing number of national policies and initiatives conducive to green growth being developed and implemented in the region, the Committee recommended that regional cooperation be enhanced to support the further development and application of various strategies, including green growth as a strategy for sustainable development, in the Asian and Pacific region.

2. The Committee requested that the secretariat continue assisting members and associate members in identifying and prioritizing policies that could provide win-win solutions for (a) shifting to a low-carbon development path through, inter alia, the co-benefits approach and (b) integrating adaptation and mitigation measures into development policies.

3. The Committee recommended enhancing regional and multilateral cooperation to make green technology accessible and affordable to developing countries. In that regard, it also recommended promoting collaborative research and development activities and technology transfer for green technologies, in particular through public funding.

4. The Committee recommended strengthening existing programmes for subregional environmental cooperation, including the North East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC), and promoting the exchange of knowledge and experiences among subregions in dealing with common subregional challenges, such as sand and dust storms.

5. The Committee called for a systematic compilation of the achievements of and lessons learned from the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment,¹ which had been adopted during the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, held in 2000, and the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth,² which had been proposed during the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, held in 2005. That compilation would be presented to the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development with a view to developing follow-up initiatives on, inter alia, eco-city development, which would be based on the experiences of those and other relevant initiatives in the region.

6. The Committee requested ESCAP and other United Nations organizations, financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, developed countries in Asia and Europe, and businesses in the private sector to provide support and assistance to the organization of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific.

2. Enhanced access to services towards socially inclusive and sustainable development: water, sanitation, energy, transport and housing

7. Noting the importance of ensuring access to adequate housing, electricity, clean water and transport for the people of the Asian and Pacific region regardless of their income levels, the Committee suggested that the secretariat enhance its efforts to assist the countries in that respect, particularly as regards the Millennium Development Goals.

8. Recognizing that, in principle, each country was better placed than any other to determine the service model that best fit its own circumstances, the Committee suggested that domestic policies on service provision be supplemented by knowledge sharing and closer regional cooperation, and requested that the secretariat take the necessary steps in that regard.

9. The Committee recommended that the secretariat continue championing successful initiatives on resource conservation and disseminating related lessons.

¹ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific 2000, Kitakyushu, Japan, 31 August-5 September 2000: Ministerial Declaration, Regional Action Programme (2001-2005) and Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment* (ST/ESCAP/2096) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.II.F.12), Part Three.

² See Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005* (ST/ESCAP/2379) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.F.31), Annex III.

B. Programme planning

10. The Committee advised that the formulation of the work programme should be based on Commission resolutions that provided a mandate to ESCAP. Commending the secretariat for its work on green growth, the Committee requested that the work be continued to promote sustainable development through, inter alia, support for initiatives such as promoting the reduction, reuse and recycling (3R) approach and *mottainai* in its work on green growth and by increasing efforts for the implementation of Commission resolution 64/3 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

11. In noting that the work programme for 2010-2011 had been approved by the Commission, the Committee recommended that the secretariat actively implement resolutions related to environment and development, including resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission.

II. PROCEEDINGS

A. High-level Panel on Key Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward in the Area of Environment and Development

12. The Panel was introduced by the Chairperson of the Committee and moderated by Ms. Anasuya Sanyal, Chief, Indo-China Bureau of Channel News Asia. The panel members were: Mr. Ryokichi Hirono, Professor emeritus at the Graduate School of International Studies, Seikei University; Ms. Akanksha Chaurey, Director of Decentralised Energy Solutions at The Energy and Resources Institute, India; Ms. Mary Jane Ortega, Secretary-General of CITYNET and former mayor of San Fernando, La Union, Philippines; and Ms. Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Chief Executive of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association and an enrolled lawyer of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

13. In response to a question, the panellists expressed the view that green growth was a feasible development strategy for achieving sustainable development and could help to reduce the vulnerability of countries to the triple food, fuel and financial crisis and to climate change. The strategy would need to address issues related to energy in development, the financial constraints of local authorities and specific development problems in countries.

