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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement
for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade

Bangkok, 22-24 April 2014

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Consideration of the draft text of a regional arrangement
for the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade**

Proposed amendments to the draft text of a regional arrangement for the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

Republic of Korea

1. In the preamble, we would like to add a paragraph recognizing the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation, since we believe that the Agreement shares the spirit of improving and expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods by minimizing documentation while giving consideration to the particular needs of developing countries, especially least developed countries. The suggested paragraph is as follows:

“Recognizing the conclusion of the negotiation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation at the ninth WTO Ministerial Conference and the importance of the implementation of the Agreement;”

2. With respect to Article 6, the Republic of Korea supports the wording “shall endeavour to”.

3. With regard to the explanatory note (E/ESCAP/PTA/IGM.1/CRP.2), we find that this document should be used for the purpose of clarifying relevant technical and legal terms and topics referred to in the various articles of the draft text. But, since the introduction bears the sentence “the explanatory note is not intended to become part of the text of a regional arrangement”, we would like to know if this sentence could preclude the explanatory note from having any legal effect on the regional arrangement.

* E/ESCAP/PTA/IGM.1/L.1.