



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Seventy-second session**

Bangkok, 15-19 May 2016

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Management issues: proposed programme changes
for the biennium 2016-2017****Programme changes for the biennium 2016-2017****Note by the secretariat*****Summary*

The present document contains the proposed changes to the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 (A/70/6 (Sect. 19)), for which a legislative decision of the Commission is sought.

The proposed changes are designed mainly to address new mandates adopted after the Commission's endorsement of the programme of work for 2016-2017.

The Commission may note that the proposed changes will contribute to the achievement of the expected accomplishments and have no additional regular programme budget implications.

The Commission may wish to consider the proposed changes with a view to endorsing them for incorporation in the programme of work for 2016-2017.

* E/ESCAP/72/L.1.

** The present document was submitted late owing to the need to verify the proposed changes against existing resolutions.

Proposed programme changes for the biennium 2016-2017

<i>Output in the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017</i>	<i>Proposed change</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Subprogramme 1. Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development		
Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:		
(c) Improved capacity of member States, particularly countries with special needs, to design and implement development policies for achieving the development agenda beyond 2015 (as and when approved by the General Assembly) and other internationally agreed development goals, including gender equality		
Field projects:		
	<i>Added:</i> Fostering the economic diversification of landlocked developing countries (2016-2017) (RB/XB) (1)	In its resolution 71/3 on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 (General Assembly resolution 69/137, annex II) into the programme of work of the Commission, as appropriate, and within its respective mandate, and to provide all possible assistance to the Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. The Vienna Programme of Action (section V, priority 5) identifies economic diversification as key to structural economic transformation.
Subprogramme 3. Transport		
Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:		
(c) Increased capacity of ESCAP member States and the private sector to initiate and implement measures to improve the efficiency of international transport operations and logistics		
Ad hoc expert groups:		
Expert group meeting on integrated use of a single window for trade and transport facilitation (2017) (RB) (1)	<i>Deleted</i>	The activity was completed in the biennium 2014-2015.
	<i>Added:</i> Expert group meeting on developing a framework for integrated intermodal transport as a key enabler for sustainable development among ESCAP member States (2017) (RB/XB) (1)	In its resolution 71/6 on maritime transport connectivity for sustainable development, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to further strengthen ways of cooperation to enhance capacities at the national and regional levels in building intermodal transport for the Asia-Pacific region, in particular maritime transport. In its resolution

<i>Output in the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017</i>	<i>Proposed change</i>	<i>Justification</i>
		71/8 on strengthening intraregional and interregional connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority to developing comprehensive and seamless connectivity of the region, with a focus on the development of maritime, rail, road, air and intermodal/multimodal transport, and to provide the necessary support for the harmonization of laws, regulations, standards and documents relating to regional connectivity.

Subprogramme 4. Environment and development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:

(b) Improved capacity of local and national governments and major stakeholder to operationalize environment and development policymaking and energy security, water resources management and urban development policies, including their gender dimension, in the context of the development agenda beyond 2015 (as and when approved by the General Assembly) and the sustainable development goals

Field projects:

<i>Added</i> Regional cooperation on the greening of economic growth to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (2016-2017) (RB/XB) (1)	In its resolution 67/3 on the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific and in its resolution 69/9 on implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme towards voluntary follow-up to the Rio+20 outcome “The future we want”, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to support the implementation of the provisions of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2010, and of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme. The proposed field project, following on from the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth, will contribute towards the attainment of the expected accomplishment by continuing to support capacity development for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region.
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<i>Output in the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017</i>	<i>Proposed change</i>	<i>Justification</i>
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Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:

(c) Enhanced regional cooperation frameworks and networks of local and national governments and major stakeholders with respect to environment and development policymaking and energy security, water resources management and urban development policies, including their gender dimensions

Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings:

<i>Added</i> Water Task Force on Regional-level Coordination (2016, 2017) (RB/XB) (2)	In its meeting held on 18 and 19 September 2003, the High-level Committee on Programmes established UN-Water as the inter-agency mechanism for follow-up of the water-related decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals concerning water. In October 2003, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination endorsed that decision. Effective system-wide action and inter-agency collaboration at the regional level, led by the United Nations regional commissions is an integral part of the functions of UN-Water.
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Subprogramme 7. Statistics

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat:

(a) Enhanced awareness of member States of effective strategy and policy options for inclusive and sustainable development, including gender equality, in Asia and the Pacific, through increased availability of relevant statistical products and services

Technical materials:

<i>Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Journal (2)</i>	<i>Deleted</i>	The output will be integrated in the <i>Asia-Pacific Development Journal</i> (under subprogramme 1 (b) other substantive activities, (i) recurrent publications). The proposed deletion will allow the Secretariat to place greater focus on the <i>Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific</i> .
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