



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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LEAST DEVELOPED, LANDLOCKED AND ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

(Item 4 of the provisional agenda)

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BODY ON PACIFIC ISLAND DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES ON ITS EIGHTH SESSION**

Note by the secretariat

SUMMARY

The Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries deliberated on Pacific urban management issues. Recognizing the rapid growth of urban populations in the Pacific, it noted that the topic of urban management was timely. It reviewed the outcome of an ESCAP-initiated workshop on urban management issues in the Pacific and endorsed the Pacific Urban Agenda and its recommendations for action at the national and regional levels. It requested the Executive Secretary to convene a subregional workshop in 2006 to assess progress in the implementation of the Pacific Urban Agenda and ascertain capacity development and related needs. It reviewed and endorsed a resolution on the Pacific Urban Agenda to be submitted to the Commission at its sixtieth session.

The Special Body also reviewed the Commission's activities in the Pacific and the revitalization of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (UN-EPOC). It expressed appreciation to ESCAP and its Centre for the valuable technical assistance provided to member and associate member countries. The Special Body also took note of the proposed changes, including the revised mission statement of UN-EPOC, the revised terms of reference of the Special Body, the establishment of an Advisory Council for UN-EPOC and of a new ESCAP subprogramme for Pacific island countries and the relocation of UN-EPOC to Suva.

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I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Experiences and challenges in urban management issues in Pacific island countries

Introduction

1. Urban populations are growing rapidly in Pacific island developing countries. National and local-level Governments are ill-equipped to meet these urban growth challenges. Governments in the region have recognized urban management as a timely issue in the Pacific, because of recent and continued concerns with growing security problems, environmental degradation and the decline in social cohesion. Those Governments have recognized the importance of managing urban development for sustained economic growth and some have put in place legislation and policies, and implemented programmes to address the issues.

2. In response to these challenges and the regional and international mandates and following an ESCAP-initiated workshop held in 2003, the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries tabled this issue for discussion, and reviewed and endorsed a Pacific Urban Agenda for implementation at the national and regional levels.

(a) Action at the national level

- (1) Governments need to review urban development policies in the light of existing urban priorities and strengthen urban management in central and local governments.
- (2) In order to address the challenges of the Millennium Declaration, Governments need to develop more accurate information on the dimensions of urban poverty and develop squatter or informal settlement policies to improve the social and economic well-being of their people and environmental conditions of settlements while recognizing the desire of people to live in urban areas.
- (3) Governments need to form new partnerships with civil society in general and community-based organizations in particular to assist community development and social well-being within poor urban communities, squatter and other informal settlements in the urban and peri-urban areas of cities and towns and improve access to essential services.
- (4) Governments need to form working partnerships with landowners and encourage their involvement in urban planning, and seek to exercise more effective controls on land use within the urban and peri-urban boundaries of towns and cities.
- (5) Governments need to improve representation in local urban governance, particularly of minority interest groups, including youth, people with disabilities and women, and seek

to improve local management structures and systems to assure more effective consultation with community-interest groups.

(b) *Action at the regional level*

- (1) United Nations and international agencies should provide advisory services, technical and financial support to Pacific island developing countries to address urban management issues, consistent with the Pacific Urban Agenda, and promote regional cooperation and collaboration and the sharing of information, expertise and experience.
- (2) Regional agencies, United Nations bodies and multilateral donors should endorse and support the proposed Pacific Urban Agenda and develop partnerships to implement it, and ensure that urban management issues are raised and debated in bilateral and regional forums.
- (3) ESCAP should convene a subregional workshop in 2006 to assess progress in implementing the Pacific Urban Agenda and ascertain capacity development and related needs.