14. The panellists noted that development issues varied between countries and therefore the responses would need to be tailored according to the needs of each country. In many countries, there was a significant lack of basic services, and in the view of the panellists, green growth should be integrated into the provision of those basic services to address the needs of the poor. The need for regional and global cooperation to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to combat climate change was recognized.

15. The panellists presented the experiences of their respective organizations and countries with regard to environment and development. Mr. Hirono highlighted the development strategies implemented in Japan, including tax and financial incentives to improve eco-efficiency, the promotion of renewable energy, research and development in environmental technologies, and the improvement of energy efficiency. Ms. Ortega provided some examples of activities carried out by local governments to support the livelihood of local communities in a sustainable manner. Ms. Chaurey provided an overview of the experience of developing renewable energy to expand access to energy services to communities in India and highlighted the

importance of collaboration between the private sector, non-governmental organizations and government. Ms. Hasan pointed out that different strategies were needed for different countries. It was important to share the development responsibility and not to allow a culture of impunity to dominate the development process.

16. Other issues highlighted by panellists included the importance of involving local governments in policy development given their role in providing basic services and the need to look beyond national interests and work together in promoting global interests. It was also emphasized that countries should establish national policies conducive to mobilizing domestic resources in order to fill the financial gap to promote sustainable development. It was noted that green growth could be an important strategy, although it could be slow due to conflicts between benefits and the threats posed by rapid growth and industrialization.

17. The panellists noted the need for national ownership of programmes on the implementation of green growth, including those related to energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy development, and on coping with climate change to ensure sustainable development. The panellists also recognized (a) the need for strong political support from governments for the green growth approach to work and (b) the need for people to be at the centre of related government policies and decisions.

18. The panellists recognized the continuing role of ESCAP in assisting member States and civil society in planning, designing, formulating, implementing and monitoring their respective development strategies conducive to green growth, as well as in serving as a knowledge hub for replication.

19. The panellists recognized that energy efficiency and renewable energy should go hand in hand and that the green growth approach could be utilized to build on the key functions of those energy strategies. They also recognized that energy efficiency and renewable energy should be promoted through integration into services addressing other development needs, such as health and education.

B. Trends and progress in the field of environment and development

1. Integration of environmental sustainability in development policy

20. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on the integration of environmental sustainability in development policy (E/ESCAP/CED/1).

21. The Officer-in-Charge of the Environment and Development Division and the Chief of the Environment and Development Policy Section introduced the document.

22. Representatives of the following countries made statements on behalf of their delegation: Cambodia, China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation.

23. The Committee expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the analysis and pertinent recommendations contained in the background document.

24. The Committee noted that the multiple interlinked crises that countries were currently facing required an integrated approach to sustainable development with an emphasis on all of its three pillars, namely economic development, social

development and environmental protection. Such an approach was considered crucial for achieving development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty and hunger.

25. The Committee discussed the adverse impacts of climate change. Addressing climate change would require a shift to low-carbon development paths and a systematic integration of adaptation measures into development policy. The Committee also discussed policy options, such as the co-benefits approach and various energy efficiency and conservation measures, which could provide win-win situations for aligning climate action with development policies. The Committee was informed about the policies and initiatives implemented by countries in the region in response to climate change.

26. It was noted that pursuing green growth required active participation and collective efforts from all sectors of society. In that regard, a cross-sectoral approach and the establishment of appropriate national institutional mechanisms were regarded as instrumental.

27. The Committee noted the importance of ensuring access to affordable energy services for poverty reduction through the promotion of renewable energy technologies. At the same time, it stressed the need to promote clean technology for fossil fuels, as they would remain the main energy resource in the foreseeable future.

28. The Committee noted that strains on land and water resources posed threats to food security in the region, and recognized the need to promote integrated land and water resource management and to pursue policies and programmes oriented towards sustainable agriculture.

