



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Seventieth session**

Bangkok, 4-8 August 2014 (Phase II)

Agenda item 3(g)

Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: social development**Draft resolution****Sponsored by: Pakistan****Co-sponsored by: Australia, Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea and Thailand****Enhancing participation of youth in sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific***The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,**Recalling* General Assembly resolution 50/81, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 62/126 on policies and programmes involving youth: youth in the global economy — promoting youth participation in social and economic development,*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 68/130, in which Member States recognized that youth participation is important for development, and urged Member States and entities of the United Nations system, in consultation with youth-led organizations, to explore new avenues to promote full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes, including in the design and implementation of policies, programmes and initiatives and in the elaboration of the development agenda beyond 2015,*Mindful* of the socioeconomic challenges facing young people in Asia and the Pacific, and recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,¹ in which it was stated that the contribution of children and youth is vital to the achievement of sustainable development, while acknowledging the need to promote intergenerational dialogue and solidarity by recognizing their views,

¹ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Noting the report² of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, convened in Bangkok from 16 to 20 September 2013, which the Conference adopted by consensus, in which priority was directed to, among other things, promoting and enabling the social, economic and political participation of young people,

Recalling also the Chair's summary³ of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, convened in Pattaya, Thailand, from 19 to 21 May 2014, which identified as a priority integrating youth into the labour market,

Welcoming the Five-Year Action Agenda of the Secretary-General, which identifies working with and for women and young people as one of five generational imperatives and opportunities, and addresses the development of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth,

Taking note of the outcome document⁴ of the World Conference on Youth 2014, hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka in Colombo from 6 to 10 May 2014, to, among other things, explore ways and means of mainstreaming youth into the development agenda beyond 2015 within the agreed framework of the World Programme of Action for Youth,

Recognizing that the current generation of youth is the largest in history, with the majority of almost 60 per cent, or 717 million young persons aged 15 to 24 years, living in the Asia-Pacific region,

Noting with concern the relatively high levels of youth unemployment and underemployment, as well as the limited access of youth to social protection and good-quality education, especially with regard to youth with disabilities,

Cognizant that addressing the specific needs of young people can increase intergenerational solidarity and reduce the risk of social unrest,

Noting the progress made by several member States to better integrate young people into their policy agenda, yet acknowledging that, for lasting change, greater effort is required,

1. *Calls upon* all members and associate members:

(a) To accord higher priority to investing in youth so that the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth could be accelerated;

(b) To promote meaningful participation of youth and the realization of their right to enhance their capacity in order to more effectively achieve inclusive and sustainable development;

(c) To ensure young people's access to a comprehensive range of affordable, effective, safe and sustainable health services;

(d) To ensure access to good-quality formal and non-formal education in order to enable young people to acquire relevant skills and build their employment and entrepreneurial capacities;

² See E/ESCAP/70/16.

³ See E/ESCAP/FSD/2.

⁴ Colombo Declaration on Youth: Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Available from www.wcy2014.com/pdf/colombo-declaration-on-youth-final.pdf.

(e) To enhance school-to-work transitions and increase decent work opportunities for youth through vocational training and other policies and programmes to integrate youth into sustainable labour markets;

(f) To eliminate all forms of gender-based discrimination against young people;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To undertake a comprehensive analytical study on the need for youth inclusion and its relationship to sustainable development as a basis for evidence-based policies;

(b) To enhance the role of ESCAP as a regional platform for sharing experiences and good practices on youth policies and participation;

(c) To encourage the participation of key stakeholders, including youth-led organizations, other civil society organizations and the private sector, in supporting national and regional efforts to address challenges impeding youth development, including the convening of an intergovernmental meeting to bring such stakeholders together to assess progress made in meeting international commitments and enhancing youth development;

(d) To support members and associate members, upon request, by providing technical assistance to strengthen their capacity for effective implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

(e) To coordinate, with other United Nations bodies, including through the Regional Coordination Mechanism, to ensure synergies and enhance the impact of the work of the United Nations system on youth development in Asia and the Pacific;

(f) To report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on the progress made in implementation of the present resolution.