B. Revitalization of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre and the Commission's activities in the Pacific

- (1) The Commission should note the progress being made in implementing key institutional changes for the revitalization of UN-EPOC outlined in the approved secretariat plan and as recommended by the independent evaluation.
- (2) The Commission should recommend for endorsement the revised UN-EPOC mission statement clarifying its role as the representative office of ESCAP in the Pacific and to provide the capacity strengthening assistance that Pacific island developing countries and territories require in order to achieve the internationally agreed goals contained in the Millennium Declaration and in the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in line with ESCAP mandates.
- (3) The Commission should recommend for endorsement the proposed amendments to the last paragraph of the terms of reference of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries to provide for the possibility of convening sessions of the Special Body in the Pacific subregion prior to Commission sessions, in alternate years with the Special body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, and alternately between Bangkok or the venue of the Commission session and the location of UN-EPOC.
- (4) The Commission should note the establishment of the UN-EPOC Advisory Council to provide greater ownership of UN-EPOC and its work programmes, and participate

effectively in its inaugural and future meetings at the venue of the biennial sessions of the Special Body in order to provide advice on the programme priorities of UN-EPOC.

- (5) The Commission should recommend for endorsement the new ESCAP subprogramme 3, Development of Pacific island countries and territories, with the objective of building policy and management capacity in those countries and territories through facilitating the design and implementation of policies that focus on poverty reduction, managing the impact of globalization and addressing emerging social issues to achieve the internationally agreed goals and targets in the Millennium Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL BODY AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION

3. During its deliberations on items 4 and 5 of the agenda, the Special Body had before it the following documents by the secretariat: “Review of Pacific sustainable urban management and poverty issues and introduction of the Pacific urban agenda framework” (E/ESCAP/SB/PIDC(8)/1); “The Commission’s activities in the Pacific in 2003” (E/ESCAP/SB/PIDC(8)/2); and “Revitalization of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre” (E/ESCAP/SB/PIDC(8)/3). The Special Body expressed appreciation of the background documents prepared by the secretariat, which provided it with a solid basis for its deliberations.

A. Review of Pacific sustainable urban management and poverty issues and introduction of the Pacific urban agenda framework

4. The Special Body recognized that urban management was a significant development issue in the Pacific and that increased focus on urban management was therefore timely and appropriate. While the populations and the land areas of the Pacific island developing countries might be small, population densities were high in many urban centres. Urbanization, in particular rural-urban migration, was creating many social problems, such as squatter settlements and social inequalities, and causing security concerns. The Special Body recognized that, while contributing to economic growth, urbanization could also have adverse effects on poverty and the environment, and posed major urban management challenges. It recognized that such countries had many urban management problems in common but also had differences and disparities in their levels of development.

5. The Special Body recognized that the onus of addressing urban development needs was on the central and local governments of the country concerned. It was therefore pleased to hear statements from delegations about plans and actions to address urban problems. It noted that various Governments in the Pacific were putting in place strategies, policies and programmes to strengthen urban planning and management capacity and address poverty concerns. However, it also recognized

that there was room for improvement and that there was a need to design new ways and means to improve urban conditions.

6. The Special Body discussed urban land management to improve living conditions in urban areas, and noted the importance of the participation of local communities and traditional landowners in urban planning and management. It urged Governments to address the problems of urban youth and employment in conjunction with urban management, and the need for greater cooperation to share information and strategies to address urban challenges. The Special Body supported the sharing of development experiences and expertise in the Asian and Pacific region. It called on traditional donors and non-traditional donor countries to increase their contribution to ESCAP projects in the Pacific.

7. The Special Body noted the importance of developing countries sharing their development experiences among themselves and acknowledged the existence of ESCAP's South-South cooperation programme, formally known as technical cooperation among developing countries. It noted that several Pacific island countries benefited from the programme. The Special Body expressed appreciation to the countries that participated in the programme and urged Pacific island countries to make fuller use of the opportunities offered under the programme. It took note of Thailand's offer to extend cooperation for the improvement of urban living in Pacific island developing countries, particularly in the areas of health and family planning. It also took note of Thailand's interest in obtaining dialogue partner status in the Pacific Islands Forum.