29. The Committee was informed about policies and initiatives from countries in the region related to the integration of environmental sustainability into development policy. The representative of Cambodia, for example, announced that his country had embarked on the development of a “national green growth road map”. For that purpose, the Government had established the National Green Growth Secretariat in the Ministry of Environment, as well as the Inter-ministerial Green Growth Working Group. Priority areas identified by the road map included sustainable agriculture, sustainable forestry, sustainable water resource management, sustainable transport, waste management and a scheme to promote eco-villages. The Government was also considering the establishment of a green growth committee/council to be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister.

30. The representative of China informed the Committee that her Government had included its sustainable development strategy in the general national economic and social development plan. In that context, China was promoting green industry and circular economy concepts to pursue industrialization that produced economic benefits and consumed fewer resources and less energy with less pollution, so as to build up a resource-saving and environmentally friendly society.

31. The representative of India informed the Committee that his Government had developed a national action plan on climate change covering both mitigation and adaptation, which included actions in a number of areas, such as renewable energies, clean coal technologies, energy efficiency, green building codes, large-scale reforestation efforts and green agriculture, among others.

32. In August 2008, the Republic of Korea had adopted “Low-carbon, green growth” as its new national vision for the following 60 years, aimed at shifting the current development paradigm of quantity-oriented, fossil fuel-dependent growth to

quality-oriented growth by minimizing both the usage of natural resources and environmental pollution. In accordance with that vision, the Government had introduced the “Green New Deal” policy, which included investments in environmental infrastructure, such as waste-to-energy and renewable energy facilities, as well as the restoration of four main rivers. Under that policy, the Government planned to spend 50 trillion won, roughly \$40 billion, in the coming four years. That represented 90 per cent of the total stimulus package issued in response to the economic crisis, and it was aimed at creating 960,000 new jobs. Moreover, under its Five-Year Plan (2009-2013), the Government of the Republic of Korea planned to invest 2 per cent of the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) per year to promote green growth.

33. The Russian Federation had adopted a number of measures aimed at (a) a more comprehensive inclusion of environmental factors into the country’s economic development plans, (b) a rational use of fuels and energy resources through energy-saving measures and (c) the enhancement of the energy efficiency of industry and other sectors of the economy. The Government had set an objective of a 40 per cent reduction in the energy intensity of its GDP by 2020, as compared to 2007. Recently, the Government had adopted new legislation on energy saving and energy efficiency, which included measures for phasing out the use of incandescent light bulbs by 2014, as well as energy labelling requirements for products, compulsory commercial accounting of energy resources, and energy efficiency regulation for buildings. The Government planned to provide consumer credits and financial incentives to entrepreneurs to enable a smooth transition to the new regime. The estimated investment to support those programmed activities was about 10.5 trillion roubles.

34. The Committee noted the importance of multilateral cooperation in addressing issues related to environment and development. The Committee was informed that some countries of the region were actively supporting regional and international initiatives to promote the integration of environmental sustainability into development strategies. For example, the representative of the Republic of Korea expressed his country’s willingness to continue supporting the green growth of countries in the region. The representative of Japan reiterated his country’s intention to scale up financial and technical assistance to enable developing countries to shift towards a low-carbon development pattern without compromising economic growth, and to assist the poorest and most vulnerable to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change through the Hatoyama Initiative. The representative of the Russian Federation informed the Committee that his Government would provide a financial contribution to the establishment of a transboundary cooperation mechanism for nature conservation in North-East Asia to support environmental cooperation among member countries.

35. The representative of India informed the Committee that his Government, together with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, had organized the Delhi High-level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer, held in October 2009, and would organize the Fourth International Renewable Energy Conference in New Delhi in 2010 on the theme of “Upscaling and mainstreaming renewables for energy security and climate change”.

