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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific****Seventy-first session**

Agenda item 3 (c)

**Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission  
for Asia and the Pacific****71/6. Maritime transport connectivity for sustainable development**

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

*Recalling* the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources, as well as other related instruments,

*Recalling also* the outcome document, entitled “The future we want”, of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, in which the Conference noted that transport and mobility are central to sustainable development, and committed to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems and to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations, and to effectively apply, in accordance with international law, an ecosystem approach and a precautionary approach to the management of activities having an impact on the marine environment, to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development,

*Recognizing* that maritime transport connectivity is vital to the achievement of sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region,

*Recognizing also* that oceans and coasts provide valuable resources and services to support human populations, particularly coastal communities that depend heavily on them, and that the sustainable use of marine living resources will enhance global food security and contribute towards poverty reduction for present and future generations,

*Recognizing further* that many ecologically and biologically rich and fragile marine areas need management measures and safeguards to avoid negative environmental impacts from maritime transport activities,

*Recalling* the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, adopted by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 2009,

*Recalling also* its resolution 70/7 of 8 August 2014 on implementation of the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific and its resolution 68/4 of 23 May 2012 on implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016),

*Recognizing* that regional connectivity plays an important role in promoting inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, and that maritime transport is an essential factor in supporting the post-2015 development agenda expected to be adopted at the United Nations Summit in September 2015, and understanding that there are still significant gaps in transport infrastructure connectivity and that there is a need for better linkages from land-based and air-based transport networks to the region's maritime ports,

*Recognizing also* the importance of maritime connectivity in poverty alleviation as it facilitates trade and access to health services, education, employment, markets and other social and economic opportunities,

*Recalling* the report<sup>1</sup> of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, in particular goal 14 on conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,

*Acknowledging* that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing remains a serious threat to sustainable development in many countries of the Asia-Pacific region,

1. *Urges* countries in the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen cooperation on maritime transport connectivity in order to facilitate the achievement of sustainable development;

2. *Encourages* countries in the region to make further efforts in combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources and marine ecosystems, and to underline the importance of regional and global efforts and cooperation to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To include maritime connectivity in the programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017 and its Regional Action Programme (2017-2021), as appropriate, to be presented to the Ministerial Conference on Transport at its third session in 2016;

(b) To further strengthen ways of cooperation to enhance capacities at the national and regional levels in building intermodal transport for the Asia-Pacific region, in particular maritime transport;

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<sup>1</sup> A/68/970.

(c) To collaborate with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to make necessary efforts in maritime cooperation in achieving sustainable development;

(d) To report to the Commission at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
29 May 2015*