8. The Special Body endorsed the recommendations contained in document E/ESCAP/SB/PIDC(8)/1. In reviewing the document, the Special Body called on the secretariat for renewed commitment and contributions to the implementation of the Pacific Urban Agenda, which provided a framework for addressing priority urban management issues and some of the goals in the Millennium Declaration. It urged the secretariat to collaborate closely with regional organizations in the Pacific to ensure that the specific needs of Pacific island developing countries were met.

9. Samoa submitted a draft resolution on the Pacific Urban Agenda for consideration by the Commission. Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands announced that they would co-sponsor the resolution. The Special Body reviewed and endorsed the draft resolution for submission to the Commission.

10. The Chair called upon donor agencies and development partners to respond to the task of implementing the Pacific Urban Agenda. The Head of UN-EPOC summarized the recent activities of the Centre and reiterated its commitment to supporting members and associate members in addressing urban management concerns. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat commended the emphasis in the discussions on regional cooperation to implement the Pacific Urban Agenda. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) outlined its global and regional programmes and its strength in drawing on its experience in Asia and elsewhere. The World Health Organization

emphasized the impact on public health of rapid urbanization and the resulting high population density and unsanitary living conditions and welcomed the focus of the current session of the Special Body on urban management in the Pacific. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) outlined its current programmes and activities in the Pacific, emphasizing the particular focus on promoting good governance and the need to localize global and regional commitments. The Asian Development Bank called the theme of the session timely and critical, and outlined its urban management initiatives in a number of Pacific island developing countries. All looked forward to continued partnerships with ESCAP and the other agencies. The Asian and Pacific Coconut Community pointed out that its efforts to develop the coconut industry through technology transfer and human resources development could reduce rural-urban migration.

B. The Commission's activities in the Pacific in 2003 and the revitalization of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre

11. The Special Body considered the documents prepared by the secretariat outlining the activities of the Commission in the Pacific and the revitalization of UN-EPOC. It commended the secretariat on the comprehensive initiatives taken to enhance the effectiveness of UN-EPOC as part of ESCAP's overall revitalization process.

12. The secretariat introduced the revitalization paper outlining the revised mission statement, the terms of reference of the Special Body, the establishment of an Advisory Council, the establishment of a new ESCAP subprogramme for the Pacific by 2006 and measures to relocate UN-EPOC to Fiji.

13. The Special Body reviewed the report of the Commission's activities in the Pacific and endorsed it. It expressed satisfaction with the establishment of a new and independent subprogramme for the activities of the Commission in the Pacific, reflecting the Executive Secretary's commitment to enhancing the visibility of UN-EPOC and strengthening ESCAP activities in the Pacific. It noted that the objective was to create greater impact and synergies, particularly with other United Nations and regional organizations.

14. The representative of Vanuatu commended ESCAP on the documentation and drew the attention of the Special Body to the issue of the relocation of UN-EPOC. He requested reconsideration of the issue of relocation, noting that the reasons were not clear to the Government of Vanuatu and that the Centre had operated effectively since 1984.

15. The representative pointed out that relocation did not have the support of all Pacific member States and that the consultation process had been less than adequate. As many regional organizations were located around the region, geographical isolation and cost-effectiveness issues were not sufficient reasons for the relocation.

16. The Executive Secretary, while noting the concerns of the delegation of Vanuatu, provided details of the consultative process that had taken place with Pacific members and associate members

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and the review process by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, the Commission, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

17. The Special Body took note of the concerns of a number of delegations, namely Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Solomon Islands, regarding the consultation process and the reservations expressed by some of them on the relocation of UN-EPOC.

18. The Executive Secretary noted the concerns and reservations expressed by those delegations but advised the Special Body that, as UN-EPOC was part of the secretariat, the final responsibility for the decision to relocate the Centre rested with the Executive Secretary.

