



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Committee on Managing Globalization

Fourth session, Part II
19-21 November 2007
Bangkok

**PROGRAMME PLANNING AND EVALUATION: PERSPECTIVES ON “MANAGING
GLOBALIZATION” AS A THEME FOR REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL
DIALOGUE ON ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND
INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY**

(Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda)

Note by the secretariat

SUMMARY

In its resolution 63/3 of 23 May 2007, the Commission decided to defer the review of its conference structure, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, to its sixty-fourth session. In that regard, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate an effective process of consultation among members and associate members on a comprehensive and thorough review of the conference structure of the Commission, and to report on the outcomes of those consultations to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session.

The present document lists key issues pertaining to the mandated review of the conference structure, and summarizes views on the functioning of the Committee on Managing Globalization, Part II, as expressed through questionnaires completed by delegations attending its third session, held in 2006.

As an integral part of the mandated consultative process, the Committee is invited to provide perspectives on “managing globalization” as a theme for regional intergovernmental dialogue on environment and sustainable development and information, communication and space technology.

Background

1. The conference structure forms the basis for the functioning of ESCAP and is the main governance mechanism for ensuring that the work of the Commission reflects the needs and priorities of its membership (see annex).

2. The three thematic committees on poverty reduction, managing globalization and emerging social issues were established in 2002. In 2006, to ensure that key sectoral issues could be addressed effectively within a thematic framework, the sessions of the Committee on Managing Globalization were divided into two segments: Part I on trade and investment, and transport and tourism, and Part II on information, communication and space technology (ICST), and environment and sustainable development.

I. CURRENT REVIEW OF THE CONFERENCE STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION

3. In its resolution 63/3 of 23 May 2007, the Commission decided to defer the review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure to its sixty-fourth session. In that regard, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate an effective process of consultation among members and associate members on a comprehensive and thorough review of the conference structure of the Commission, and to report on the outcomes of those consultations to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session.

4. The adoption of resolution 63/3 was preceded by extensive consultations in the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission. From those consultations, it was felt that (a) unsatisfactory attendance from capitals, (b) unfocused agendas and (c) a lack of concrete outcomes from meetings were issues that were interlinked and would need to be addressed by member States in their review of the conference structure.

II. FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMITTEE ON MANAGING GLOBALIZATION, PART II

5. At the previous session of the Committee on Managing Globalization, Part II, held in October 2006, evaluation questionnaires were circulated and completed by attending delegations.

6. Overall, the feedback was positive. About half of the respondents “fully agreed” that they benefited from the policy discussions during the Committee session.

7. Regarding the format of the session, about half of the respondents “fully agreed” that the agenda items were timely and relevant. One third of the respondents agreed that pre-session documents were distributed in a timely manner.

8. Delegations suggested improving future sessions of the Committee by (a) distributing meeting materials in a timely manner to allow for consultation with capitals, (b) considering options for increasing the representation of member States at Committee sessions, such as how support could be

provided to enable least developed countries to attend the sessions, (c) ensuring that the report of the session reflects discussions, rather than secretariat positions and (d) focusing on the agenda.

