



**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMERGING SOCIAL ISSUES  
ON ITS THIRD SESSION**

**Bangkok, 12-14 December 2006**

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

1. The Committee requested the secretariat to conduct analytical studies and compile relevant migration information with a view to identifying key trends and emerging issues on international migration in Asia and the Pacific. It also requested the secretariat to provide support, upon the request of members and associate members, in capacity-building by, inter alia, organizing training workshops and disseminating best practices on migration management.
2. The Committee requested the secretariat, in collaboration with relevant international and intergovernmental organizations, to coordinate regional follow-up actions to the outcome of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (New York, 14-15 September 2006). It urged the secretariat to provide a forum for regional dialogue and to facilitate discussions on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and its linkages with development. The Committee called for the establishment of a regional consultative process on international migration and development.
3. The Committee requested the secretariat to assist members and associate members in building their capacities to integrate population factors into development planning.
4. Recognizing the importance of regularly assessing policies and programmes, the Committee welcomed the proposal of convening in 2008 the mid-point review meeting on the implementation of the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty, which was adopted at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference on Population and Poverty.<sup>1</sup>
5. The Committee expressed its support for the high-level meeting on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific, scheduled to be held in Macao, China, in October 2007. In that regard, the Committee urged members and associate members to review and appraise national policies and strategies on ageing, in accordance with the priorities identified in the Shanghai Implementation Strategy (SIS).<sup>2</sup>
6. In recognition of the importance of scaling up investment in youth and meeting their development needs in the areas of education, especially in ICT, employment, participation and health, the Committee expressed its support for a regional consultation on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,<sup>3</sup> as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/2 of 6 October 2005 on policies and programmes involving youth.

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<sup>1</sup> E/ESCAP/1271, annex I.

<sup>2</sup> Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 and the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific 1999 (E/ESCAP/1280).

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.

7. The Committee encouraged ESCAP to continue to provide policy assistance to its members and associate members in accordance with the global and regional mandate on disability. In this regard, the Committee welcomed the holding of the high-level intergovernmental meeting on the mid-point review of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>4</sup> in Bangkok in September 2007.
8. The Committee requested the secretariat to create a forum for sharing experiences and knowledge on the available options for providing sustainable financing of health care and universal coverage of health care. It also requested the secretariat to provide members and associate members with related technical assistance.
9. The Committee requested the secretariat to provide members and associate members with technical expertise to enable them to utilize the flexibilities available under current trade agreements, including the agreement on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), in order to protect public health.
10. The Committee requested the secretariat to facilitate the sharing of experiences and information on available means to strengthen health systems and the use of financial and other resources in a synergistic manner.
11. The Committee requested the secretariat to provide technical support to members and associate members in integrating health concerns into economic and trade policies, as well as to provide a forum for exchange of experiences on enhancing investment in the health sector and build on the work carried out by other United Nations agencies and organizations. The Committee advised the secretariat to work in close collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies to utilize the multisectoral advantages of ESCAP and enhance synergy between member and associate member countries.
12. The Committee requested the secretariat to serve as the “regional machinery” for gender mainstreaming by, amongst others, providing technical assistance and advice to members and associate members.
13. The Committee requested the secretariat to serve as a forum for the exchange of good practices and experiences on gender and development. That would require non-governmental organizations, the private sector, youth and others to work together with Governments to raise awareness and bring about positive changes.
14. The Committee requested the secretariat to formulate long-term and comprehensive normative framework for the region in the form of a declaration on gender and development, including emerging challenges and opportunities.

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<sup>4</sup> E/ESCAP/APDDP/4/Rev.1.

15. The Committee requested the secretariat to work in collaboration with relevant agencies involved in gender development-related issues. In that regard, existing and appropriate coordinating and cooperative mechanisms would be utilized.

16. The Committee welcomed the proposal to convene the next Regional Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.<sup>5</sup>

## II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE SESSION

### A. Regional follow-up to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

17. The Committee had before it a document entitled “Regional challenges in managing migration for development” (E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/1). The document examined key issues of international migration in the ESCAP region and reviewed the activities undertaken by ESCAP in advance of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, as well as its outcome.<sup>6</sup>

18. The Committee was informed of the establishment of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, as a follow-up action to the High-level Dialogue, and the offer by the Government of Belgium to host the first meeting of the Forum in mid-2007.

19. The Committee recognized international migration as an emerging cross-border issue in the Asian and Pacific region. While some delegations underscored its beneficial impacts, including the impact of remittances on poverty reduction, they also noted with concern some of its negative impacts, brain drain, including the abuse of the human rights of migrants, lack of social protection for migrant workers and enforcement of relevant labour standards and its impact on children that have been left behind.