36. Japan and the countries of the Mekong subregion had recently launched the “Decade toward the Green Mekong”, to start in 2010. The principal issues to be addressed would include sustainable forest management, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, water resource management, energy efficiency and clean energy, and the building of a society resistant to natural disasters. The representative of Japan informed the Committee that the Fifth Meeting of the

Kitakyushu Initiative Network would be held in February 2010 in Kitakyushu, Japan, and that a side event at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in Astana was being considered in order to widely disseminate the outcomes of the initiative.

37. The Committee welcomed the announcement by the Government of Kazakhstan that it would host the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in Astana from 27 September to 2 October 2010 and the progress reported by Kazakhstan with regard to the institutional arrangements for the national preparatory process. The Government of Kazakhstan informed the Committee that measures to secure the budget for the hosting of the Conference and to ensure the participation of all stakeholders in the national preparatory process were being taken. The representative of Kazakhstan shared the preliminary suggestion of his Government to conduct, in the period from January to July 2010, six preparatory meetings (five subregional and one regional), in close cooperation with ESCAP member States and partner agencies, some of which could be organized back-to-back with the sixty-sixth session of the Commission or other regional meetings. The preparatory process would benefit from synergy with the activities for the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference of the Economic Commission for Europe as well as with the work of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, chaired by Kazakhstan in 2010.

38. The Committee noted the request of the Government of Kazakhstan to ESCAP and other United Nations organizations, financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, developed countries in Asia and Europe, and businesses in the private sector, for assistance in: (a) the organization of the above-mentioned subregional and regional preparatory meetings; (b) the identification of key experts and resource persons; (c) the organization of side events in partnership with various stakeholders; and (d) the provision of additional financial support for the participation of some developing member States of ESCAP.

2. Enhanced access to services towards socially inclusive and sustainable development: water, sanitation, energy, transport and housing

39. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on the item (E/ESCAP/CED/2).

40. The document was introduced by the Officer-in-Charge of the Environment and Development Division.

41. Representatives of the following countries made statements on behalf of their delegation: Cambodia; China; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Republic of Korea; and Russian Federation.

42. Representatives discussed the persisting challenges in the region stemming from the fact that cities had become centres for economic growth and millions of people were without access to adequate housing, electricity, clean water, sanitation and transport. Those challenges would be exacerbated in the next 40 years, when an additional 2.5 billion people would need services.

43. The Committee was informed that several countries in the region had actively chosen to embark on a greener development path, with several representatives giving examples. The view was expressed that service provision could be improved through integrated infrastructure development. The Committee was also informed that many regional initiatives covering different socio-economic sectors had been launched.

44. The Committee was informed that regional efforts would be necessary to ensure that (a) infrastructure development, including that envisioned in stimulus packages, incorporated eco-efficiency for sustainable growth; (b) rivers and the environment were rehabilitated and capital and financial markets greened in such a way as to lead to stronger growth and contribute to social support systems; (c) infrastructure development was integrated by means of cross-sectoral planning in order to provide better opportunities for eco-efficiency. The view was expressed that those efforts would not succeed without capacity-building or institutional strengthening.

45. Possible future programmatic approaches to regional cooperation were presented by the secretariat. The adoption of an eco-city programme was cited as an example of actions that would lead to more economic opportunities for inclusive, sustainable and resource-efficient economic growth and the building of an effective framework for integrated infrastructure development. Similarly, it was recognized that rural areas needed to be provided with urban services in order to create more opportunities for inclusive sustainable economic growth and to strengthen existing mechanisms for better provision of integrated services.

46. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran referred to the environmental challenge of dust and sand storms in South-West Asia and, pursuant to the secretariat's mandate stipulated in annex I, paragraph 7, of ESCAP resolution 64/1, requested the secretariat to promote synergies, exchange views and experiences, and provide comprehensive inputs in dealing with the issue at the regional level. He requested the secretariat to pave the way for prevention of further expansion of the problem to the neighbouring countries, including through interregional cooperation.

