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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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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: Thailand

Co-sponsored by: Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Viet Nam

Enhancing knowledge-sharing and cooperation in integrated water resources management in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling paragraph 119 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,¹ in which the Conference recognized that water is at the core of sustainable development and is closely linked to a number of key global challenges, reiterating, the importance of integrating water into sustainable development and underlining the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Recalling that the period from 2005 to 2015 was proclaimed by the General Assembly as the International Decade for Action “Water for Life”,² and that 2013 was declared the International Year of Water Cooperation,³

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”)⁴ and

¹ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

² See General Assembly resolution 58/217.

³ See General Assembly resolution 65/154.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

recognizing that managing natural resources, including water, in a sustainable and integrated manner is essential for sustainable development,

Reaffirming the roles of United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Environment Programme and UN-Water, as well as multilateral and regional development banks in promoting an exchange of views on best practices related to water management,

Noting the launch of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum in September 2006 and appreciating the ongoing efforts of the Forum in strengthening mechanisms to encourage more collaborative efforts on water resources management, such as those on safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and to accelerate the process of effective integration of water resources management at the national level into the socio-economic development process of countries in the Asia-Pacific region,

Highlighting the need to strengthen the implementation and operationalization of integrated water resources management,

Calling for the development of ecologically efficient water infrastructure, and further exploration of the use of rainwater harvesting, water reuse and flood management systems, among others, in order to increase the resilience of Asia-Pacific member countries to natural disasters,

Noting the outcome document of the first Asia-Pacific Water Summit, the Message from Beppu, in which Asian and Pacific leaders agreed to accord the highest priority to water and sanitation in their economic and development plans and agendas and to increase substantially their allocation of resources to the water and sanitation sectors,⁵

1. *Invites* members and associate members:

(a) To work towards integrating water resource management into national economic and social development plans to manage water resources efficiently, equitably and sustainably and to strengthen integrated water resource management as an important tool for supporting a linkage between water and other vital resources towards assuring sustainable development;

(b) To continue the commitment made in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to develop integrated water resources management and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, as outlined in the Millennium Declaration,⁶ and to encourage appropriate consideration of water issues in the discussion of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

(c) To promote and share experiences regarding the efficient use of water resources while taking into account basic human needs and balances between preservation of ecosystems and human domestic, industrial and agricultural needs;

(d) To enhance cooperation in data and knowledge sharing, research and planning to promote the sustainable use and management of water resources, including international rivers;

⁵ See www.apwf.org/archive/documents/summit/Message_from_Beppu_071204.pdf.

⁶ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

(e) To promote the use and transfer of sustainable technology on mutually agreed terms and conditions in ensuring sustainable water management and managing water-related challenges with a view to minimizing their adverse impact on people, livelihoods, the economy and the environment;

(f) To consider allocating the necessary resources to improve household water management and sanitation services to meet the needs of the people, as well as secure water for ecosystems, human health and human well-being;

(g) To encourage all stakeholders, in particular the private sector, to address water challenges;

(h) To consider participating in the second Asia-Pacific Water Summit, to be hosted by the Government of Thailand in Chiang Mai from 14 to 20 May 2013, under the theme of “Water security and water-related disaster challenges: leadership and commitment”;

(i) To consider supporting and actively participating in the seventh World Water Forum, which will be held in Daegu Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea, in 2015;

(j) To consider participating in the Singapore International Water Week 2014, from 1 to 5 June 2014;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To coordinate with other United Nations agencies to make effective use of technology and innovation on all relevant aspects of water management for the benefit of the Asia-Pacific region;

(b) To facilitate the sharing, by members and associate members at the regional and subregional levels, of experiences, best practices and technologies in managing integrated water resources management;

(c) To continue to provide and support, in consultation with members and associate members, a capacity development programme to build resilience to water-related disasters and to manage water-related risks in Asia-Pacific countries that suits various groups of stakeholders through knowledge-sharing;

(d) To take appropriate steps to promote awareness of the importance of integrating water into sustainable development within the framework of the mandate and programme of the work of the secretariat;

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