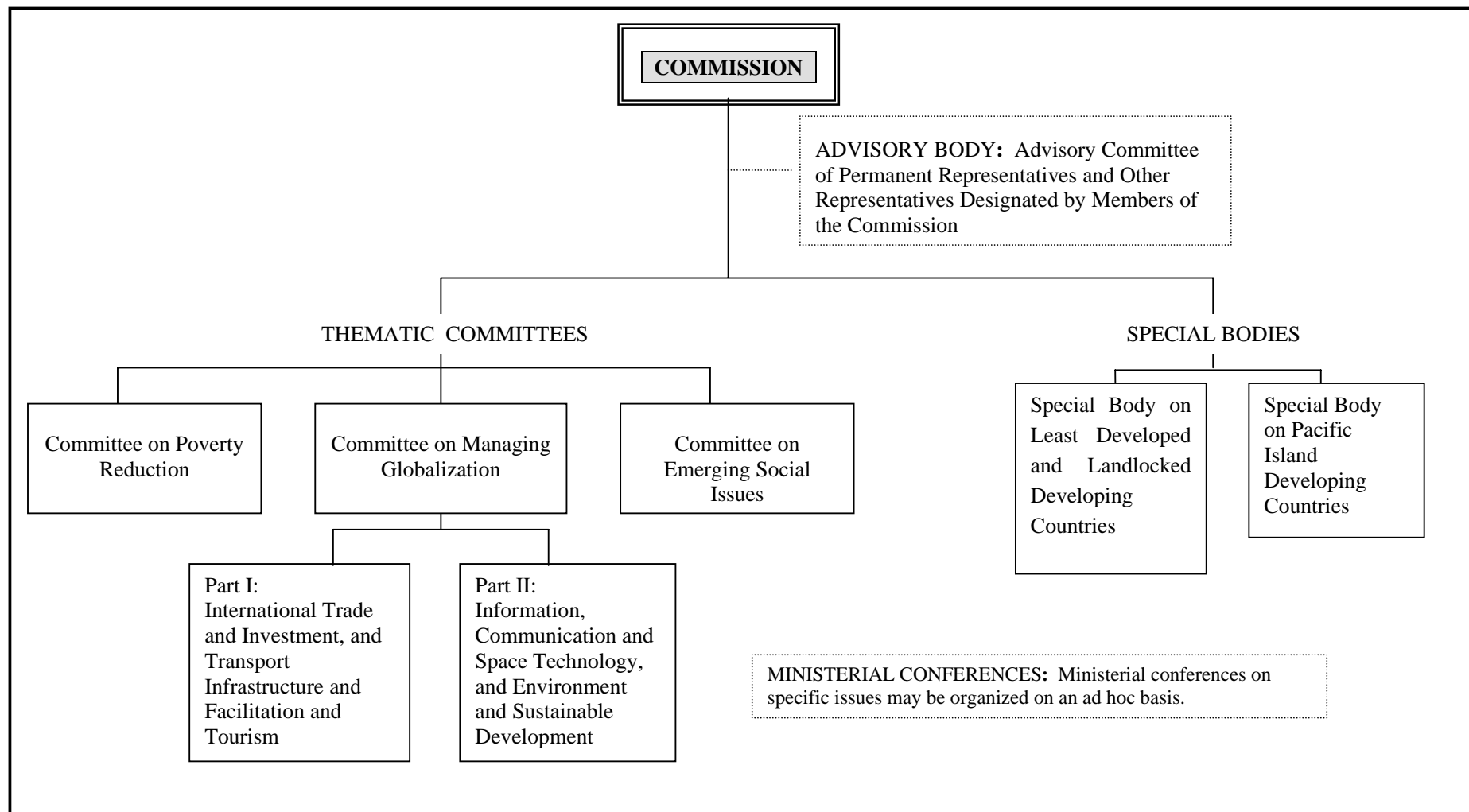
III. CONCLUSION

9. It is essential that ESCAP continue reform to enhance the relevance and impact of its work in terms of concrete outcomes that benefit member States. In that regard, the Committee is invited to provide its perspectives on “managing globalization” as a theme for regional intergovernmental dialogue on environment and sustainable development and information, communication and space technology, with particular emphasis on its effectiveness in terms of (a) sharing experiences on environment and sustainable development and ICST, (b) providing the secretariat with guidance on implementing related segments of the programme of work, and (c) recommending to the Commission any future work on environment and sustainable development and ICST.

10. Further, bearing in mind the ongoing consultations to review the entire conference structure of ESCAP, the Committee may wish to deliberate on modalities to (a) better reflect the needs and priorities of member States in the agenda of future sessions of the Committee, possibly by sharpening the focus of the thematic areas, (b) ensure more interactive exchanges and in-depth discussions at future sessions of the Committee and (c) strengthen the contribution of the Committee to the sessions of the Commission.

11. In addition to views expressed by the Committee, individual delegations are invited to provide further ideas and suggestions through the evaluation questionnaire, which has been circulated to all delegations. The completed questionnaires will be collected by the secretariat at the end of the Committee session.

Annex
CONFERENCE STRUCTURE OF ESCAP*



* The present conference structure was introduced through resolution 61/1 of 18 May 2005 on the mid-term review concerning the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission.