



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Seventy-second session**

Bangkok, 15-19 May 2016

Agenda item 3 (d)

Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: environment and development**Draft resolution****Sponsored by: Bangladesh****Co-sponsored by: Australia and India****Regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific***The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

Recognizing the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,¹ in which, inter alia, the Conference stressed the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and seas and of their resources for sustainable development, including through their contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030,

Recalling also Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) as contained in General Assembly resolution 70/1,

Recognizing the importance of conservation of marine resources in Asia and the Pacific, including in small island developing States, least

¹ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

developed countries and low-lying coastal states, and noting the various important initiatives undertaken by various regional organizations and bodies as well as regional thematic events dedicated to the sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources,

Noting that promoting economic growth, environmental sustainability, social inclusion and the strengthening of ocean ecosystems can be a means to realize Sustainable Development Goal 14 and help member States, especially the least developed countries, small island developing States and coastal States in the region to address their sustainable development challenges,

Recalling the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, and noting the 4th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting, held in Xiamen, China, on 28 August 2014 and the International Workshop on the Blue Economy, held in Dhaka on 1 and 2 September 2014 at the initiative of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh,

Recognizing the need for the capacity-building of member States to promote conservation and the sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, which can contribute to poverty eradication, food security, creation of sustainable livelihoods and sustained economic growth,

Mindful of the increasing challenges to the oceans from both natural and human factors, such as overexploitation of resources in the context of increasing human demands, increasing pollution, loss of biodiversity and the impacts of global climate change and natural disasters,

Noting that conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and marine resources promotes, inter alia, increasing scientific knowledge, developing research capacity and transfer of marine technologies,

Recalling the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015, which holistically looked at financing for development across three dimensions and addressed the way in which inclusive growth and sustainable development could be achieved to address issues related to, inter alia, sustainable energy, climate change, disaster risk reduction, oceans and seas, food security and biodiversity,

Welcoming the convening of the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, to be held in Fiji from 5 to 9 June 2017,

Recognizing the important role and mandate of the regional commissions to support the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and regional cooperation for sustainable development, and recalling the importance of regional and subregional dimensions in facilitating effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Calls for* greater cooperation, collaboration and coordination between subregions and regional organizations of Asia and the Pacific and through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation for promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 14;

2. *Notes* the role of the Executive Secretary as the convener of the United Nations Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism to work with relevant United Nations and regional organizations for facilitating cooperation for implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 by member States;

3. *Encourages* member States to promote collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 in the Asia-Pacific region, including by:

(a) Strengthening regional cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources within the legal framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea² and, for parties to it, the Convention on Biological Diversity,³ for the conservation and the sustainable use of oceans and their resources;

(b) Enhancing the capacity of member States for the protection of coastal areas, the marine environment and resources and economic development in an environmentally sound and inclusive manner and promoting, inter alia, related research and development, investment, capacity-building and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms;

(c) Promoting South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation and collaboration on data collection and the development of environmental baselines to ensure a strong foundation for informed decision-making and policy development on oceans and seas;

(d) Promoting public-private and civil society partnerships to increase economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations specialized agencies and international, regional and subregional organizations, utilizing extrabudgetary contributions and within the mandates of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, to undertake an assessment of capacity development needs of the countries in Asia and the Pacific for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-fourth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

² United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

³ Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.