20. The Committee agreed that international migration should be viewed as a positive force for development and, if properly managed, should contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

21. The Committee emphasized that it was necessary to investigate the root causes of international migration in order to formulate effective policies and programmes. International migration in the region was, inter alia, caused by poverty, persistent disparities in development, divergent demographic dynamics and conflicts. Some delegations noted that migration policies needed to take into account existing and projected labour force shortages resulting from population ageing.

22. The Committee was informed by several delegations of recent national initiatives to formulate and enhance migration management policies and programmes, which comprised, inter alia,

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<sup>5</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>6</sup> See A/61/515.

streamlining legislation, registering of undocumented migrants, establishing migration management system databases and setting up inter-ministerial committees to integrate the efforts of relevant offices.

23. The Committee welcomed the significant number of bilateral agreements which had been concluded between members and associate members on various aspects of international migration, particularly on labour exchanges and combating human trafficking.

24. The Committee expressed its concern over the growing number of undocumented migrants and the implications of that development. It noted that domestic measures did not adequately address the problem of undocumented migration. Those developments called for a deeper analysis of the causes of unauthorized migration and the coordination of efforts among stakeholders.

25. The Committee noted with concern the gender-based vulnerabilities faced by female migrants, including victims of trafficking, and emphasized the need to incorporate gender dimensions into policy formulation and implementation. It also underscored the need to combat the trafficking of women and children through preventive and protective measures, as well as by addressing critical aspects in both countries of origin and destination.

26. The Committee reiterated the importance of regional cooperation in the development of comprehensive migration management systems that took into account regular, irregular and other forms of migration, as well as the concerns of both receiving and sending countries. It also urged the exchange of information and best practices through South-South cooperation.

27. The Committee further urged concerned international and intergovernmental organizations to coordinate their activities on international migration. In that regard, the Committee was informed of the recent activities of the Thematic Working Group on International Migration, including Human Trafficking, which was composed of 15 Bangkok-based international and intergovernmental organizations and co-chaired by ESCAP and the International Organization for Migration.

## **B. Population and social integration**

28. The Committee had before it a document entitled “Selected emerging issues in population and social integration” (E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/2). The document reviewed selected emerging social issues in the Asian and Pacific region and introduced key activities and programmes carried out by the secretariat.

29. The Committee noted a great diversity in demographic dynamics among countries in the ESCAP region. As a result of demographic transition, several countries were experiencing a youth bulge, which provided opportunities for development. At the same time, it represented a challenge for policymakers to provide adequate levels of education and employment for countries to reap the benefits of the “demographic dividend”.

30. The Committee also noted that, in those countries where fertility had dropped below replacement level, there was a need to create an enabling environment for women to have children. That would help prevent the population of those countries, and particularly their working-age population, from declining.

31. Several delegations highlighted the focus of their population policies, which ranged from controlling the size of their populations to balancing population distribution.

32. The Committee expressed the need for greater sharing of knowledge and experiences in the fields of population and social integration.

33. The Committee noted the steady increases in longevity and the consequent rapid population ageing witnessed in the region and the growing numbers and percentages of not only old persons (aged 60 and over), but also of the “old-old” (aged 80 and over).

34. The Committee recognized the economic, social and developmental challenges associated with the process of demographic ageing. Some delegations raised concerns over the capacity of countries to maintain high levels of sectoral productivity due to the declining size of the labour force in countries of the region. The Committee noted that a growing number of countries might meet the challenge of likely shortfalls in the labour force by introducing migrant worker schemes.

35. The Committee considered that a person’s quality of life in old age could be diminished due to increased exclusion from health services, social care, pensions, education, adequate housing and transportation.

36. Delegations exchanged national experiences in addressing issues related to youth and strengthening policies and programmes on youth. The Committee noted that, while young people represented opportunities for national development, they faced many challenges, such as youth unemployment, lack of education, health services and participation opportunities, which could give rise to social problems. In that connection, the Committee expressed its support for the implementation of the goals and targets contained in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.<sup>3</sup>

37. The Committee reaffirmed the need to support and strengthen the family as a fundamental social institution in fulfilling its societal and developmental functions. Some delegations referred to national policies and programmes aimed at improving the well-being of families, such as the provision of services in support of families, especially for women, maternal care and disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

38. The Committee was informed of recent efforts by several members and associate members to include persons with disabilities in the overall development process, such as the formulation of policy frameworks and action plans on the social protection of persons with disabilities, awareness-raising and the utilization of volunteers in supporting people with disabilities.

39. Several delegations reported on the development of specialized schemes and programmes for persons with disabilities, ranging from the quota scheme for employment in the public sector, educational centres for children with disabilities, to a preferential banking system for persons with disabilities and the involvement of women with disabilities in the consultative processes.

40. The Committee welcomed the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/106 of 13 December 2006. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the important roles played by ESCAP in facilitating the active participation of Governments and civil society in the course of the Convention's four-year long drafting process.

