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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-eighth session  
Agenda item 3

DRAFT DECISION ON THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ASSIST  
COUNTRIES OF THE REGION IN TRANSITION TO A MARKET ECONOMY AND  
THEIR INTEGRATION WITH THE EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL ECONOMY

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/187 on Integration of the economies in transition in the world economy and ECE resolution 1 (1992-S) and confirming the importance of a speedy and effective implementation of the ECE activities designed to assist the countries in transition and the need to explore ways and means of releasing and obtaining adequate resources for this programme,

Reaffirming the valuable role of the ECE in assisting the countries in transition particularly through the programme of workshops and noting the progress made and experience gained in the implementation of the provisions of its decisions O (45), D (45), B (46) and D (47),

Having examined the Executive Secretary's report (E/ECE/1272) on the activities of subsidiary bodies and the secretariat, particularly the programme of workshops and other forms of assistance to countries in transition as well as the follow-up action taken in implementation of its decision D (47),

Mindful of the growing difficulties which the countries in transition face in financing the organization of and their experts' participation in the workshops, symposia and other similar informal activities and conscious of the need to ensure that all ECE member states, particularly the new ones, can participate fully and effectively in its work,

Taking into consideration the limited resources available in the regular budget of the Commission for these purposes, and the usefulness in this regard of the regular informal meetings organized by the secretariat on utilization of resources,

Concerned by the level of socio-economic development in the countries in transition and aware of the necessity to enhance cooperation in the ECE region with a view to achieving dynamic economic development in the ECE region, in particular in the countries in transition,

Noting the contributions already made and continuing under the auspices of the G-24, the European Community, and various international organizations to assist countries in transition,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/171 on privatization in the context of economic restructuring, economic growth and sustainable development,

1. Takes note of the establishment of the UN/ECE Trust Fund for assistance to countries in transition to support adequately the activities of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies in assisting countries in transition to a market economy;
2. Invites Governments of the member countries, the European Community, relevant international institutions and private donors to examine inter alia the possibility of providing contributions to the UN/ECE Trust Fund, to finance workshops, symposia and other similar informal activities on transition issues organized under ECE auspices;
3. Invites its Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Executive Secretary to coordinate their activities to provide expertise and assist countries in transition with the Commission of the European Communities and relevant organizations, in particular with OECD, EBRD, UNDP, UNCTAD, the World Bank with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts;
4. Stresses the importance of continuing efforts which must take account of the prevailing political and economic conditions, on the part of all industrialized countries to improve access for products, including processed goods, in particular from countries in transition to international markets, consistent with bilateral and multilateral agreements, and of the facilitation of private investment, which strengthen the economic potential of countries in transition and reinforce structural reform;
5. Also invites the Executive Secretary in the light of the discussion of his initial report (E/ECE/1272) and in cooperation with organizers and other participants to continue to report to Ad Hoc Informal Meetings of the Commission with a view to preparing a thorough evaluation and specific recommendations concerning the organization and methodology of future workshops to be submitted at the latest for the next annual session of the Commission;
6. Also invites the Executive Secretary in the light of General Assembly resolutions 47/171 and 47/187 on integration of the economies in

transition into the world economy and privatization in the context of economic growth and sustainable development to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General related work under way in the ECE as a contribution to his reports to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly on the role of the UN system in addressing the problems facing the economies in transition, including the difficulties encountered in their integration into the world economy as well as on recommendations for action by the UN system in support of privatization in the context of economic growth and sustainable development,

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to present proposals on diversification of forms and methods of the ECE activities designed to assist countries in transition taking into account the discussion on the above-mentioned reports at the forty-eighth General Assembly;

8. Also requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of this decision.