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

Bangkok, 15-19 May 2016

Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure  
 of the Commission, including the work of the regional  
 institutions: trade and investment**
**Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on  
 its fourth session**
*Summary*

The Committee on Trade and Investment held its fourth session in Bangkok from 4 to 6 November 2015. The Committee reviewed recent developments in trade and investment and related policy issues, and made a number of recommendations with regard to the work of the Trade and Investment Division towards inclusive and sustainable trade and investment and the promotion of regional integration and cooperation that are presented in section I of the present report.

The Commission may wish to review the present report, endorse the proposed recommendations and provide the secretariat with guidance regarding its future work.

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## **I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention**

1. The Committee recognizes its importance as a forum for discussing emerging global and regional trends and developments in trade and investment and identifying modalities for regional cooperation, integration and connectivity for the achievement of sustainable development through trade and investment.

2. While the Committee generally supports the establishment of a permanent bureau, it notes the reservations expressed by one delegation regarding its effectiveness and potential redundancy with respect to existing structures such as the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission. Questions regarding clarification of the terms of reference, including election of members and roles and responsibilities, were sought. It agrees that the secretariat will reformulate the terms of reference of the permanent bureau for future discussion by member States. The Committee requests that member States provide further written inputs to the secretariat for this purpose. Finally, it was suggested that the bureau focus on one or two selected core areas.

3. The Committee does not support the convening of periodic ministerial level conferences in the area of trade and investment and agrees that such conferences can be organized on an ad-hoc basis as needed.

4. The Committee calls for further strengthening and expansion of the work of the secretariat in research and analysis, capacity-building and regional cooperation in the area of trade and investment with particular focus on the needs of least developed and landlocked developing countries, and also calls for the promotion of South-South cooperation.

5. The Committee encourages a leveraging of the secretariat's knowledge products in trade and investment through continued networking and the uptake of new technologies to expand the secretariat's reach, including through massive open online courses and other online course facilities.

6. The Committee expresses support for the secretariat's efforts to engage the business sector through the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Business Advisory Council, the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and the Asia-Pacific Business Forum.

7. The Committee expresses support for the work of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and requests that the work of these institutions be expanded so that they can effectively address countries' needs in areas relevant to their work.

8. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the secretariat for its work in trade facilitation covering both the negotiations on a regional arrangement on cross-border paperless trade and capacity-building in this area and other areas of trade facilitation, such as single window systems and customs procedures, and requests that the secretariat continue its capacity-building activities in those areas and other areas of trade and investment work.

## II. Summary of proceedings

### A. Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2015

(Agenda item 4)

9. The Committee had before it the *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2015: Supporting Participation in Value Chains*<sup>1</sup> and a note by the secretariat containing a summary of the *Report* (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/1). The Director of the Trade and Investment Division presented the findings of the *Report*.

10. The Committee's deliberations on the theme topic of the *Report*, "Asia-Pacific participation in value chains: the role of trade and investment policies", took the form of a panel discussion, which was moderated by the Executive Secretary.

11. The panel consisted of the following panellists: Mr. Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce, Bangladesh; Mr. Sarath Amunugama, Minister of Special Assignments, Sri Lanka; Mr. Patrick Low, Asia Global Institute, University of Hong Kong; Mr. Stanley Kang, Chair, Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce, Thailand; and Mr. Raed Safadi, Executive Director, Department of Economic Development, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

12. The main observations and conclusions resulting from the panel discussion were as follows:

(a) Least developed countries generally speaking were not yet effectively integrated into global value chains, which was partly due to persisting barriers to their trade, though some, such as Bangladesh, had been successful in selected areas in the ready-made garment sector. There was also a need for further diversification of the export products and markets of least developed countries, but capacity-building for this purpose was required. In addition, trading partners of least developed countries should fully implement trade facilitation measures and accord duty- and quota-free access for exports from these countries;

(b) The development of a motivated and educated work force, the establishment and development of recognized brands or linking domestic production to global brands, the development of technology and of small and medium-sized enterprises, trade facilitation, and forging effective regional linkages and connectivity through the conclusion of free and preferential trade agreements could be important modalities for expanding the integration of countries' enterprises into global and regional value chains. It was also observed that policy reforms need to address the development of whole supply chains, including harmonization and development of capacity to conform to international product standards;

(c) However, while it was recognized that preferential regional trade agreements, in particular so-called "mega-regionals" such as the

<sup>1</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.15.II.F.15.

Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, can contribute to regional dynamism and integration, they are no panacea for economic growth and are often driven by geopolitics. While many such agreements contain provisions that can be multilateralized, they can still be inherently discriminatory and inefficient, adding to the costs of doing business due to the existence of competing and overlapping rules. Such agreements often fail to effectively integrate least developed countries and should pay more attention to the need for capacity-building;

(d) A strengthening of the multilateral trading system and the World Trade Organization (WTO) as well as a speedy conclusion to the Doha Development Round with an effective development outcome was considered best, in particular for least developed countries, but this requires political will on the part of WTO members. It was also observed that decisions and agreements made by WTO members should be duly implemented;

(e) It was observed that services significantly contribute to global economic growth and trade and often underpin manufacturing industries and thus are embedded in goods. Therefore, developing countries should strengthen productivity and competitiveness in their services industry through the liberalization of the import and export of services;

(f) It was observed that public-private sector collaboration and partnerships are important for economic development, though public policy is often slow to keep pace with developments in the private sector. In this regard, the public sector requires a change in mindset and needs to pursue increased openness and competition. Governments should also support development of e-commerce and provide support to startups and for innovation.

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

(Agenda item 5)

13. The Committee had before it the following documents: “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; and “Feasibility and desirability of a periodic Asia-Pacific ministerial conference on trade and investment” (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/3).

14. Following an introduction by the Director of the Trade and Investment Division, statements were made by the representatives of the following countries: Bangladesh; Bhutan; India; Japan; Pakistan; Republic of Korea; and Russian Federation.

15. The Committee recognized the important role it plays in facilitating discussion of emerging global and regional trends and developments in trade and investment and identifying modalities for regional cooperation, integration and connectivity for the achievement of sustainable development through trade and investment. Committee members expressed their support for a robust open trade and investment regime and the elimination of burdensome barriers to trade.

16. The Committee was informed of the comprehensive reforms and policy measures implemented in countries such as Bhutan, India and Pakistan for the promotion of trade and investment and regional cooperation in this area, in the context of achieving sustainable development.

17. The Committee generally supported the implementation of the secretariat's recommendations for enhancing the strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on a step-by-step basis, including the establishment of a permanent bureau. In this context, the delegation of the Russian Federation proposed that the election of a permanent bureau take place at the end of a Committee session rather than at the beginning, that the bureau should focus on a maximum of two core areas for intergovernmental discussion and that the bureau remain primarily accountable to the Committee.

18. The delegation of India called for the formulation of a specific programme of work of the bureau, including preparation for an action plan aimed at forging synergies among regional trade and investment agreements. The delegation further proposed that the Committee should set specific goals and action plans for long-term region-wide agreements on specific trade- and investment-related topics. It also proposed that the Committee explore ways and means for resource mobilization, in particular for trade facilitation, as part of the bureau's strategic direction.

19. The delegation of Japan expressed reservations on the establishment of a permanent bureau, as such a bureau could prove to be more cumbersome and create an additional layer of communication. The delegation also asked to what extent this could be handled under existing structures, such as the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission. The delegation also noted that it was not clear what the role of the bureau in intersessional decision-making would be, while the financial implications of establishing the bureau would also need further clarification. In this context, it requested a further elaboration of the terms of reference of the bureau.

20. The Committee agreed that further discussion on the permanent bureau was necessary. The secretariat would reformulate the terms of reference of the permanent bureau for future discussion by member States and requested inputs from member States for this purpose.

21. The delegation of the Russian Federation supported the strategic direction as outlined by the secretariat, with the exception of the promotion of trade and investment in low-carbon goods and services. The delegation stated that as a focus area for the Committee, this could be used to promote discrimination regarding trade and investment through the imposition of trade-restrictive measures.

22. The delegation also informed the Committee of its support for regional integration and recounted its efforts to enhance trade and investment cooperation and integration between Siberia and the Far East region of the Federation and the rest of the Asia-Pacific region.

23. The delegation called for a strengthening of WTO and expressed its opposition to unjustified trade protection and sanctions imposed for political purposes.

24. The delegation also called for a reduction in costs in intraregional trade and expressed its support for the work of the secretariat in this regard. In this context, it informed the Committee of the success of the Eurasian Economic Union in deepening economic cooperation among its member States and enhancing mutually advantageous trade and transit flows.

25. The delegation of Bangladesh requested more attention to gender equality issues and requested that the Committee also address issues related to the improved movement of labour in the context of trade and investment cooperation.

