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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the PacificSeventieth session
Agenda item 3(c)**Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific****70/7. Implementation of the Suva Declaration on Improving
Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific***The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

Welcoming the successful outcome of the High-level Meeting on Strengthening Inter-island Shipping and Logistics in the Pacific Island Countries, held in Suva from 23 to 25 July 2013,

Recognizing that regional connectivity plays an important role in promoting inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,

1. *Endorses* the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific, as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific;

(b) To report to the Commission at its seventy-third and seventy-fifth sessions on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014*

Annex

Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific

We, the representatives of Governments assembled at the High-level Meeting on Strengthening Inter-island Shipping and Logistics in the Pacific Island Countries, held in Suva from 23 to 25 July 2013,

Concerned that Pacific island countries and territories have high levels of economic, social and environmental vulnerability arising from a number of intrinsic characteristics, including small land area and population, long distances between islands, large exclusive economic zones, remoteness, exposure to external demand and supply shocks, high dependency on fossil fuels, narrow resource base and exposure to global environmental challenges,

Also concerned that these characteristics create a number of constraints and challenges in the provision of inter-island shipping services (domestic and international), maritime infrastructure, hydrographical services, maritime safety and security services and environmental protection from activities related to shipping,

Recalling the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States^a and its follow-up conference^b which, among other things, noted that transport and communications remain important lifelines linking small island developing States with the outside world and remain important challenges in the promotion and implementation of sustainable development nationally and in their regions,

Also recalling the Forum Principles on Regional Transport Services,^c the Framework for Action on Transport Services,^d the Communiqué of the Second Regional Meeting of Ministers for Maritime Transport^e and the Communiqué of the Inaugural Joint Regional Meeting for Energy, Information and Communication Technology and Transport,^f

Recognizing the adverse impacts of infrequent, costly and unreliable international and domestic shipping services, especially to outer islands, and the constraints they place on the social and economic development of peoples on the islands,

^a *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

^b *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).

^c Forum Principles on Regional Transport Services was adopted by Heads of State and Governments attending the Thirty-Fifth Pacific Islands Forum, which was held in Apia from 5 to 7 August 2004. Available from www.sids2014.org/index.php?page=view&type=13&nr=43&menu=1509.

^d The Framework for Action on Transport Services was endorsed by the inaugural Joint Regional Meeting for Energy, Information and Communication Technology and Transport, which was held in Noumea from 4 to 8 April 2011.

^e Available from www.spc.int/maritime/images/Reports/Comunique/maritime%20ministerial%20comunique%202009.pdf.

^f The inaugural Joint Regional Meeting for Energy, Information and Communication Technology and Transport was held in Noumea from 4 to 8 April 2011.

Also recognizing the importance of maritime transport in poverty alleviation as it provides opportunities for trade and access to health services, education, employment, markets and other social and economic opportunities,

Convinced that maritime transport will play an important role in supporting the development agenda beyond 2015,^g

Recognizing the need to improve inter-island shipping services and to create an enabling environment for services for shipping, including port infrastructure, border control, maritime-related facilities, ship finance, shipbuilding, slipway and repair facilities,

Also recognizing that, in many places in the Pacific, aids to navigation are often limited or lack effective all-weather operations and that the accuracy of navigational charts is poor, which increases risk to vessels, cargo, passengers and the environment, as well as reduces vessel efficiency,^h

Further recognizing the need to improve maritime safety and security, prevent and minimize pollution from ships, and develop and implement search and rescue and marine spill response plans,

Recognizing the need to improve the sustainability of inter-island shipping in the Pacific and to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels,

1. *Agree* that maritime transport and related services in the Pacific are public policy issues of major concern that require strong political commitment and effective interventions in order to significantly improve the lives of our peoples;

2. *Encourage* Pacific island countries and territories:

(a) To formulate or strengthen shipping programmes that:

(i) Develop and regularly update inventories of ships;ⁱ

(ii) Develop and regularly update inventories of maritime infrastructure and facilities (ports, wharves, jetties, dredged channels and navigational aids);

(iii) Review the adequacy of inter-island shipping services;

(iv) Enable the provision of ship-repair facilities;

(v) Explore options for ship finance;

(vi) Strengthen the capacity of maritime administrations to address the whole scope of maritime policies, encourage the use and adoption of safe ship management systems and enforce the implementation of safety and security regulations;

^g See the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Small Island Developing States and the Post-2015 Agenda, New York, 23-24 April 2013. Available from www.sids2014.org/index.php?page=view&type=13&nr=43&menu=1509.