41. In the light of the importance of approaching disability issues from the perspective of protecting and promoting human rights, some delegations expressed their intention to ratify the Convention, following its adoption by the General Assembly.

### **C. Gender and development**

42. The Committee had before it a document entitled "Emerging issues and challenges related to gender and development" (E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/3). The document covered some of the pertinent gender issues facing the region with regard to the economic empowerment of women and the impact of globalization on women, as well as the key findings and recommendations of the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122/Add.1). The Committee considered that the secretariat document effectively highlighted the key issues of particular relevance to the region relating to the economic empowerment of women and violence against women.

43. The Committee was informed of initiatives and measures undertaken by Governments to improve the status of women and the progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It was also informed of the way gender mainstreaming was being applied to planning, implementation and evaluation of the work of government agencies involved in national development in order to promote gender equality. It also noted the effective use of gender analysis tools and capacity-building at the national and regional levels in order to achieve gender equality.

44. The Committee noted the steps that had been taken to integrate gender equality into policies and national development plans, including those related to official development assistance and other areas, such as poverty reduction, sustainable development, measures for solving global issues and peacebuilding. The Committee was also informed of various steps taken towards empowerment of women, including enabling women to choose to keep their own family name after marriage, strengthening women's property rights, ending sexual harassment and protecting women's rights following a divorce. The Committee was informed of other concrete measures, such as the introduction of benefits for women retrenched from State-owned enterprises, vocational training



centres for women, access to credit at the village and community level and the use of gender budgeting to ensure adequate resources were allocated for gender mainstreaming.

45. The Committee was informed of concrete steps that had been taken to eliminate violence against women and assist women survivors of gender-based violence and their children. That included legislation to eliminate violence against women, the establishment of shelters and clinics, one-stop crisis centres and coordinated delivery of services by various line ministries.

46. The Committee acknowledged the importance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.<sup>7</sup> In that regard, the Committee recognized the need for a rights-based approach to development, as a way of achieving sustainable development, as well as the need to mainstream gender and the principle of sustainable development in socio-economic policy.

#### **D. Health and development**

47. The Committee had before it a document entitled “Selected issues related to health and development” (E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/4), which covered issues related to the existing and potential burdens imposed by HIV/AIDS, newly emerging diseases, such as avian influenza and chronic diseases, as well as strengthening health systems and ensuring essential health care for all. The Committee agreed that the issues covered in the document not only were important for the region, but also constituted some of the key challenges faced by the region.

48. The Committee was informed of steps that had been taken by members and associate members towards improving the health status of their populations and the progress made towards the achievement of health-related Millennium Development Goals. It noted the vital role played by health in poverty reduction, economic and social development, and the need for health to be incorporated into national development agendas.

49. The Committee was informed of actions that had been taken by members and associate members in working towards the targets in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution S-26/2 of 27 June 2001. A number of delegations highlighted the efforts they had made towards improving the prevention of HIV infection and providing treatment and care for people living with HIV/AIDS, and highlighted the steps they had taken to ensure affordable access to antiretroviral drugs.

50. The Committee noted the human and social costs of HIV/AIDS and its impact at the household level. It acknowledged the importance of sustained campaigns to eliminate stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV through legislative and other measures.

51. The Committee was provided with an update on the avian influenza situation prevailing in the region and the challenges the region faced in that respect. Several delegations informed the

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<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution 34/180.

Committee on actions that were being undertaken to implement multisectoral contingency plans in response to the threat of avian influenza.

52. The Committee agreed that the prevention of a possible avian influenza pandemic required pre-emptive action, information sharing, awareness-raising and constant surveillance. It also agreed that strong cooperation and synergy across a range of sectors was required at the national, regional and global levels.

53. The Committee was informed of actions that had been taken in providing significant funding for the control of infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and avian influenza and technical support for sustainable health financing programmes in the region.

54. The Committee further noted the high prevalence of non-communicable diseases in some countries of the Asia and Pacific region and the need for integrated prevention and control programmes to reduce the risk factors associated with non-communicable diseases by promoting healthier lifestyles and providing supportive environments.

55. The Committee considered it vital to strengthen health systems to enable them to effectively deliver health care to tackle the double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. It identified the lack of basic health facilities and human resources in many countries of the region as one of the main weaknesses for improving the health status of populations.

56. The Committee was informed of efforts made by some members to provide their populations with universal health care coverage and the challenges they faced in that regard. The Committee was of the view that universal health coverage was important for providing a minimum level of health care to the whole population and to reduce out-of-pocket expenditures. The Committee likewise considered it important to promote equity and reduce the impact of catastrophic health expenditures on the poor.

