



---

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**  
Committee on Trade and Investment**Fourth session**

Bangkok, 4-6 November 2015

**Annotated provisional agenda**

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Committee on Trade and Investment (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

**I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the bureau.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2015:
  - (a) Review of recent trends and developments;
  - (b) Asia-Pacific participation in value chains: the role of trade and investment policies.
5. Implementation of Commission resolution 70/5: strengthening regional cooperation and capacity for enhanced trade and investment in support of sustainable development:
  - (a) Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Trade and Investment;
  - (b) Consideration of terms of reference of a permanent bureau of the Committee;
  - (c) Consideration of the feasibility and desirability of convening a periodic Asia-Pacific ministerial-level conference in the area of trade and investment;
  - (d) Regional cooperation, research and analysis, and capacity-building initiatives in response to requests contained in the resolution;
  - (e) Engaging the business sector.

6. Reports on activities of the regional institutions:
  - (a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;
  - (b) Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization.
7. Implementation of Commission resolutions 68/3, 70/1, 70/4 and 70/6 and consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-second session.
8. Consideration of the future focus of the trade and investment subprogramme.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Opening of the session**

#### **Documentation**

Tentative programme (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/INF/3)

#### **Annotation**

The tentative programme furnishes the time plan for the session.

### **2. Election of the bureau**

#### **Documentation**

List of participants (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/INF/2)

#### **Annotation**

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

### **3. Adoption of the agenda**

#### **Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/L.1)

#### **Annotation**

The annotated provisional agenda will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as may be deemed necessary.

### **4. Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2015**

#### **(a) Review of recent trends and developments**

#### **(b) Asia-Pacific participation in value chains: the role of trade and investment policies**

## Documentation

Summary of the *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2015* (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/1)

## Annotation

A summary of the *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2015* will serve as a general background document for the session. The *Report* is an annual publication that contains descriptions of recent trends in trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region and highlights of issues that require the attention of policymakers. In the years that the Committee does not meet, only a trend analysis is provided, which is published online. In the years that the Committee meets, a printed publication is made available; it contains a section in which a particular focus area is addressed. The focus area of the 2015 *Report* is Asia-Pacific participation in value chains and the role of trade and investment policies. In the publication, the current level and features of Asia-Pacific engagement in global and regional value chains are explored and policy recommendations aimed at enhancing that participation while pursuing the post-2015 development agenda are made. In this context, the *Report* contains a consideration of factors determining participation of countries at different development levels in the global and regional value chains, including trade liberalization through removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, policies related to trade facilitation, promotion of investment, and technology transfer. Special attention is drawn to the role of services in enhancing efficiency in the manufacturing sector and other sectors involved in value chains. In the *Report*, the importance of holistic policies is stressed, in particular where participation in value chains is seen as a key driver of sustainable development. After the secretariat has made a presentation on the publication, a panel of four to five experts from government, academia and the private sector will present their views and discuss policies for enhancing South-South trade and investment and the role of ESCAP in this regard.

## 5. Implementation of Commission resolution 70/5: strengthening regional cooperation and capacity for enhanced trade and investment in support of sustainable development

### Documentation

Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Trade and Investment (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/2)

Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Trade and Investment (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/INF/4), previously circulated as document E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/7/Rev.1

Feasibility and desirability of a periodic Asia-Pacific ministerial conference on trade and investment (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/3)

Overview of the secretariat's activities and initiatives in promoting regional cooperation, research and analysis and capacity-building in trade and investment, including issues for consideration by the Committee (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/4)

Engaging the business sector: current activities and future direction of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council, ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and Asia-Pacific Business Forum (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/5)

Outcome document of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2014 (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/INF/5)

- (a) **Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Trade and Investment**
- (b) **Consideration of terms of reference of a permanent bureau of the Committee**

**Annotation**

At the Committee's third session, in 2013, it considered and deliberated on proposals made by the secretariat on the strategic direction and functioning of the Committee as contained in document E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/7/Rev.1. The Commission, in its resolution 70/5, designated, without prejudice to the outcome of the ongoing reforms of the conference structure of ESCAP and within the framework of the overall terms of reference of the Committee, the Committee as the appropriate body to closely monitor and guide the directions and requests contained in the resolution and draft regional action plans on specific trade and investment issues for implementation by national Governments and the secretariat alike. In document E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/2, the secretariat's recommendations regarding the strategic direction and functioning of the Committee are reviewed and updated in light of the requests and recommendations of the Committee at its third session and of the Commission in its resolution 70/5, including the request to the secretariat to prepare a feasibility study on a permanent bureau of the Committee, together with proposed terms of reference for such a bureau. The note by the secretariat, issued as document E/ESCAP/CTI(3)/7/Rev.1, will be recirculated as information note, E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/INF/4, for the convenience of the Committee.