26. The Committee did not support the convening of periodic ministerial-level conferences in the area of trade and investment and agreed that such conferences could be organized on an ad hoc basis as needed.

27. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/4, entitled "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".

28. Following an introduction by the Director of the Trade and Investment Division, and presentations of the activities in each of its substantive areas, statements were made by the representatives of the following countries: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Nepal; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Thailand; and Viet Nam.

29. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for its substantive technical assistance and capacity-building in the area of trade and investment and trade facilitation. In this context, the delegation of Japan expressed its appreciation for the work on capacity-building of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Greater Mekong Subregion for integration into global value chains under a Japanese funded project, as well as on the publication of the Myanmar Business Survey for which the Government had provided not only financial contribution but also a substantive contribution. The delegation expressed the desire that the secretariat continue its work through the Asia-Pacific Business Forum and the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network.

30. The delegation of the Russian Federation expressed its support in favour of the secretariat's regional cooperation initiatives in trade and investment, in particular in the area of trade facilitation, and congratulated the secretariat on successfully convening the intergovernmental meeting and working groups on a regional arrangement for the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade in Asia and the Pacific.

31. The delegation of India called on the secretariat to expand its capacity-building for least developed and landlocked developing countries, in particular in the area of trade negotiations and trade facilitation. The delegation proposed that technical assistance in the area of trade facilitation should pay due attention to the issue of resource mobilization for expediting trade facilitation reforms in countries that are resource deficient. The delegation further requested the secretariat to enhance its research and analysis of the development aspects of trade, such as modalities for technology transfer, and mechanisms within the framework of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health which affirm the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) regarding flexibilities to protect public health and, in particular, provide access to affordable medicines for all. The delegation requested the secretariat to enhance its identification of trade restrictions and distortions, including export subsidies, in agricultural trade.

32. The delegation of Indonesia expressed appreciation for the secretariat's briefing on the work undertaken which had practical impacts for what was happening on the ground. The delegation called for the secretariat to play a greater role in capacity-building and outreach in the area of trade and investment, with a particular focus on strengthening South-South cooperation in trade and investment, preferably using existing mechanisms.

The delegation called for collaboration between Indonesia and ESCAP in the area of capacity-building in trade and investment and supported continued work in South-South cooperation building on existing regional mechanisms.

33. The delegation of Nepal praised the knowledge products produced by the secretariat and called for more integration of these products across the areas of the subprogramme. It encouraged a leveraging of these products through continued networking and the uptake of new technologies to expand the secretariat's reach. In particular, massive open online courses and other online courses would enhance the outreach with regard to the secretariat's knowledge and expertise. The secretariat responded that an e-platform was being developed to bring the training and knowledge products of ESCAP to a wider audience but that in addition there was still scope for country-tailored training courses to respond to specific demands.

34. The delegation of Bangladesh called for enhanced country-based analysis of existing concessions on export products. It also called for the design of a multinational job card, or "manpower card", to increase the ease with which the flow of labour moved in the region, especially for least developed countries. In this context, the concern was expressed by the delegation of Thailand that security issues should be duly addressed under such an effort.

35. The delegation of the Philippines expressed appreciation for the *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report* and called for more research on modalities through which foreign direct investment (FDI) operated in the region. In particular, the delegation noted that information on the degree to which multinational corporations expand operations in existing markets and utilize local resources, such as banks, would be a useful addition to the report. The delegation further called for an analysis of economic opportunities in value addition in the context of global value chains.

36. The delegation of the Republic of Korea agreed that the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement provided, without any geopolitical baggage, a complementary mechanism for regional integration, in particular for the integration of marginalized countries through value chains. In addition, they recognized the important work that the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific was undertaking and called for a further strengthening of these capacity-building efforts.

37. The delegation of China commended the efforts of the secretariat in its work on trade facilitation and investment. They noted that this work was of primary importance to them and welcomed a strengthening of cooperation in this area. They inquired about the links between the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, on the one hand, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, on the other hand. The secretariat responded that the Trade Agreement had open-ended membership with relatively easy accession procedures and rules of origin and was one of the mechanisms for regional integration. As the details of the Trans-Pacific Partnership were not yet in the public domain and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership was still under negotiation, a detailed analysis of such linkages at this stage would be premature.

