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**EMERGING ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL:
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

(Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda)

**REVIEW OF THE OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL MEETING
ON ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Commission, at its fifty-sixth session, recalled the need to move towards sustainable patterns of production, distribution and use of energy, as stressed in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, held in June 1997. The Commission also noted the call by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1999/60 of 30 July 1999 on preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, on energy issues, to be held in 2001, for governments to participate actively in and contribute to the preparatory process. Against this background, the Commission decided to hold a high-level regional meeting on energy for sustainable development at which it would, inter alia, prepare regional perspectives on issues specific to the region, and welcomed the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the Meeting.

2. In preparation for the High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development, the background documents were reviewed by the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Strategic Planning towards a Sustainable Energy Future: Policy Options, Barriers and Action Plan, held in Bangkok from 18 to 20 September 2000. The meeting was attended by experts, governments, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and other entities. Suggestions for improvements were incorporated in the official documents for the High-level Meeting.

3. With host facilities provided by the Government of Indonesia and support from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Meeting was successfully held in Bali, Indonesia from 21 to 24 November 2000. Two associated events to promote multi-stakeholder participation were held: (a) the NGO (non-governmental organization) Symposium on Regional Perspectives and Initiatives on Achieving a Sustainable Energy Future for All; and (b) the Regional Business Forum. Representatives of these associated events reported to the Meeting on the outcome of their deliberations with respect to the Sustainable Energy Development Programme for the Asian and Pacific Region, 2001-2005; improvements were then made to the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme, Strategies and Implementation Modalities for the Asian and Pacific Region, 2001-2005.

II. OUTCOME

4. The High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development adopted the Bali Declaration on Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Energy and Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme, Strategies and Implementation Modalities for the Asian and Pacific Region, 2001-2005. The two initiatives will serve as a guide and mandates for all stakeholders to move towards sustainable energy.

5. The adoption of the Bali Declaration on Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Energy and Sustainable Development reaffirms the commitment of the members and associate members of ESCAP to accelerate their efforts to move towards a paradigm that would meet the needs of future generation in

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a sustainable manner. It highlights the priorities of the Asian and Pacific region: (a) the accessibility of energy; (b) renewable energy; (c) rural energy; (d) energy efficiency; (e) the mobilization of financial resources; (f) technology transfer; (g) market reform and energy pricing; and (h) international and regional cooperation and assistance.

6. The Meeting requested the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and the Chairperson of the Meeting to bring the Declaration to the attention of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its ninth session in April 2001 as a regional input.

7. The mission statement of the Action Programme is “to enhance the capacity of concerned stakeholders in developing sustainable energy development strategies under which energy services can be expanded and improved with a minimum compromise on environmental quality”. It lays out the short- and long-term measures to be taken, together with strategies and implementation modalities to attain this goal. The main areas for action are:

- (a) Developing policies to promote energy utilization for poverty alleviation;
- (b) Strengthening planning capacity in sustainable energy development by establishing clear linkages to other sectors;
- (c) Promoting the implementation of a supply- and demand-side energy efficiency programme in the region;
- (d) Promoting the application of renewable and other clean energy technologies in the region;
- (e) Promoting and assisting a dedicated global project to create 100 per cent renewable energy in the small island developing states of the region;
- (f) Mobilizing financial resources from traditional sources and the private sector.

8. The Meeting emphasized that the Action Programme should be implemented effectively and to that end members and associate members and international organizations, civil society, the business community and other stakeholders would enhance their concerted efforts to achieve the goal of sustainable energy development.

9. The Meeting requested international organizations and other entities to assist countries of the region in their capacity-building and in facilitating technology transfer in order to implement sustainable energy activities.

III. ASSESSMENT

10. Despite having had a very short preparation time and having lacked initial financial resources, the Meeting was attended by a large number of representatives of governments, organizations of the United Nations system, international organizations and civil society. The secretariat promoted a

multi-stakeholder dialogue through the NGO Symposium, the Regional Business Forum and informal consultative meetings. The inclusion of the views of these stakeholders in the Action Programme widened the sense of ownership of it.

11. The NGO Symposium was supported by the United Nations Development Programme, the Government of Japan and the United Nations Environment Programme. The outcome of the Symposium was a document entitled “NGO Perspectives on the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme for the Asia-Pacific Region”, which will be widely circulated to concerned NGOs and other stakeholders. The document outlines actions to be taken by NGOs towards achieving a sustainable energy future for all and is expected to be submitted to the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2001, as the contribution from NGOs of the region.

12. The Regional Business Forum, organized by the governments of Indonesia and Australia, prepared its own recommendations to promote sustainable development.

13. The Meeting received substantial attention from the media. An article by the Executive Secretary was published in the *Far Eastern Economic Review* and several newspapers in Indonesia and Thailand put the meeting in their news coverage as a result of the two press conferences organized by the United Nations Information Services and other information materials made available to the media.

IV. ISSUES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMISSION

14. The Commission may wish to consider the outcomes of the High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development and endorse the proposed follow-up activities.

15. In particular, the Commission is requested to guide the secretariat in the implementation of the Action Programme by indicating the priority areas, needs and resources which could be made available towards its implementation at the regional and national levels.

16. The Commission may wish to consider urging ESCAP members and associate members and concerned stakeholders, such as intergovernmental organizations, international agencies and civil society organizations, to formulate a detailed plan for the implementation of the Action Programme and assist the secretariat in mobilizing resources for its execution. The Commission may also wish to urge members and associate members to take appropriate measures to meet the commitments made by them in the Bali Declaration by implementing activities at the national level.