47. The Committee noted that there was a perceived trade-off between providing services to all and ensuring environmental sustainability, but that green growth strategies offered the proof that the two goals were not mutually exclusive and could even complement each other. While commending the promotion of reduction, reuse and recycling (3Rs), as well as the Green New Deal, the Committee also noted that the Japanese word *mottainai* captured the regret felt when something that could still be used was not used or was thrown away. The term was offered as an example of behavioural change that could lead to the more efficient use of natural resources.

48. The Committee noted with concern the increasing challenges faced by growing cities in preserving their natural capital, while sustaining their economic growth and providing housing, energy, water, sanitation and transport services to all. In particular, the plight of slum dwellers, who suffered the most by exclusion from basic services and from poor environmental conditions, was highlighted. The Kitakyushu Initiative was emphasized as a good platform for sharing and promoting local initiatives on environmentally sustainable socio-economic urban development. The Fifth Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network was scheduled to be held in Kitakyushu City in 2010 to comprehensively review the progress made during the past 10 years.

49. In the context of the Millennium Development Goals, the Committee was informed of early achievements by some countries in meeting Target 3 (of Goal 7) on sustainable access to safe water and basic sanitation. The Committee was also informed of the secretariat's efforts to better define household water security, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank and the Asia-Pacific Water Forum and in consultation with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund. As the Goals related to water and sanitation had an impact on the health-related Goals, the Committee was pleased to note the progress made in providing medical services in some Asia-Pacific countries.

50. The progress made in providing energy services to all was also discussed. The Committee was informed of the significant efforts made by several member countries to ensure affordable access to energy for all, especially as a key element for achieving the overriding goal of poverty eradication. As burgeoning populations and economic growth were expected to drive up energy demand in Asia and the Pacific, there was a need for adequate global energy supply systems to achieve long-term sustainable development.

51. Representatives highlighted the importance of the integrated approach in the planning and provision of various services, such as access to water and sanitation, transport links, energy services and housing. Examples discussed included: energy conservation achieved through more efficient transport services and waste-to-energy initiatives; better metering of water, gas and electricity use; appliance standards; and building codes. The Committee noted the need for better knowledge sharing on such innovative practices and improved regional cooperation in that respect.

52. With respect to the proposal indicated in the background document on the possible creation of a council of ministers on water resources or water security, some representatives took the view that, in the absence of a consensus-based definition of water security, there would be no progress on the issue.

C. Programme planning and monitoring

1. Review of the implementation of the programme of work for 2008-2009 and highlights of the proposed programme of work for 2010-2011

53. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/CED/3.

54. The document was introduced by the Officer-in-Charge of the Environment and Development Division.

55. Representatives of the following countries made statements: India; Japan; Republic of Korea; and Russian Federation.

56. In relation to water resources management, the Committee was informed that the Follow-up Conference on the International Year of Sanitation would be held in January 2010, focusing on three issues: positioning sustainable sanitation in society; optimizing sanitation technology; and financing sanitation, which were critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other development goals. Thanks were extended to the Government of Japan for its continued support in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/192 of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Sanitation, 2008. The Committee was informed of the active participation of the secretariat in the implementation of the International Year of Sanitation, including its regional launching at the First Asia-Pacific Water Summit, held in Beppu, Japan, in December 2007, and of its work plan to actively support the follow-up activities, including the preparations for the conference.

57. With respect to future activities on water resources management and references to the proposal to establish a council of ministers on water security for Asia and the Pacific, the Committee was informed that the secretariat would limit the scope of such activities to sustainable planning and water resources in accordance with Commission resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission, as well as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with regard to integrated water resources management. It was also informed that an expert group meeting held in November 2009 had opined against the formation of a council of

ministers and provided guidance that would be followed in order to enhance regional cooperation on that subject.