19. The Chairperson of the Advisory Council of UN-EPOC presented to the Special Body the summary report of the inaugural meeting of the Advisory Council of UN-EPOC, held at Shanghai, China, on 21 April 2004, which is attached as annex III to the present report.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

20. The eighth session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Countries was held at Shanghai, China, on 20 and 21 April 2004.

21. In his opening address, the Executive Secretary thanked the Government of China for hosting the session. He pointed out that China was one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and drew the attention of the participants to the fact that the current session provided a good opportunity for those who had not been to China to witness at first hand the kind of economic and social development that was taking place in the host country. The strong economic growth in China offered prospects for increased trade and investment flows for Pacific island countries. However, if those countries were to take advantage of opportunities provided by the expanding Chinese economy, they needed to work on key policy issues, such as maintaining prudent fiscal management, developing physical information and promoting good governance.

22. The Executive Secretary highlighted the importance of countries sharing their development experience with each other and in that connection drew the attention of the participants to ESCAP's South-South programme. He noted that many Pacific island countries had benefited from the programme.

23. The Executive Secretary highlighted the collaborative efforts of ESCAP and UN-Habitat, the Urban Governance Initiative of UNDP and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in drawing up the Pacific Urban Agenda.

24. The Executive Secretary reassured the meeting that ESCAP was committed to assisting Pacific island countries in addressing poverty and sustainable development issues. He explained the rationale behind his decision to institute a number of key institutional changes to strengthen the focus of the Special Body and the work of UN-EPOC to implement appropriate activities for the benefit of Pacific island countries. The Special Body played an important role in providing a forum in which periodic reviews of key issues faced by Pacific island countries could be undertaken and therefore recommended the convening of the biennial sessions alternately between Bangkok and the location of UN-EPOC. He also informed the meeting that he had set up the Advisory Council of UN-EPOC to advise the secretariat on the work programme priorities of UN-EPOC.

25. The Executive Secretary reiterated that the bulk of ESCAP's assistance to Pacific island countries continued to be channelled through UN-EPOC and supplemented by activities from ESCAP in Bangkok. He outlined some of the areas to be covered during the biennium 2004-2005 from ESCAP to benefit Pacific island countries, which included energy and water resources, trade policy, trade facilitation, market access and transport development.

26. ESCAP's commitment to UN-EPOC and its activities was reflected in the proposed establishment of a new subprogramme on the development of Pacific island countries and territories in 2006. The objective of the new subprogramme was to build up policy and management capacity in the Pacific by facilitating the design and implementation of policies that focused on poverty reduction, management of globalization and addressing emerging social issues. UN-EPOC was to assume substantive responsibility for the new subprogramme.

27. The Executive Secretary concluded his statement by informing the meeting of the imminent relocation of UN-EPOC from Port Vila, Vanuatu, to Suva, Fiji, to increase emphasis on regular consultations with donor agencies and regional organizations, most of which were located in Suva.

28. The Executive Secretary invited the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing Countries to address the session. The High Representative noted that his Office had been entrusted by the General Assembly with the mandate and responsibility to mobilize international support and resources and to advocate in favour of small island States. He urged the Special Body to organize regional-level follow-up on the outcome of the International Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in Mauritius from 30 August to 3 September 2004.

29. He noted that the role of intergovernmental regional organizations needed to be enhanced, as they were more aware of the region's strengths and weaknesses, capacity and resources than were international organizations. He also noted that the small size and minuscule populations of small island developing States discouraged external involvement and financing. One way of addressing that

handicap was the establishment of regional programmes with national components. The theme of the eighth session of the Special Body was of critical importance for the islands of the Pacific.

B. Attendance

30. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission: Azerbaijan, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

31. Representatives of the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Development Programme, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization, Asian Development Bank, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Asian and Pacific Coconut Community and Muslim World League also attended.

C. Election of officers

32. The Meeting elected H.E. Ms. Adi Litia Samanunu Qalirea Talakuli Cakobau (Fiji) Chairperson, Mr. Kandhi A. Elieisar (Micronesia, Federated States of) Vice-Chairman and Mr. Ronald Unusi (Solomon Islands) Rapporteur.

