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Agenda item 3 (c)

Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: transport

Draft resolution

Sponsored by: China

Co-sponsored by: Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation and Tonga

Strengthening intraregional and interregional connectivity in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting that while intraregional and interregional connectivity generates new growth, fosters a new competitive edge and plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable development, it remains an unfinished agenda,

Affirming that connectivity should be strengthened in a comprehensive, integrated and systematic way in the key areas of policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people connections, while making strenuous joint efforts to enhance policy consultation and coordination among member States on the basis of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation,

Recognizing that it has played a pioneering historical role in advancing regional cooperation in building connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region, and the significant fundamental work that has been done under its leadership in this area,

Recognizing also that the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports and the Regional Strategic Framework on the Facilitation of International Road Transport can function as the building blocks for enhancing Asia-Pacific cooperation on regional connectivity,

Recalling the consensus and deliverables agreed upon at its seventieth session on the theme of “Regional Connectivity for Shared Prosperity”, and noting with appreciation that significant work has been done in advancing the connectivity agenda in the region since its previous session,

Recalling also its resolution 66/4 of 19 May 2010 on the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia, resolution 68/4 of 23 May 2012 on implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016), and the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport, and resolution 70/1 of 23 May 2014 on the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific,

Acknowledging the valuable role of international and regional organizations and cooperation mechanisms, which contribute to intraregional and interregional connectivity,

Acknowledging also the outcomes in the field of strengthening regional connectivity that were achieved at the Dialogue on Strengthening Connectivity Partnership during the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting, held in Beijing, the ASEAN and related summits, held in Nay Pyi Taw, the 5th Greater Mekong Subregion Summit, held in Bangkok, and the Leaders’ Meeting on the sixtieth anniversary of the Asian-African Conference, held in Jakarta and Bandung, Indonesia,

Recognizing the importance and value of new financing mechanisms to complement existing international institutions for promoting connectivity and infrastructure development in the region and the world,

1. *Resolves* to continue efforts to enhance regional connectivity and strengthen cooperation and coordination in their development strategies and plans in the fields of land, river, sea and air transport, energy and information and communications technology infrastructure, harmonization of relevant laws, regulations, policies and standards, trade facilitation, financial integration and people-to-people exchanges;

2. *Agrees* to strengthen its efforts in performing fully its unique role in pooling resources, enhancing policy research, formulating top-level designs and advancing cooperation, on the basis of past successful experience and its comparative advantage in advancing work on connectivity;

3. *Encourages* members and associate members to implement measures and initiatives with a view to strengthening intraregional and interregional connectivity, taking into consideration their respective conditions, advantages and needs;

4. *Endorses* the initiative to develop an integrated intermodal transport and logistics system based on the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and dry port networks, which would help sustain regional connectivity and improve transport efficiency;

5. *Calls upon* member States to take appropriate actions to accede, ratify and fully implement the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to developing comprehensive and seamless connectivity of the region, with a focus on the development of maritime, rail, road, air and intermodal/multimodal transport, and to provide the necessary support for the harmonization of laws, regulations, standards and documents relating to regional connectivity;

(b) To enhance efforts to assist members and associate members in their need for infrastructure financing with a view to strengthening connectivity, inter alia, through coordinating with the existing and new multilateral development banks on financing options and opportunities;

(c) To actively participate in cooperation among members and associate members for effective implementation of relevant initiatives, including the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, the Global Infrastructure Initiative, the APEC Connectivity Blueprint for 2015-2025, and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, including through providing intellectual support, policy advice and capacity-building assistance;

(d) To consult with members and associate members as well as other relevant organizations in order to establish an institutional mechanism to support interregional transport connectivity between Asia and Europe, with the aim of introducing appropriate recommendations into the Regional Action Programme (2017-2021), which is to be submitted to the Ministerial Conference on Transport, to be held in 2016;

(e) To build or strengthen partnerships between ESCAP and other relevant regional and subregional institutions and cooperation mechanisms in order to promote interregional and intraregional connectivity;

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