58. The representative of the Russian Federation observed that the formulation of the work programme should be based on Commission resolutions that provided a mandate to ESCAP. It was noted that the financial contribution of the Russian Federation to the activities of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation had been earmarked for the project on transboundary nature conservation only. The representative also noted the progress made under the initiative on energy cooperation in North-East Asia and requested the secretariat to duly reflect the outcome of the fifth meeting of the senior officials committee and second government business dialogue on energy cooperation in North-East Asia in the implementation of the programme of work for 2008-2009.

59. The Committee was briefed by the representative of the Republic of Korea on the activities of the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth, a major outcome of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development. Since 2006, four policy consultation forums had been held, and one leadership programme each year. Seven pilot projects had been initiated. Seoul Initiative Network meetings had been held biannually for reviewing activities and providing guidance to the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth secretariat. A network meeting and policy consultation forum would be held during June or July, which could also serve as a preparatory meeting for the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development. Those activities had successfully contributed to disseminating the green growth concept in Asia and the Pacific, and also to the application of the concept.

60. The representative of the Republic of Korea indicated that his country was considering the extension of the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth after 2010. The support of member States was strongly requested in that regard. After 2010, the intention was to focus more on the application rather than the dissemination of the concept. The Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth would then better serve as a strong framework for regional cooperation on green growth.

61. The secretariat noted the support by member States and their inquiries on the link between green growth and sustainable development. It was elaborated further that green growth was a development strategy whose ultimate goal was sustainable development. The secretariat emphasized that an approach which balanced and linked the three pillars of sustainable development would be maintained in its work on green growth.

62. Regarding a recommendation that the secretariat strengthen its work on renewable energy, the secretariat emphasized the importance of linkages to climate change, pollution, health and poverty issues in terms of energy access for the rural poor. The secretariat informed the Committee that it had exerted great efforts for the implementation of Commission resolution 64/3 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, and had already approached the Government of India with an offer of assistance in connection with the International Conference on Renewable Energy, to be held in New Delhi in 2010.

63. In responding to a request for clarification by the representative of the Russian Federation on the procedure for making amendments to the future programme of work prior to its consideration by the Fifth Committee, the secretariat explained that the programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 could be further amended by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session, in 2010.

2. Review of the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013

64. The Committee had before it a note by the secretariat containing preliminary elements of the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013 in respect of subprogramme 4, Environment and sustainable development (E/ESCAP/CED/4).

65. In presenting the document, the secretariat informed the Committee that the draft ESCAP strategic framework for 2012-2013 had been developed with the overall goal of reducing poverty through the promotion of inclusive and sustainable development. The secretariat provided an overview of the process towards its final adoption by the General Assembly in late 2010.

66. Representatives of the following countries made statements: Japan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; and Russian Federation.

67. The expected accomplishments under the subprogramme were presented. The Environment and Development Division would contribute to the achievement of the expected accomplishments of the subprogramme.

68. One delegation noted that, while the strategic framework made reference to green growth in the expected accomplishment and indicators, that approach was not the only strategy for achieving sustainable development in the region. The same delegation requested further clarification of the definition of the term "water security" and the specific mandates that ESCAP had on climate change. In response, the secretariat noted that there had been no agreed definition of water security within the United Nations and that the work of ESCAP in that area focused on enhancing regional cooperation and supporting social and economic development. Concerning the mandate for its work on climate change, the secretariat mentioned that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation urged the United Nations to support efforts to address the social and economic impacts of climate change. The secretariat also noted that ESCAP had an overall mandate of promoting regional cooperation for economic and social development. In addition, the secretariat stressed that its role was not to support the negotiation process, but to support long-term integrated development planning.

69. One delegation pointed out the need to strengthen subregional and regional integration and cooperation and enhance the coordination of the programmes of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Greater Mekong Subregion and ESCAP, and mentioned that its Government had been promoting competitiveness in the cross-border movement of goods and people, and contributing to the global efforts to address climate change.

70. The Committee noted that the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013 in respect of subprogramme 4, Environment and development, proposed by the secretariat³ would be reviewed at a meeting of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives in February 2010.