D. Agenda

33. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Theme topic: "Experiences and challenges in urban management issues in Pacific island countries".
5. Revitalization of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre and the Commission's activities in the Pacific.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report.

E. Adoption of the report

34. The Special Body adopted its report on 21 April 2004.

Annex I

**AMENDMENTS TO E/ESCAP/L.158 PROPOSED BY THE SPECIAL BODY ON
PACIFIC ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION**

60/... Pacific Urban Agenda

Sponsored by: Samoa

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting the call for a Pacific Urban Agenda made following the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996, and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Economic Ministers Meeting in 1999,

Noting also that, at its eighth session, held in Shanghai, China, on 20 and 21 April 2004, the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries unanimously endorsed the submission of the present resolution to the Commission at its sixtieth session,

Recognizing the ~~Millennium Development~~ Goals **contained in the Millennium Declaration relating to poverty, in particular,** ~~particularly~~ goal 1, halving the number of poor by 2015, and goal 7, target 11, significant improvement in the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020,

Recognizing also that the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) called for improvement in the lives of slum dwellers and good urban management to prevent the urbanization of poverty,

Noting the significant increase in ~~urban~~ populations **and in particular the urban populations** in the Pacific island countries and the planning and management challenges that confront local and central governments and civil society and the need to build community cohesion and address community development and livelihood needs within poor urban communities,

Noting also the initiatives and case studies around the Pacific and ~~the tools available~~ to address ~~issues of~~ good urban governance, participation, urban development and poverty concerns, particularly the concept of an “urban social charter”, in Papua New Guinea, the Samoan Planning and Urban Management Agency **and the Urban Policy Action Plan in Fiji,**

Recognizing **further** the intensifying linkages between urban and rural areas and the need to give due attention to rural development and the improvement of conditions in rural areas, and noting that the rural-urban interface, which is changing through improvements ~~in communications and transport,~~ **infrastructure development,** should be recognized as a critical **and mutually reinforcing** element in national economic development, and considered in the formulation of development strategies,

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1. *Endorses* the Pacific Urban Agenda which was discussed and developed by officials at a workshop convened by ESCAP, ~~the Urban Governance Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat at Nadi, Fiji, from 1 to 4 December 2003;~~

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to accord priority to the implementation of the Agenda;

3. *Calls upon* Pacific members and associate members to address the actions outlined in the Pacific Urban Agenda, in particular in the areas of:

(a) Serviced shelter for the urban poor, by focusing on housing policy, land tenure and land management arrangements, including land zoning, integrated urban and rural housing development **policy**, self-help and services schemes, and by involving landowners to achieve greater recognition and involvement in land management, housing markets and building codes;

(b) The urban environment, including ~~providing~~ **the provision of** infrastructure, integrating environmental and disaster management planning into urban planning and management, ~~strengthening~~ public health systems and addressing institutional and legislative frameworks;

(c) Urban security, including good governance at the local council level in particular, addressing urban poverty and urban employment needs, identifying vulnerable groups and addressing personal security issues by developing community policing and other approaches to personal security and developing a collaborative approach ~~with~~ **between the law enforcement agencies and** civil society to build community cohesion, strengthen partnerships among community groups and give a greater voice to community groups, **civil society** and social support agencies;

4. *Invites* partner agencies **including regional organizations** to provide technical and financial support and to **members and associate members to** cooperate **and coordinate including through regional programmes in** ~~for~~ the implementation of the Pacific Urban Agenda;

5. *Requests* the ~~secretariat to undertake a subregional stocktake in early 2006 on~~ **Executive Secretary to support members and associate members in assessing** progress in implementing the Pacific Urban Agenda, **to convene a subregional workshop in 2006 for exchange of experience and** ~~to conduct assessments on urban development and management issues where so requested by Pacific member States and to provide for capacity-building where appropriate, and requests the Executive Secretary~~ **requirements and** to report to the Commission at its sixty-second session on the ~~progress made in implementing the present resolution~~ **outcome of this exercise.**

PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE PACIFIC URBAN AGENDA

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

In paragraph 2, the Commission:

Requests the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to accord priority to the implementation of the Pacific Urban Agenda.

