



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited  
27 April 2013

Original: English

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## Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

### Sixty-ninth session

Bangkok, 25 April-1 May 2013

Agenda item 2 (b)

**Special Body on Least Developed and  
Landlocked Developing Countries: Biennial  
review of the Istanbul Programme of Action**

### Draft resolution

**Sponsored by: Nepal**

**Co-sponsored by: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao People's  
Democratic Republic**

## **Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on the Development Agenda beyond 2015**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

*Recalling* the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held from 20 to 22 September 2010,<sup>1</sup>

*Noting* 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", in which the Conference invited the regional commissions and other entities involved in sustainable development, according to their respective mandates, to support developing countries, upon request, to achieve sustainable development,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 68/2 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in the Asia-Pacific region, in which, inter alia, the Executive Secretary was requested to continue to assist Asia-Pacific least developed countries in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

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<sup>1</sup> See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution 66/288.

*Expressing concern* at the slow pace of progress in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in closing their development gaps,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration on the United Nations Development Agenda for Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on 24 April 2013 at the meeting on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 for Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to assist Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) To forward the political declaration to all ongoing/upcoming intergovernmental processes leading to the development agenda beyond 2015 as an input of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States of the Asia-Pacific region.

## Annex

### **Bangkok Declaration on the United Nations Development Agenda for Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States**

1. We, the delegations of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States of the Asia-Pacific region, participated in a meeting on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 for Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States held in Bangkok on 24 April 2013.

2. We underline the importance of full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,<sup>a</sup> the Almaty Programme of Action,<sup>b</sup> the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States<sup>c</sup> and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of

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<sup>a</sup> *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), Chap. II.

<sup>b</sup> Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries (Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I).

<sup>c</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,<sup>d</sup> and underscore the need for strong commitments to underpin the outcomes of the United Nations conferences on landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to be held in 2014 and their implementation.

3. We have made considerable progress in attaining some of the Millennium Development Goals with strong national leadership and support and cooperation from the international community. However, we note with grave concern that, despite major progress, Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States as a whole remain the most vulnerable groups of countries. Many of them are struggling with high incidence of poverty and hunger, unacceptably high maternal and child mortality rates, limited access to sanitation and grave climate change consequences.

4. We are concerned that, globally, more than 47 per cent of the population of least developed countries, 32 per cent of landlocked developing countries and 30 per cent of small island developing States are living below \$1.25 a day. We are also deeply disturbed that a good part of these deprived people live in Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

5. We reiterate our deep concern over the multiple and interrelated crises, including the financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and ongoing concerns over food security, as well as the increasing challenges posed by climate change, desertification, land degradation and the loss of biodiversity, which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected our hard-earned development gains.

6. We are deeply disappointed that, apart from acute poverty, our countries also continue to suffer from a high percentage of rural populations and women with extensive deprivation, lack of opportunities for a large share of the population, including the youth, due to deficiencies in access to water and sanitation, health, education, finance, markets etc., low level of productivity with large infrastructure deficits, limited access to modern technology, clean and efficient energy as well as high vulnerability to internal and external shocks including the world economic and financial shocks, climate change and natural disasters. Furthermore, our countries have limited capacities and resources to deal with these shocks and constraints. For many of us, a number of Millennium Development Goals could remain an unfinished agenda to be taken forward even beyond 2015.

7. We affirm the critical importance of an enabling environment to support resilience to such challenges and of sustaining the momentum towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

8. We express our deep concern that, in 2012, official development assistance (ODA) from the members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development dropped by 4.0 per cent compared with 2011 and by 6.0 per cent compared with 2010 in real terms. We are further concerned that the bilateral net ODA to least developed countries fell by 12.8 per cent in real terms in 2012 compared with 2011 and by 3.4 per cent between 2010 and

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<sup>d</sup> *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

2011 for landlocked developing countries. We are particularly concerned over the declining trends in ODA to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States of Asia and the Pacific.

9. We recognize that, given the intensity of the challenges, business as usual is not an option, and we call upon all our development partners to fulfill their commitments, take decisive action and accord high priority to the poorest and the most vulnerable countries, which are finding it most difficult to make progress despite their best efforts, with a view to accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the remaining two years.

10. We strongly call upon the international community to draw on the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals and to work towards an expanded development agenda that reflects the three dimensions of sustainable development with more emphasis on productive capacity development, access to trade and trade facilitation, infrastructure, including access to affordable water and energy, inclusive economic growth, employment and decent work, migration, science and technology and structural transformation. We also underline the importance of protecting natural capital and look forward to mutually reinforcing support for poverty eradication, rapid and inclusive economic growth and environmental protection in an integrated manner. We believe that the promotion of the interests of the people and the planet should go hand in hand. We propose the adoption of a single and unified but differentiated and inclusive global development agenda which will address the severity of the challenges faced by least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

11. We stress that the process leading to a development agenda beyond 2015 provides a unique opportunity to advance a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach to economic growth that promotes sustainable development and poverty eradication as well as the happiness and well-being of all peoples.

12. We call upon the international community to make a determined effort to end extreme poverty and hunger in all least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including those in the Asia-Pacific region. We therefore underline that the concerns of these countries must be at the forefront of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, as well as all other ongoing processes, including the formulation of sustainable development goals.

13. We also call upon all concerned to ensure that the priorities and actions contained in the above-mentioned programmes of action for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States are fully and effectively integrated in all the areas of the development agenda beyond 2015, which is not only a moral imperative, but is also indispensable for the promotion of a stable and peaceful global order.

14. We note that national action will not be enough to overcome the development challenges and structural disadvantages faced by least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the Asia-Pacific region and underline that many development challenges — from providing infrastructure to harnessing South-South economic integration — should be addressed effectively not only at the national but also at the regional and multilateral levels. We

therefore recognize that the regional dimension of development is critical for an effective and coordinated response to addressing an ever-growing number of regional and transboundary development challenges. Thus, the development agenda beyond 2015 should not only factor in national priorities and global partnerships but also explicitly recognize the relevance of the regional dimension.

15. We recognize that most of us can exploit opportunities to render our development strategies more sustainable, with equitable distribution of economic benefits and social justice ensured. We call upon development partners to provide our countries with the necessary means, both financial and technological, to pursue a green and sustainable development path.

16. We underline the importance of strong and structured implementation of the development agenda beyond 2015. In this regard, the traditional donors, development partners from the South, the private sector and civil society organizations will have to play a decisive role. Strong and additional commitments and actions are necessary in favour of our countries in regard to ODA, debt, trade, technology transfer and diffusion and foreign direct investment (FDI) and must form an integral part of the development agenda beyond 2015. We recall the commitments made in the Istanbul Programme of Action<sup>a</sup> by donor countries to review their ODA commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for least developed countries. We also underline the need to establish a mutual accountability mechanism between our countries and our development partners with a view to ensuring the delivery of commitments made in international conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields.

17. While we recognize the need to improve institutions and governance structures in order to make ODA more effective in supporting our efforts to address our special needs, we also urge development partners to offer additional financial and technical assistance so that we may overcome our development challenges.

18. We call upon the international community to provide continued support to give the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States a strengthened voice, enabling them to participate effectively in international dialogues leading to the formulation of the development agenda beyond 2015.

19. We underline the need for full flexibility and policy space for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in framing their national and sectoral development strategies and plans to pursue a developmental state, which can play an active role in promoting structural transformation and the creation of productive employment.

20. We recognize that good governance, accountability and the rule of law are essential at all levels for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

21. Keeping in mind Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 68/8 on enhancing coordination within the United Nations system and cooperation with regional organizations for promoting regional development, in which the Commission emphasized the importance of the regional and subregional levels as an essential building block of effective global governance, and General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for

development of the United Nations system, in which the regional commissions, among others, were requested to further strengthen cooperation and coordination among themselves and with their respective headquarters, in close consultation with the Governments of the countries concerned and, where appropriate, to include the funds, programmes and specialized agencies that are not represented at the regional level, we invite the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to continue to support our countries, within a framework of cooperation and collaboration, including substantive capacity-building, in the implementation of the United Nations programmes of actions for our countries<sup>e</sup> and other internationally agreed development goals in the economic, social and environmental fields.

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<sup>e</sup> See para. 2 above.