

## Expert Group Meeting on Macroeconomic Prospects, Policy Challenges and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

30 November 2015

Meeting Room H, United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand

### DRAFT TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

One of the core elements of ESCAP work is to produce analytical reports which highlight policy options that Asia-Pacific countries can adopt to meet their development objectives. To ensure that ESCAP reports are high-quality and relevant, expert group meetings (EGMs) bring together eminent experts in the region and beyond to provide regional perspectives and in-depth country experiences on development issues. The meetings also help strengthen professional networks of development experts in the Asia-Pacific region.

<p><i>A review of ESCAP work on macroeconomic prospects and policy challenges</i></p> <p>The first three sessions of this EGM will discuss draft chapters of the <i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2016</i>, which focuses on macroeconomic developments and prospects, with a special theme on increasing productivity to revive economic growth and support sustainable development. The fourth and final session will review the <i>Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2016</i>, which tracks progress of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS towards their respective global programmes of action and will include two thematic chapters on implementation strategies for the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific CSNs.</p>	
08.15-08.45	Registration of participants (ground floor, UNCC)
08.45-09.00	<p><b>Welcome remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Aynul Hasan, Director, Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division</li> </ul>
09.00-10.30	<p><b>Presentation by the Secretariat</b> on draft chapter “Assessment of Economic Prospects”</p> <p>Discussion of the draft chapter</p> <p>This chapter will provide independent analysis of macroeconomic performance and outlook in the Asia-Pacific region. It will highlight key economic risks and challenges, with emphasis on domestic or regional issues. The chapter will also explore some of the region’s medium-term issues, such as growing household and corporate debt and rapid urbanization. Relevant policy options will be discussed for consideration of member countries.</p>
10.30-10.45	Tea/coffee break
10.45-12.15	<p><b>Presentation by the Secretariat</b> on draft chapter “Perspectives from Sub-regions”</p> <p>Discussion of the draft chapter</p> <p>In order to appreciate the diversity of the Asia-Pacific region, this chapter will provide a detailed sub-regional discussion of key economic and social developments and policy issues. For each sub-region, broad structural impediments</p>

	will be identified, followed by an analysis of a selected medium-term development challenges and an assessment of country-level macroeconomic prospects.
12.15-13.15	Lunch break
13.15-14.45	<p><b>Presentation by the Secretariat</b> on draft chapter “Increasing Productivity through Sustainable Development”</p> <p>Discussion of the draft chapter</p> <p>This thematic chapter will focus on the role of productivity in leading economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region. The chapter will highlight key trends in productivity and its contribution to output growth. It will identify changes in government policies and institutional framework that are required to enhance productivity. The chapter will argue that in addition to rebalancing to a more sustainable economic growth model, these policies would assist in attaining the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The chapter will show that investment in support of SDGs will improve productivity, enabling countries to benefit from a virtuous cycle between the SDGs and productivity.</p>
14.45-15.00	Tea/coffee break
15.00-17.00	<p><b>Presentation by the Secretariat</b> on draft report “Towards an Implementation Strategy to Reach the SDGs in Countries with Special Needs”</p> <p>Discussion of draft chapters</p> <p>A major difficulty for the implementation of the SDGs is the lack of clear road map or strategy. The 169 targets included in the SD Agenda provide a comprehensive way of tracking progress towards the SDGs, but they do not provide guidance about how to achieve them. Given limited budgetary resources, capacities, and access to technology – which are particularly acute for CSNs – there is a clear need for an implementation strategy to achieve the SDGs. The CSN Development Report 2016 will discuss the issue of implementation strategies for the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific CSNs through (i) an analytical framework; and (ii) a survey of expert opinion from a representative sample of Asia-Pacific CSNs.</p>
17.00-17.15	<b>Final discussion and close of the Expert Group Meeting</b>

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