38. The delegation of Viet Nam expressed its appreciation for the *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report* and requested that an analysis be undertaken to identify the reasons behind the trends in increasing implementation of sanitary, phytosanitary and technical barriers to trade and the prospects for the next five years.

39. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran commented on the importance of the trade and investment activities of the secretariat and of the Committee and requested more details regarding the secretariat's work on investment. The secretariat responded that it had organized the annual Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment Network for Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and that a comprehensive training course on promotion and facilitation of FDI for sustainable development would be put online upon completion and would also be available in countries at their request to the secretariat for assistance in this area. The secretariat further informed the Committee of the need for resource mobilization in the area of investment.

40. The delegation of Cambodia requested that the Asia-Pacific FDI Network and the secretariat accord more attention to the involvement of least developed countries in new generation international investment agreements, including investment chapters in free and preferential trade agreements.

41. The Committee had before it the following documents: "Engaging the business sector: current activities and future direction of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council, the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and the Asia-Pacific Business Forum" (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/5); and "Outcome document of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2014" (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/INF/5).

42. Following an introduction by the secretariat and a presentation by a member of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council, a statement was made by the representative of the delegation of Japan.

43. The Committee expressed support for the secretariat's efforts to engage the business sector through the Council, the Network and the Forum. In that context, the delegation of Japan informed the Committee that its country would continue to make contributions to these efforts. The delegation also supported the secretariat's proposal for the Council, the Network and the Forum to brief the Commission and Committee during their sessions.

### **C. Reports on activities of the regional institutions**

(Agenda item 6)

44. The Committee had before it the following document: "Report on activities of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology" (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/6). The document was introduced by the Coordinator of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Centre.

45. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Bangladesh; India; Mongolia; and Philippines.

46. The Committee noted that FDI was an important modality for technology transfer provided that the receiving country had an adequate intellectual property rights system and the capacity to properly absorb the transferred technology.

47. The delegation of India observed that least developed countries would benefit from having national science and technology strategic plans and from adopting low-cost technologies to achieve sustainable development. In that regard, the delegation called for an expansion of the Centre's work within the context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and pledged the continued support of its country to the Centre. The delegation expressed the hope that the resource base of the Centre could be widened with contributions from other countries and funding to expand its work programme.



48. The delegation of Mongolia observed that FDI was an important economic driver and the transfer of technology was an important part of its country's policy framework. The delegation requested information on how assistance was obtained in this area and was informed that the Centre could provide technical assistance.

49. The delegation of Bangladesh observed that often unhealthy technologies, such as pesticides, had been transferred to least developed countries and requested the secretariat to develop more sustainable pest management and control systems as well as fruit and vegetable preservation systems. The delegation also requested the secretariat to explore how least developed countries could increase their access to high-quality seeds.

50. The delegation of the Philippines inquired about the work of the secretariat on renewable energy and how related technologies could be transferred to its country. The Centre's representative responded that it had provided assistance to the Philippines and that the country could request additional technical assistance.

51. The Committee had before it the following document: "Report on activities of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization" (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/7). The document was introduced through a video link by the Head of the Centre.

52. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Bangladesh; China; and Philippines.

53. The delegation of China observed that sustainable agricultural mechanization was important for raising food productivity and addressing the effects of climate change. As host country, it expressed its appreciation, and full support, for the activities of the Centre. The delegation looked forward to a more robust and financially viable Centre in the year ahead so as to contribute to the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals.

54. The delegation of the Philippines informed the Committee about the country's efforts to promote sustainable agriculture and fisheries and emphasized the importance of mechanization in agricultural modernization and the need to ensure the safety and performance of agricultural machinery.

55. The delegation of Bangladesh recognized the contribution of agricultural mechanization to reducing hunger, but observed that there was a need to reduce costs and to develop mechanization modalities that could address the effects of climate change. It requested the assistance of the Centre in that area.

**D. 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**

(Agenda item 7)

56. The Committee had before it the following documents: "Implementation of resolutions 68/3 and 70/6" (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/8); "Implementation of Commission resolution 70/1" (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/9); and "Implementation of Commission resolution 70/4" (E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/10).

57. Following an introduction by the secretariat, statements were made by representatives of the following countries: China; Republic of Korea; and Russian Federation.

58. The Committee noted with appreciation the financial assistance provided by the Republic of Korea, including the trust fund it established in 2013 to support trade facilitation, including implementation of Commission resolution 68/3 and the work of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation under Commission resolution 70/6 and its pledge to continue financial support in this area.

59. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for its work on trade facilitation, covering both the negotiations on a regional arrangement on cross-border paperless trade and capacity-building in this area and other areas of trade facilitation. In that regard, the delegation of China noted the importance of capacity-building as a parallel effort in support of other areas of work, such as that on legislation.

60. The Committee noted the establishment of the Working Group on Formation of an Integrated Market in Asia and the Pacific under Commission resolution 70/1 and the progress made by the Working Group under the chairmanship of Nepal. The Working Group would report to the second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific.

61. The Committee was informed that in addition to the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, other regional institutions and divisions of ESCAP were involved in the implementation of Commission resolution 70/4.

**E. Consideration of the future focus of the trade and investment subprogramme**  
(Agenda item 8)

62. Following an introduction by the Director of the Trade and Investment Division and a presentation by the Director of the Strategy and Programme Management Division of ESCAP, the Committee deliberated on 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.

63. The Committee was informed that subject to General Assembly approval, science, technology and innovation would be incorporated into subprogramme 2 on trade and investment, while the work of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization would be incorporated into subprogramme 4 on environment and development.

64. The delegation of India requested that, in 2018-2019, subprogramme 2 focus on enhancing research and analysis of the development aspects of trade, such as modalities for technology transfer, and mechanisms within the framework of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health that affirm the right of developing countries to use – to the full – the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement regarding flexibilities to protect public health and, in particular, provide access to affordable medicines for all; and identification of trade restrictions and distortions, including export subsidies, in agricultural trade. The delegation further requested special attention for the needs of least developed and landlocked developing countries.

**F. Other matters**  
(Agenda item 9)

65. No other matters were discussed.

**G. Adoption of the report**

(Agenda item 10)

66. The Committee adopted the report on its fourth session on 6 November 2015.

**III. Organization of the session****A. Opening, duration and organization**

67. The Committee on Trade and Investment held its fourth session in Bangkok from 4 to 6 November 2015.

68. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP delivered a welcoming address.

69. Ms. Apiradi Tantraporn, Minister for Commerce of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address.

70. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP officially launched the *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2015*.

**B. Attendance**

71. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of ESCAP: Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kyrgyzstan; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Turkey; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam. Representatives of the following associate member also attended: Macao, China.

72. The following States also attended: Czech Republic; Egypt; Germany; and Switzerland. The following specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; Asia-Pacific Telecommunity; European Union; and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises.

73. A total of five panellists and 42 observers also attended.<sup>2</sup>

**C. Election of officers**

74. The following officers were elected:

Chair: Mr. Sorasak Pan (Cambodia)

Vice-Chair: Mr. Swarnim Wagle (Nepal)

Rapporteur: Mr. Sereeter Javkhlanbaatar (Mongolia)

**D. Agenda**

75. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the bureau.
3. Adoption of the agenda.

<sup>2</sup> See E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/INF/2.

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.

#### **E. Back-to-back events**

76. The following events were organized back-to-back with the fourth session of the Committee either as a preliminary event or as a side event of the Fourth Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Week: tenth session of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council and first meeting of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network (1 November 2015); Twelfth Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2015 (2-3 November 2015); fifth meeting of the Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment Network (2 November 2015); Regional Workshop on Harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development (2 November 2015); Expert Group Meeting on Trade Policies for Sustainable Development (3-4 November 2015); Capacity-building Workshop on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation (4 November 2015); Second meeting of the Legal and Technical Working Groups on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation (5-6 November 2015); and Asian Development Bank Institute/ESCAP Workshop on Research, Tools and Data for Evidence-based Trade Policymaking (5-6 November 2015).

## Annex

### List of documents

Document symbol	Document title	Agenda item
<i>General series</i>		
E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/1	Summary of the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2015	4 (a) and (b)
E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/2	Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Trade and Investment	5 (a) and (b)
E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/3	Feasibility and desirability of a periodic Asia-Pacific ministerial conference on trade and investment	5 (c)
E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/4	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	5 (d)
E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/5	Engaging the business sector: current activities and future direction of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council, the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network and the Asia-Pacific Business Forum	5 (e)
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<i>Information series</i>		
E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/INF/1	Information for participants	
E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/INF/2	List of participants	2
E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/INF/3	Tentative programme	1
E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/INF/4	Strategic direction and functioning of the Committee on Trade and Investment	5 (a) and (b)
E/ESCAP/CTI(4)/INF/5	Outcome document of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2014	5 (e)