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Committee on Social Development

Second session

Bangkok, 19-21 October 2010

Provisional Agenda with Annotations

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the second session of the Committee on Social Development (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Review of regional trends and emerging issues in the field of social development, particularly social protection for the most vulnerable social groups.
5. Thematic focus: Mainstreaming disability into the regional development agenda in Asia and the Pacific:
 - (a) Mainstreaming disability into the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
 - (b) Mainstreaming disability into national economic and social development plans and strategies;
 - (c) Mainstreaming disability into infrastructure-building and information and communications technology;
 - (d) Women with disabilities;
 - (e) Children with disabilities.

6. Review of the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region.
7. Preparations for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012.
8. Consideration of future programme focus.
9. Consideration of draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

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

2. Election of officers

The Committee will elect a chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CSD(2)/L.1)

The Committee will adopt its provisional agenda, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

4. Review of regional trends and emerging issues in the field of social development, particularly social protection for the most vulnerable social groups

Documentation

Regional trends and emerging issues in the field of social development, particularly social protection for the most vulnerable social groups (E/ESCAP/CSD(2)/1)

The Committee will review regional trends and emerging issues in the field of social development, particularly the experiences of countries in the development and implementation of social protection policies and programmes. As background, the Committee will have before it document E/ESCAP/CSD(2)/1, which examines recent developments in the strengthening of social protection policies and programmes targeting the most vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities. Inter- and intracountry disparities and the emergence of new risks and vulnerabilities, including

the impact of the economic crisis, climate change, and food and energy security issues, present serious challenges for families, communities and Governments. Countries in the ESCAP region have adopted a variety of social protection strategies aimed at attenuating the impact of these new risks. The document analyses these risks and the responses by countries of the region that target the most vulnerable groups, particularly people with disabilities.

5. Thematic focus: Mainstreaming disability into the regional development agenda in Asia and the Pacific

- (a) Mainstreaming disability into the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
- (b) Mainstreaming disability into national economic and social development plans and strategies
- (c) Mainstreaming disability into infrastructure-building and information and communications technology
- (d) Women with disabilities
- (e) Children with disabilities

Documentation

Mainstreaming disability into the regional development agenda in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CSD(2)/2)

The concerns of persons with disabilities cut across many sectors, requiring multisectoral and multiministerial involvement and actions. Document E/ESCAP/CSD(2)/2 reviews the extent to which disability concerns have been integrated into national laws, policies and plans. It also reviews recent efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to mainstream disability into Millennium Development Goal monitoring processes as well as sector-specific areas, such as infrastructure-building, including the implementation of laws and regulations on the universal design approach, and information and communications technology. Finally, the document highlights the challenges of multiple discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities.

The Committee may wish to share good practices in the above-mentioned areas and provide the secretariat with guidance on the future direction of its work, including possible outputs that could be reflected in the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013.

6. Review of the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region

Documentation

Report on the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region (E/ESCAP/CSD(2)/3)

The Committee may wish to review the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region. The Convention, which was adopted on 13 December 2006 and entered into force on 3 May 2008, is the first disability-specific international treaty to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. As of 7 June 2010, 145 governments had signed the Convention, with 87 having ratified it. In the Asia-Pacific region, 30 governments have signed the Convention, and 18 have confirmed, ratified or acceded to it.

Document E/ESCAP/CSD(2)/3 provides background as a basis for the Committee's deliberations. The document analyses the progress made by ESCAP member States in aligning their domestic legislation with the Convention and analyses the key barriers and challenges to the effective implementation of the Convention. The Committee's attention will also be drawn to the importance of international cooperation, including disability-inclusive international development programmes, which plays a major role in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.

7. Preparations for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012

Documentation

Report of the Expert Group Meeting-cum-Stakeholder Consultation to Review the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012: The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, Bangkok, 23-25 June 2010 (E/ESCAP/CSD(2)/4)

The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, will be held in the year 2012, as mandated by the Commission in its resolutions 64/8 on regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, 65/3 on the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, and 66/11 on regional preparations for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012. The Meeting is expected to have a profound impact in determining the course and direction of regional cooperation to facilitate the realization of the rights and development of persons with disabilities beyond 2012.

As the stakes are high, every effort will need to be made to ensure that the preparatory process for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting is undertaken in an effective and inclusive manner so that the Meeting is successfully organized and yields concrete results, including the adoption of a strategic outcome document.

The Committee will have before it, as background for its deliberations, the report of the Expert Group Meeting-cum-Stakeholder Consultation to Review the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012: The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, Bangkok, 23-25 June 2010 (E/ESCAP/CSD(2)/4).

The report will provide the Committee with recommendations on: (a) a proposed agenda for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting; (b) the proposed documentation for the Meeting; and (c) options for the proclamation of a new decade of disabled persons covering the period 2013-2022 to accelerate action to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region. On the basis of its review and consideration, the Committee may wish to submit its recommendations on the above-mentioned areas to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session for a final decision.

8. Consideration of future programme focus

Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to provide guidance on the focus of the short- and longer-term work of the secretariat in the area of social development, taking into account the programme direction and priorities outlined in the strategic framework for 2010-2011 and the draft strategic framework for 2012-2013, as endorsed by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session.

The Committee may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance to enable the full integration of the outcome of deliberations at the present session into the planning and implementation of the secretariat's work programme.

9. Consideration of draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session

Under this agenda item, the Committee may wish to circulate, in advance, proposals and/or texts of draft resolutions on priority issues relating to social development for the consideration of the Commission at its sixty-seventh session.

10. Other matters

The Committee may wish to consider and decide on the thematic focus of its third session, to be convened in 2012. It may also wish to consider any other matters brought to its attention.

11. Adoption of the report

The Committee on Social Development will consider and adopt the report on its second session for submission to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session.