In paragraph 5, the Commission:

Requests the secretariat to undertake a subregional stocktake in early 2006 on progress in implementing the Pacific Urban Agenda, to conduct assessments on urban development and management issues where so requested by Pacific member States and to provide for capacity-building where appropriate, and requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its sixty-second session on the progress made in implementing the resolution.

B. Relationship of the requests to the revised medium-term plan (2002-2005)

The requests are consistent with the priorities outlined in the medium-term plan under subprogramme 1, Poverty and development, and its focus, inter alia, on the special needs of least developed countries and small island developing States. They are consistent with the programme goal of promoting close cooperation and coordination with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in undertaking regional activities.

The actions requested would enhance the delivery of programme activities and accessibility to programme resources by Pacific island members and associate members.

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

1. Background of the requests

The background of the requests is set out in the preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution.

2. Activities (with time frame, where applicable) by which the requests would be implemented

A subregional stocktake on progress in implementing the Pacific Urban Agenda and the provision of capacity-building activities would commence in the current biennium and extend into the 2006-2007 biennium. Some of the foreseen activities will include:

(a) Organizing a subregional workshop to take stock of urban development and management issues;

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(b) Making available urban planning tools, models and good practices, based, inter alia, on pilot projects;

(c) Building knowledge and skills to enable Pacific island countries to prepare integrated physical, social and environmental urban development plans;

(d) Establishing a sustainable resource facility on the Pacific Urban Agenda;

(e) Developing and implementing a regional partnership strategy on the Pacific Urban Agenda.

3. Relation to the approved programme of work for 2004-2005

The requests build on the aim of subprogramme 1, Poverty and development, to increase the capacity of members and associate members to identify, analyse, document, design and implement programmes and best practices in the area of poverty eradication in both urban and rural areas.

4. Implications for the programme of work for 2006-2007

Outputs related to the resolution will be consistent with the 2006-2007 strategic framework.

D. Modification required of the approved programme of work for 2004-2005

Implementing the request would not require any modifications to the approved programme of work for 2004-2005.

E. Additional regular or extrabudgetary requirements at full cost for 2004-2005 in relation to item D above

For the proposed technical cooperation activities, a total of US\$ 200,000 of XB resources would be requested for 2004-2005.

F. Necessity for regular budget and/or extrabudgetary reallocations for 2004-2005

No reallocations are foreseen.

G. Proposal for regular budget and/or extrabudgetary allocations for 2006-2007

The continued implementation of the Pacific Urban Agenda, including additional extrabudgetary requirements, would be reflected in the context of the programme of work and the budget of ESCAP for 2006-2007.

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Annex II

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF UN-EPOC

To strengthen the capacity of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (UN-EPOC) for the purpose of taking into account views and advice from Pacific island developing countries and territories in relation to the processes of monitoring and evaluating the Centre's work programme activities and accomplishments and formulating its work programme priorities and objectives within given ESCAP mandates, an UN-EPOC Advisory Council shall be established:

- (a) To provide advice on the formulation of UN-EPOC's biennial work programme priorities;
- (b) To provide advice on formulating UN-EPOC's subprogramme in the context of ESCAP's strategic framework;
- (c) To review and provide comments on UN-EPOC's operational issues and work programme monitoring and evaluation reports;
- (d) To provide advice on the perspectives of Pacific island developing countries and territories regarding Pacific regional development priorities and the implementation of internationally agreed goals and targets, which may need to be mainstreamed into the work programme mandates of UN-EPOC.

The Advisory Council will meet at the venue of the biennial session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

The Advisory Council will elect a chairperson, deputy chairperson and rapporteur for each session, who will exercise the function for two years.

