

**69th SESSION
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)**

INTERVENTION NOTES

1. **MINISTRY/DEPARTMENT:** MARDI
2. **DOCUMENT NO:** E/ESCAP/69/5
3. **DOCUMENT TITLE:** Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its ninth session
4. **ISSUES/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

The Governing Council of UN-CAPSA adopted a number of recommendations as follows:

- i. A collaborative effort be implemented in order to increase funding to the Centre and that representatives of member States seek the support of their governments in this respect.
- ii. The following recommendations were suggested to strengthen financial viability of CAPSA : (a) ESCAP to look into the proposal that a trust fund for CAPSA that could supply seed money to be used to strengthen the Centre's finances and capability to undertake new projects; (b) ESCAP to allocate a certain percentage of the overheads on project funds obtained by CAPSA to the trust fund for the administration of the Centre; (c) CAPSA reached out to a wider range of the ESCAP membership in seeking voluntary contributions; and (d) CAPSA to seek funding from multilateral institutions.
- iii. The Centre develop a business plan that outlines and justifies the minimum annual funding required to effectively manage the Centre and explores alternative sources of funding. The business plan should be shared with the Governing Council members before the next Commission session in order to facilitate lobbying efforts and

advocacy aimed at increasing support for CAPSA among relevant ministries.

- iv. CAPSA continues to facilitate South-South cooperation and those initiatives should focus on identifying best policy options and engaging policymakers in the Asia-Pacific region.
- v. CAPSA continues to evaluate its strategic position vis-à-vis country requirements on the basis of the importance of the agricultural sector in the national economy and to prioritize its work towards countries where its services are most needed.
- vi. CAPSA continue to organize capacity-building programmes and to keep member States informed of capacity-building activities to be implemented in 2013.

5. MALAYSIA'S POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES/RECOMMENDATIONS:

As a member of the Governing Council (GC) of CAPSA, Malaysia was part of the decision making process in developing the recommendations of the GC of CAPSA at its Ninth Session, that is to be presented at the 69th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and The Pacific (ESCAP) for approval. We are therefore agreeable to all of the above recommendations.

The proposed full intervention is as in Annex 1.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

7. PREPARED BY:

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Annex 1:

Intervention:

Barone Cher, Excellence, Culture + Governance

1. Malaysia would like to thank ESCAP for the excellent work in organising this Commission Meeting as well as the Kingdom of Thailand for hosting this important event. We would also like to join others to congratulate the Chair on his appointment as Chair of this Committee.

2. Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair,

The issue of poverty has always been a high priority in the development agenda of Malaysia. Alleviating and eradicating poverty especially in the agricultural and rural sector has been one of our core thrusts in all of our "Five Year Development Plans, right from the First Malaysia Plan (1966 – 1970) to current Tenth Malaysia Plan (2011 – 2015) as well as the National Agri-Food Policy (2011-2020).

3. Malaysia is planning to become a high-income and high-productivity economy by the year 2020. Towards this end, the philosophy of inclusiveness for all in society is a core principle in this plan towards becoming a developed nation. The emphasis on poverty and agriculture development shall therefore remain as agenda, that Malaysia will continue to pursue as a building-block for inclusivity. In relation to this, Malaysia shall support and join the international community in pursuing and addressing issues on poverty, agricultural development as well as food security and, hence our support and commitment to UN-CAPSA.

4. Malaysia has, from the initiation of CAPSA, supported the Centre in its work in the area of poverty alleviation through sustainable agriculture. Today, the issue of poverty and food security have become more important in the face of new challenges facing agricultural production. Climate change has made food production increasingly inconsistent and unpredictable. Appropriately, CAPSA is now focusing its effort on the important issues by facilitating and initiating South-South cooperation and identifying best policy options through active engagement with policy makers, researchers and extension agents. Malaysia will continue to support CAPSA in pursuit of excellence in its new focus areas for the benefit of the Asia-Pacific community.

5. Accordingly, we reaffirm our commitment to the yearly voluntary contribution of Malaysia to CAPSA and shall continue to work closely and collaborate with the Centre in research, information sharing and other activities benefiting the region. We shall closely examine the recommendations of the Governing Council in strengthening the financial viability of CAPSA. At the same time, Malaysia also would like to reiterate the importance of CAPSA to take necessary steps to expand its program to reach out to the larger membership of ESCAP to benefit from their resources and contributions while at the same seeking funding from multilateral institutions. We also would like for ESCAP to seriously consider the recommendation of the GC in Para B (19a and 19b) of the Report by the GC of CAPSA to this 69th Commission Session, that ESCAP looks into a proposal for creation of a trust fund for CAPSA that could supply seed money for the Centre. This could be source from a "percentage allocation" from the overall "overhead-cuts" by ESCAP on project funds obtained by CAPSA.

6. Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair

We recognize that a lot more needs to be done for CAPSA to establish itself as an effective knowledge and referral centre for South-South dialogue on poverty reduction, food security and sustainable agriculture. Nevertheless, we cannot ignore the achievements of CAPSA towards that direction, despite operating with a limited budget. We would like to commend CAPSA the progress made in implementing "SATNET Asia" project especially through sharing available best practices in the agricultural sector. We would also like to appreciate CAPSA for conducting capacity-building programmes targeting ministries of agriculture and research institutes in the region and requested that the Centre continues with the efforts. Last but not least, Malaysia would like to thank the Executive Secretary, for taking special interest in the Centre and providing human resources and other support to CAPSA.

Thank you