
**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Eighteenth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of NEASPEC

5-6 November 2013
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Annotated Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting

Opening and welcoming remarks will be delivered by the Head of the UNESCAP East and North-East Asia Office and the Head of delegation of the Host Government, respectively.

2. Election of officers

A chairperson, a vice-chairperson and a rapporteur will be elected.

3. Adoption of agenda

The provisional agenda was drawn up by the Secretariat in accordance with the established practice of the previous sessions and in consultation with the Host Government.

4. Statements by delegations of member States, UN and international organizations on issues related to sustainable development in North-East Asia

The heads of national delegations and representatives of UN and international organizations will be invited to deliver their statements on policies, initiatives and proposals in relation to sustainable development in North-East Asia.

5. Review of programme planning and implementation

Documents for the following agenda items will be submitted to member States for the review of progress in developing and implementing activities of NEASPEC and decisions on possible follow-up activities:

- a) Transboundary Air Pollution: to review the outcomes of consultation after the SOM-17 on project proposal made by the Government of the Russian Federation and to make necessary decisions.

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- b) Mitigation of Dust and Sandstorms: to review the outcomes of the Training Workshop on Combatting Desertification (22-28 September 2013 in China) and to discuss about follow-up actions to further strengthen NEASPEC work on facilitating knowledge exchange on best practices and capacity building in North-East Asia.
 - c) Nature Conservation in Transboundary Areas: to review the outcomes of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the NEASPEC project “Conservation and Rehabilitation of Habitats for Key Migratory Birds in North-East Asia” (10-11 October 2013 in Incheon, Republic of Korea), and decisions to be made on actions proposed by the EGM.
 - d) Marine Protected Areas: to review the outcomes of the NOWPAP/NEASPEC Joint Workshop on Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Marine Protected Areas in the Northwest Pacific (13-14 March 2013, Toyama, Japan) and the Terms of Reference prepared by the Secretariat; and to discuss proposed programmes and plans for the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network in North-East Asia.
 - e) Green Development/Green Economy and Eco-efficiency Partnership: Upon the suggestion of the Host Government, the meeting will review national policies and strategies for promoting green development/green economy and discuss the roles and activities of NEASPEC on identified topics of cooperation. The activities could be discussed in the context of the NEASPEC Eco-efficiency Partnership.

6. New NEASPEC programmes and activities

Member States, UN and international organizations are invited to present proposals for new activities. Those who wish to propose new activities are kindly requested to circulate their proposals to other member States via the Secretariat at least two weeks before the SOM in order to provide other member States with sufficient time for review.

7. Review of issues concerning the institutional arrangements of NEASPEC

The Secretariat will present pending issues from SOM-17. The SOM may wish to provide the Secretariat with guidance to enhance more effective operation of the Secretariat and decide if new modalities are needed for further strengthening the roles and functions of NEASPEC.

8. Review of the Core Fund

The SOM will review the status of the Core Fund and the proposed budget plans for new activities and to make necessary decisions. Member States are invited to announce intended cash and in-kind contributions for 2013-2014.

9. Venue, date and provisional agenda of the Nineteenth SOM

The SOM will invite member States to express interest in hosting the next SOM.

10. Other issues

The SOM may raise any other issues not covered under the items mentioned above.

11. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting

The Report of the Meeting consists of two major parts, i.e. (i) the conclusions and recommendations, and (ii) the proceedings of the SOM. The first part of the Report will be adopted by the SOM, and the second part will be prepared by the Secretariat after the Meeting and will be circulated to member States for review and approval.

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