D. Consideration of draft resolutions, recommendations and decisions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session

71. The Committee was informed that one of the tasks assigned to the eight committees as part of the generic terms of reference listed in Commission resolution 64/1 was to propose issues for consideration by the Commission as possible

³ See E/ESCAP/CED/4.

resolutions. That had come as a result of earlier calls by member States for more inclusive consultations among the Governments of member States in the preparation of draft resolutions to be submitted to the Commission for its consideration. An agenda item had therefore been included to provide a forum for discussion and review of ideas to be considered for incorporation in draft resolutions for further review by the Commission. No proposals were made.

E. Other matters

72. No issues were raised under the item.

F. Adoption of the report

73. The Committee adopted the report on its first session on 4 December 2009.

III. ORGANIZATION

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

74. The Committee on Environment and Development held its first session in Bangkok from 2 to 4 December 2009.

75. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP delivered opening remarks.

76. A keynote address was delivered by Mr Anatoliy Dernovoy, Executive Secretary, Ministry of Environment Protection of Kazakhstan, on behalf of Mr Nurgali Ashimov, Minister for Environment Protection. In his statement, he informed the Committee that his country was prepared to host the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development and requested organizational support. He announced that Kazakhstan was pleased to follow in the footsteps of the previous ministerial conferences on environment and development and, in that context, was ready to propose a new initiative, called “*zhasyly damu*” (Kazakh for “green development”), one of whose aims was to preserve ecosystems using economic instruments. Kazakhstan was interested in fostering cooperation with countries both inside and outside the Asia-Pacific region. Cooperation would benefit the region in a number of ways, among them the realization of its environmental and natural resources potential.

B. Attendance

77. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members of ESCAP: Cambodia; China; Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Mongolia; Pakistan; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Thailand; and Macao, China. In addition, representatives of Germany, Hungary and South Africa attended.

78. Representatives of the following specialized agencies and related organizations attended: International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO; United Nations Children’s Fund; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; United Nations Population Fund; and World Health Organization.

79. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; United Cities and Local Governments—Asia Pacific Regional Section; Eurasian Economic

Community; Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia; and International Organization for Standardization.

C. Election of officers

80. The following officers were elected:

Chairperson:	Mr. Dana Adyana Kartakusuma (Indonesia)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Ms. Keobang A. Keola (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
	Mr. Masatoshi Sato (Japan)
	Mr. Mahmoud Khani Jooyabad (Islamic Republic of Iran)
	Ms. Marina Sirotkina (Russian Federation)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Yong-Jin Kim (Republic of Korea)

D. Agenda

81. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. High-level Panel on Key Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward in the Area of Environment and Development.
5. Trends and progress in the field of environment and development:
 - (a) Integration of environmental sustainability in development policy;
 - (b) Enhanced access to services towards socially inclusive and sustainable development: water, sanitation, energy, transport and housing.
6. Programme planning and monitoring:
 - (a) Review of the implementation of the programme of work for 2008-2009 and highlights of the proposed programme of work for 2010-2011;
 - (b) Review of the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013.
7. Consideration of draft resolutions, recommendations and decisions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Document title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
E/ESCAP/CED/1	Integration of environmental sustainability in development policy	5 (a)
E/ESCAP/CED/2	Enhanced access to services towards socially inclusive and sustainable development: water, sanitation, energy, transport and housing	5 (b)
E/ESCAP/CED/3	Review of the implementation of the programme of work for 2008-2009 and highlights of the proposed programme of work for 2010-2011	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/CED/4	Review of the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013	6 (b)
<i>Limited series</i>		
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E/ESCAP/CED/L.3/Add.1	Draft recommendations of the Committee	9
<i>Information series</i>		
E/ESCAP/CED/INF/1	Tentative programme	
E/ESCAP/CED/INF/2/Rev.1	List of participants	
E/ESCAP/CED/INF/3	Information note for participants	

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