The membership of the Advisory Council will comprise ministerial representatives or their delegates from the nineteen Pacific island members and associate members of ESCAP and representatives of Australia and New Zealand.

Annex III

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF
THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF UN-EPOC,
HELD AT SHANGHAI, CHINA, ON 21 APRIL 2004**

1. The inaugural meeting of the Advisory Council of UN-EPOC was convened at the venue of the eighth session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on 21 April 2004. It was attended by government representatives from Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
2. The Meeting appointed the representative of the Federated States of Micronesia Chairman of the inaugural session, the representative of Vanuatu Vice-Chairman and the representative of Niue Rapporteur.
3. The terms of reference of the Advisory Council were considered and adopted. It was suggested that the terms of reference be reviewed by the Special Body every two years. Representatives emphasized the need for full and consistent participation by member countries in the Advisory Council in order to provide focused and strategic advice relating to the work programme priorities of UN-EPOC.
4. During their review of the revitalization document of UN-EPOC, some members pointed out the continuing need for capacity-building in such areas as urban management, statistics, trade and investment, energy, sanitation, health and poverty reduction. However, it was agreed that, in order to provide more useful inputs into the formulation of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 for UN-EPOC, the nature and types of support would be surveyed through a questionnaire to be circulated by the secretariat during the sixtieth session of the Commission.
5. During its consideration of the draft resolution on the revitalization of UN-EPOC presented by Fiji, members agreed on the wording after extensive discussion relating to the relocation to Suva.
6. The representatives of Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands agreed to the resolution with the proviso that their objections to the relocation be reflected in the report of the Special Body.

Annex IV

60/... Revitalization of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre

Sponsored by: China, Fiji

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its earlier resolutions on the Commission activities in the Pacific, in particular 237 (XL) of 27 April 1984 on institutional changes to increase the effectiveness of the Commission's role in the economic and social development of Pacific island developing countries; 269 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 committing ESCAP to special measures in favour of Pacific island developing countries and to increasing the relevance and effectiveness of the Commission's role and activities in the Pacific; and 48/9 of 23 April 1992 on redeployment of staffing resources to strengthen the Pacific Operation's Centre advisory capacity in the fields of economic and financial management, social development, and market development and trade,

Recalling also its resolution 58/1 of 22 May 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, in particular annex VI, by which it revised and focused the terms of reference of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries to undertaking periodic reviews and analyses of special problems of Pacific island developing countries and territories, so as to mobilize ideas for promoting policy options to maximize the benefits from globalization, assist in strengthening their capacity to implement poverty reduction policies and programmes, and to address emerging social issues in the contexts of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and Millennium Declaration,

Recognizing that the United Nations Millennium Declaration articulated eight Millennium Development Goals and specific, measurable and time-bound targets to focus poverty interventions and interventions in the education, health and environmental sectors of Pacific island developing countries and territories by 2005,

Recognizing also that the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States set forth specific actions and measure to be taken at the national, regional and international levels in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States, in such areas as biodiversity, climate change, coastal and marine resource management, sustainable tourism and trade,

Recognizing further that the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, among other things, promotes the view that trade is a means by which poverty

reduction strategies could be made more sustainable and by which the living standards of people living in least developed countries could be improved,

Reaffirming the desire of Pacific members and associate members to participate effectively and benefit from the Commission's activities as a whole,

Reaffirming also the desire to revitalize the Pacific Operations Centre and strengthen its role as an effective representative office of ESCAP in the Pacific which can provide capacity-strengthening assistance to Pacific island developing countries and territories on a long-term sustainable basis,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Vanuatu for its generous contributions made since 1984 as host of the Centre,

Bearing in mind that assistance to Pacific island developing countries and territories will need to take into account their unique economic and social situations related to their isolation, small size and vulnerability to environmental hazards,

