



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventy-third session

Agenda item 3 (b)

**Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific**

**73/3. Advancing integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable
development in Asia and the Pacific**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Reaffirming its commitment to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which a set of goals and targets were adopted to achieve sustainable development,

Recalling the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific as endorsed in resolution 70/1 of 23 May 2014 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling also its resolution 71/8 of 29 May 2015 on strengthening intraregional and interregional connectivity in Asia and the Pacific according priority to developing comprehensive and seamless connectivity of the region, and expressing its appreciation for the progress made in the implementation of that resolution,

Taking note of the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific,¹ as adopted by the Fourth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Bangkok from 29 to 31 March 2017, in which connectivity was identified as a priority area of cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing the crucial and substantive role of connectivity in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and in strengthening regional integration in Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing also the centrality of connectivity in deepening and widening regional cooperation and integration to promote trade, attract investment, boost tourism, foster social and cultural ties and achieve greater mobility, thus creating opportunities for achieving wider development objectives,

¹ E/ESCAP/73/31, annex II.

Conscious of the common desire of members and associate members, in particular bearing in mind that the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States deserve special attention to remove bottlenecks to development, for enhanced regional connectivity to promote economic growth and to achieve shared prosperity for all,

Acknowledging the fundamental role of regional agreements and arrangements, including the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network,² the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network,³ the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports,⁴ the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport,⁵ the Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport,⁶ ongoing cooperation on the Asia-Pacific information superhighway and ongoing work related to energy connectivity and the “Asian Energy Highway”,⁷ in promoting regional connectivity,

Expressing its appreciation for national, subregional and regional initiatives and efforts to advance connectivity in the region and beyond, and noting with appreciation the convening of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, which was held in Beijing on 14 and 15 May 2017 with broad and high-level participation from Asia and the Pacific,

Bearing in mind the importance of integrating the three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – of sustainable development,

Emphasizing the importance of the application of new technologies, in particular the innovative use of information and communications technology, to increase energy efficiency and improve environmental performance, in developing integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable development,

Expressing its appreciation for the Executive Secretary’s efforts in supporting cooperation among members and associate members to strengthen and promote regional connectivity, including contributions to relevant initiatives,

Acknowledging various partnerships established among countries, multilateral organizations, programmes and other related stakeholders to advance regional and subregional connectivity,

1. *Resolves* to continue efforts and cooperation on regional connectivity to achieve integrated and seamless connectivity, through extensive consultations, joint contributions and shared benefits, and encourage members and associate members to promote dialogue on policy coordination and cooperation in the areas of infrastructure, trade, finance, people-to-people exchanges, transport, energy and information and communications technology, in accordance with relevant internationally accepted rules, obligations and best practices;

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. 41607.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2596, No. 46171.

⁴ Resolution 69/7.

⁵ Resolution 68/4, annex, appendix II.

⁶ Resolution 71/7, annex.

⁷ See resolution 68/11.

2. *Invites* member States that have not yet done so to consider the possibility of becoming parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network,³ the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network² and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports;⁴

3. *Invites* Governments, relevant United Nations bodies, international and regional organizations, within their mandates, and the private sector as well as civil society, as appropriate, to actively participate in and contribute to integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Continue to explore ways to comprehensively integrate sustainable development into regional connectivity and the regional integration process;

(b) Continue to provide the necessary support, in accordance with the existing mandate of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, to promote integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable development in the areas of transport, trade, energy and information and communications technology in the region;

(c) Continue efforts to facilitate discussions, provide capacity-building and policy advice, and exchange of best practices among members and associate members on applying new innovative technologies to connectivity, so as to increase their cost-effectiveness and sustainability for the furtherance of regional connectivity and integration;

(d) Continue to cooperate with members and associate members to support their effective implementation of infrastructure projects associated with national, subregional and regional initiatives, including the Silk Road Economic Belt and Twenty-first Century Maritime Silk Road, the Global Infrastructure Initiative, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programme, the Eurasia Initiative, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Connectivity Blueprint for 2015-2025 and the Master Plan on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Connectivity 2025, in accordance with relevant internationally accepted rules, obligations and best practices;

(e) Prepare a report on integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific in 2018, to be updated every three years until 2030 and submitted to the Commission at its related sessions, to provide information on the progress made, challenges remaining and the way forward for regional connectivity;

(f) Continue to build and strengthen partnerships between the Commission and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, programmes and international financial institutions in order to promote integrated and seamless connectivity and sustainable development;

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

*6th plenary meeting
19 May 2017*