^h Due to diversions to avoid hazards and daytime-only operations in favourable weather.

ⁱ Framework for Action on Transport Services, Theme 3 - Transport safety and security: "In order to address the problems currently facing the Pacific domestic shipping sector, more detailed information is required on individual vessels such as type of vessel, year built, previous and current owners, engine power, length, tonnage, etc. This information will be useful in providing technical advice based on realistic analyses".

- (vii) Strengthen the capacity of maritime training institutions in implementing the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers,^j as amended;
- (viii) Explore possibilities of supporting shipping services of an adequate quality that, for commercial reasons, would not otherwise be provided;^k
- (ix) Develop and regularly update plans for funding, developing, rehabilitating and maintaining maritime infrastructure which take into account risk management strategies;
- (x) Explore various funding models, such as blended finance and public-private partnerships, for infrastructure projects, in particular to support and improve the ability of the private sector to develop, evaluate, execute and monitor projects;
- (xi) Strengthen data and information collection, including the monitoring of the adequacy of port and shipping services, as a basis for effective planning, decision-making and benchmarking;
- (xii) To develop regional reception facilities as a solution to enable Pacific island countries and territories to meet the obligations under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and encourage Pacific island countries, which have not done so, to consider becoming a party to the Convention;
- (xiii) Explore opportunities to increase the sustainability of shipping and reduce reliance on fossil fuel use in the shipping sector;
- (xiv) Monitor the adequacy of shipping services in the Pacific, particularly regional shipping arrangements;
- (xv) Explore policy options that ensure adequate shipping services, especially to smaller island States;^l
- (xvi) Promote border control agreements and cooperation among Pacific island countries and territories;
- (xvii) Enable the provision of border control facilities and infrastructure;
- (xviii) Develop benchmarks on port and shipping performance, and monitor and improve port performance;
- (xix) Benchmark, monitor and improve the efficiency of trade and transport, including border control;
- (xx) Seek to implement transport sector commitments under the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement Trade in Services Protocol and encourage trade under the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement by Parties to the Agreement;
- (xxi) Encourage the effective implementation of measures to reduce biosecurity risks, including the risk of invasive marine pests, and encourage Pacific island countries that have not yet done so to consider becoming a party to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments;

^j United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1361, No. 23001.

^k Transport Services Implementation Plan, Theme 4 - Improved Access: Activities include "Maintenance fund for promotion of sustainable subsidies" and "Examine franchise or subsidy schemes for uneconomical routes".

^l Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau and Tuvalu.

(xxii) Review and harmonize selected maritime legislation, as necessary, using the Pacific Islands Maritime Laws as a guideline;

(b) To formulate or strengthen programmes that:

(i) Incorporate risk assessments of safety of navigation;

(ii) Ensure the adequacy and reliability of navigational aids, including, when appropriate, the establishment of community lighthouse committees to monitor lights, provide security and conduct basic maintenance;

(iii) Improve the accuracy and coverage of navigational charts (in cooperation with the International Hydrographic Organization, the South-West Pacific Hydrographic Commission and other regional organizations and countries);

(iv) Support the development of effective search and rescue capabilities in the subregion;

(v) Support the development of capabilities to respond to oil and chemical spills;

(vi) Support improved planning to respond to climate change and enable effective disaster risk management;

(c) Evaluate the need to create national facilitation committees with a view to improving coordination between the administrations that have responsibilities for clearance of ships, cargoes and passengers in ports;

(d) Support research and development on renewable sources of energy, such as solar and wind, as well as their deployment, to foster sustainable maritime transport;

3. *Also encourage* Pacific island countries which have not already done so to consider acceding to the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic;

4. *Request* international and regional organizations, specialized agencies and institutions, as well as development partners, to support, in a coordinated manner, the implementation of the present Declaration.

Suva, 25 July 2013