Appreciating progress made thus far by the Executive Secretary in implementing the key institutional changes for the revitalization of the Centre in line with the recommendations of the independent evaluation carried out in early 2003,

Welcoming the revised Mission Statement of the Centre clarifying its roles as the representative office of UNESCAP in the Pacific, to provide capacity-strengthening assistance that Pacific island developing countries and territories require in order to achieve internationally agreed goals contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Noting that preparations are underway for the relocation of the Centre in 2004 from Port Vila to Suva as announced at the Commission at its fifty-ninth session and reflected in the Commission's annual report which was endorsed by Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in 2003, in order to ensure cost-effectiveness in the Centre's operations, and place increased emphasis on regular cooperation with donor agencies and engagement of regional organizations, most of which are located in Suva,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare amendments to the terms of reference of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries to provide for the possibility for convening sessions of the Special Body in the Pacific prior to the Commission sessions, in alternate years with the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, and alternately between Bangkok and the location of the Pacific Operations Centre;.

2. *Notes* the establishment of an Advisory Council for the Centre, comprising representatives of the Governments of Pacific island developing countries and territories governments, and also of Australia and New Zealand, to meet bi-annually at the venue of the sessions
/...

of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, to provide advice on the Centre's work programme priorities;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the Executive Secretary to establish Subprogramme 3 on the Development of Pacific Island Countries, with the objective of building policy and management capacity in Pacific Island developing countries and territories by facilitating the design and implementation of policies that focus on poverty reduction, managing the impact of globalization, addressing emerging social issues to achieve the internationally agreed goals and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to mobilize the resources required to relocate the Centre from Vanuatu to Fiji in 2004 and augment its professional staff resources in the biennium 2006-2007 to enable it to meet the demand for services from Pacific Island developing countries and territories and respond effectively to the above-mentioned institutional changes;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to make effective use of the Pacific Trust Fund for the revitalization of the Centre and the implementation of the present resolution, including capacity development activities in support of the Pacific region, as well as to carry needs assessments and evaluations;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

**PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON
THE REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ESCAP PACIFIC
OPERATIONS CENTRE**

A. Request contained in the draft resolution

In operative paragraph 4, the Commission:

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to mobilize the required resources to relocate the Centre from Vanuatu to Fiji in 2004 and augment its Professional staff in the biennium 2006-2007 to enable it to meet the demand for services from Pacific island developing countries and territories and respond effectively to the institutional changes to the Centre.

B. Relationship of the request to the revised medium-term plan (2002-2005)

The request is consistent with the priorities outlined in the medium-term plan under subprogramme 1 on poverty and development and its focus, inter alia, on the special needs of least developed countries and small island developing States. It is consistent with the programme goal of promoting close cooperation and coordination with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in undertaking regional activities.

It enhances the delivery of programme activities and access to programme resources by Pacific island members and associate members.

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

1. Background of the request

The background of the request is set out in the preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution.

2. Activities (with time frame, where applicable) by which the request would be implemented

Implementation of the decision by members to relocate the Centre to Fiji should commence in May 2004 and be completed in 2005.

3. Relation to the approved programme of work for 2004-2005

The draft resolution does not affect the current programme of work.

4. Implications for the programme of work for 2006-2007 (to be prepared by the end of 2004)

Outputs related to the resolution will be consistent with the strategic framework 2006-2007.

D. Modification required of the approved programme of work for 2004-2005

Implementation of the request would not require any modifications to the approved programme of work for 2004-2005.

**E. Additional regular or extrabudgetary requirements at full cost for 2004-2005
in relation to item D above**

The Centre's physical relocation from Port Vila to Suva is estimated to cost US\$ 120,000. For the long run, the costs of operating an office in Suva will be lower than in Port Vila.

F. Necessity for regular budget and/or extrabudgetary reallocations for 2004-2005

No reallocations are foreseen.

G. Proposal for regular budget and/or extrabudgetary allocations for 2006-2007

The required Professional staff levels will be determined in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

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