- (c) **Consideration of the feasibility and desirability of convening a periodic Asia-Pacific ministerial-level conference in the area of trade and investment**

**Annotation**

In resolution 70/5, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to study the feasibility of convening every four years, starting in 2016, a conference at the ministerial level to review recent developments and adopt regional action plans in the area of trade and investment and other related areas for implementation by Governments of ESCAP members and associate members and by the secretariat of ESCAP, and to submit to the Committee at its next session a report with recommendations on the convening of a ministerial-level conference. Document E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/3 contains information on the feasibility of organizing a ministerial conference and proposals for consideration by the Committee.

- (d) **Regional cooperation, research and analysis, and capacity-building initiatives in response to requests contained in the resolution**

**Annotation**

In resolution 70/5, the Commission made various requests to the Executive Secretary in the area of trade and investment, which can be grouped into three modalities of implementation: regional cooperation, capacity-building (technical assistance) and research and analysis. Document E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/4 provides an overview, for review by the Committee, of the recent activities and initiatives of the secretariat in this area on the basis of these modalities, except for those activities and initiatives under the regional institutions, which will be covered under agenda item 6. Document

E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/4 also provides the secretariat with guidance on the future direction of the activities and initiatives. The Committee will also be invited to propose other regional initiatives and research or capacity-building activities which would help member countries pursue trade and investment for inclusive and sustainable development.

**(e) Engaging the business sector**

**Annotation**

Under this agenda item, the Committee will review the modalities of ESCAP to engage the business sector in achieving sustainable development. For this purpose, document E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/5 contains a review of the work of and results achieved by the ESCAP Business Advisory Council and the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and of their future direction as the principal modalities, together with the Asia-Pacific Business Forum, for the secretariat and ESCAP member States to engage with the private/business sector with a view to strengthening those modalities. The Committee will also be briefed (a) on the revised terms of reference for the ESCAP Business Advisory Council and the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network as adopted by the ESCAP Business Advisory Council at its ninth meeting in May 2015, (b) on the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2014, as contained in information note E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/INF/5, and (c) on the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2015, to be held on 3 November 2015. Subject to their availability, representatives of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council and of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network will be invited to make a presentation, under this agenda item.

**6. Reports on activities of the regional institutions**

**(a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology**

**(b) Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization**

**Documentation**

Report on activities of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/6)

Report on activities of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/7)

**Annotation**

The Committee will have before it reports on activities of both Centres. The Committee may wish to take note of the reports.

**7. Implementation of Commission resolutions 68/3, 70/1, 70/4 and 70/6 and consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-second session**

**Documentation**

Implementation of Commission resolutions 68/3 and 70/6 (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/8)

Implementation of Commission resolution 70/1 (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/9)

Implementation of Commission resolution 70/4 (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/10)

**Annotation**

The Committee will review the status of implementation of the following Commission resolutions: 68/3 on enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable intraregional trade facilitation; 70/1 on implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific (with regard to relevant provisions in the Bangkok Declaration regarding market integration); 70/4 on promoting sustainable agricultural development in Asia and the Pacific through technology transfer; and 70/6 on implementation of the decision of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade. The Committee will also review a decision with regard to the establishment of a permanent bureau of the Committee. The Committee may consider any additional proposal for decisions or resolutions as appropriate.

**8. Consideration of the future focus of the trade and investment subprogramme**

Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the focus of the future work of the secretariat in the area of trade and investment for the planning of the strategic framework of the subprogramme for the biennium 2018-2019.

**9. Other matters**

The Committee may wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

**10. Adoption of the report**

**Documentation**

Draft report (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/L.2)

**Annotation**

The Committee will be invited to consider and adopt the report on its fourth session for submission to the Commission at its seventy-second session, to be held in 2016.