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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Twenty-eighth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-28) of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)

22-23 September 2025 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Annotated Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting

Opening and welcoming remarks will be delivered by the Head of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) East and North-East Asia Office and the Head of delegation of Mongolia as the host Government.

2. Election of officers

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

3. Adoption of agenda

The provisional agenda, prepared by the secretariat, in accordance with the established practice of previous sessions, and in consultation with the host Government, will be adopted.

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

The heads of national delegations and representatives of the United Nations 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

Progress in implementing the activities of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC), together with appropriate documentation prepared by the secretariat, will be reviewed across the following programmatic areas:

a) Air Pollution: Review of the progress of implementation on Air Pollution including (1) Review the implementation of the North-East Asia Clean Air

Partnership (NEACAP) Activity Plan 2025. (2) Review of outcomes of the seventh Science and Policy Committee (SPC) Meeting of NEACAP. (3) Review and approve the NEACAP Work Plan 2026-2030 and the corresponding NEACAP Activity Plan for 2026.

- b) **Biodiversity and Nature Conservation**: Review the progress on implementation on Biodiversity and Nature Conservation including (1) the progress of the project on "Connectivity conservation for habitats of flagship migratory birds in North-East Asia (Black-faced Spoonbills, Hooded Cranes, and White-naped Cranes)"; (2) the progress of the revision of Black-faced Spoonbill International Single Species Action Plan; (3) the synthesis report of the project on "Transboundary Cooperation for Conservation of Amur Tigers, Amur Leopards and Snow Leopards in North-East Asia"; (4) the NEASPEC biodiversity and nature conservation information-sharing platform (5) and the related workplan for 2026.
- c) Marine Protected Areas: Review the progress in the operation of the North-East Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN) in 2025, including (1) collaboration with regional and global MPA partners through joint activities, (2) progress in climate change and MPA studies in North-East Asia, (3) progress of the Expert Group Meeting on marine mammals and (4) discussion on the 2026 workplan.
- d) **Low Carbon Cities:** Review the progress and activities under the North-East Asian Low Carbon City Platform (NEA-LCCP), including (1) the 5th International Forum on Low Carbon Cities and (2) review of the policy booklet on Low Carbon Cities Networks, (3) discussion on the 2026 workplan including continued capacity-building workshops, expansion of the city network, and ongoing comparative policy research.
- e) **Desertification and Land Degradation:** Review the progress on implementation of the Desertification and Land Degradation (DLD) activities including a subregional forum on desertification and land degradation and a capacity-building workshop which are planned to be held in conjunction with the SOM-28 Additionally, discuss the NEASPEC work programme on DLD in 2026 in preparation for the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to be held in Mongolia in 2026

6. Review of the Core Fund and Project-based Fund

The meeting will review the status of the Core Fund and project-based funds of NEASPEC. The meeting will also review and approve the budget plan and results framework for the period of 2026-2030 in support of the NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030. Member States are invited to announce intended cash and/or in-kind contributions for the new project cycle 2026-2030.

7. Review of the Draft NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030

The meeting will review and approve the NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030.

8. Venue, date and provisional agenda of the Twenty-ninth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-29)

The meeting will invite the member State hosting the 29th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-29) to inform on the provisional plan for SOM-29 organization.

9. Other issues

The meeting may raise any other issues not covered under the abovementioned items.

10. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting

The report of the meeting consists of two major parts: (1) the conclusions and recommendations and (2) the proceedings of the Senior Officials Meeting. The first part (i.e., conclusions and recommendations) will be adopted by SOM-28, and the second part (i.e., proceedings) will be prepared by the secretariat after the Meeting and will be circulated to the member States for review and approval.

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