## **E. Programme planning and evaluation**

### *1. Review of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009*

57. The Committee had before it a document entitled "Review of subprogramme 8: Social development, including persistent and emerging issues" (E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/5).

58. In introducing the item, the secretariat informed the Committee that the ESCAP draft strategic framework for 2008-2009, comprising the objectives, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and strategy, had been endorsed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination on 6 September 2006.<sup>8</sup> It was noted that the proposed strategic framework was currently being considered by the Fifth Committee for subsequent adoption by the General Assembly.

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<sup>8</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/61/16)*, paras. 215-230.

59. The Committee was invited to review the output citations, as contained in annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the draft programme of work (E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/5), which had been developed by the Emerging Social Issues Division. The Committee was informed that the draft programme of work for 2008-2009 would be further developed and submitted for the consideration of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission in early 2007, before it was reviewed and endorsed by the Commission at its sixty-third session. However, the Committee was informed that, due to ongoing reform initiatives, including the review by the Commission of the conference structure, adjustments might be made later.

60. The Committee supported, in principle, the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009, and made the following comments:

(a) One delegation expressed its concern with regard to the broad area of issues covered by the Committee, and, referring to the information provided by the secretariat with regard to ongoing reform efforts, suggested that the issue should be addressed during the impending review by the Commission of the conference structure. In that delegation's view, the thematic framework should be either discontinued or revised, so that the focus of future work could be sharpened in order to narrow the scope of coverage.

(b) One delegation requested clarification as to how the outputs listed in the programme of work would, in concrete terms, influence developments in the region. The secretariat outlined how operational activities led to evidence-based recommendations, which were then used by the secretariat for advocacy and policy consultations with decision makers. The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific was put forward as a concrete example of a regional framework which had provided the basis for the development of national plans.

## *2. Monitoring and evaluation*

61. The Committee had before it a document entitled "Review of the project on population, development and poverty: emerging challenges" (E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/6). The secretariat presented the evaluation of the project, which was implemented by the secretariat, with financial support from the United Nations Population Fund, in response to emerging needs in the areas of population and development in the Asia and Pacific region. The secretariat highlighted the expected outcomes and activities implemented over the preceding three years, which included inter-country analysis and research, knowledge sharing, advocacy, policy support and capacity-building activities in the field of population and development.

62. The secretariat assessed the progress achieved in meeting the project's objectives and its impact in strengthening the capacity of members and associate members to achieve the goals of the

Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development<sup>9</sup> and the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty (Bangkok, 11-17 December 2002).<sup>4</sup> As the current project cycle ends in 2007, the secretariat also presented various issues to be addressed during the next project cycle (2008-2011) for consideration by the Committee.

63. The Committee welcomed the fact that the secretariat attached great importance to monitoring and evaluation and encouraged it to further develop its monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in order to implement its activities more effectively through the introduction of such measures as setting more concrete indicators of achievement and documenting the impact of project activities on policy and programme changes in the region.

#### **F. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-third session**

64. The delegation of Mongolia put forward a draft resolution on sustainable health financing towards achieving universal coverage of health care in Asia and the Pacific, which would be submitted to ACPR and to the Commission at its sixty-third session. The secretariat offered to assist interested countries in the process towards submitting such draft resolutions. The Committee welcomed the early submission of the draft resolution.

#### **G. Other matters**

65. No other matters were raised.

#### **H. Adoption of the report**

66. The Committee adopted the report on its third session on 14 December 2006.

### **III. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

#### **A. Opening, duration and organization**

67. The Committee on Emerging Social Issues held its third session in Bangkok from 12-14 December 2006. In his opening statement, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP emphasized that concerted efforts by all, including governments, civil society and other sectors, were required to meet the enormous challenges facing the ESCAP region. He noted that the region had achieved significant successes in economic and social development, particularly towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals and three core goals of the World Summit for Social Development. He also stressed that the widening inequality and inequity between and within countries in the region remained a serious source of concern.

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<sup>9</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

68. The Executive Secretary outlined the actions taken by ESCAP to promote the well-being of disadvantaged groups, including youth, older persons, people with disabilities, as well as families in the region. He highlighted the importance of the draft convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, which was expected to be adopted by the General Assembly on 13 December 2006. He drew the attention of the Committee to the phenomenon of international migration in the region, and the need to maximize its developmental benefits and reduce the costs and risks of such migration. He acknowledged the importance of advancing gender equality and women's economic empowerment, and called attention to the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women and Commission resolution 61/10 of 18 May 2005, which called for strengthened efforts to mainstream gender considerations in programmes and institutional mechanisms.

69. The Executive Secretary noted the challenges faced by countries in the Asian and the Pacific region from increased burdens imposed by HIV/AIDS, avian influenza and other communicable and non-communicable diseases linked to lifestyle changes. He emphasized the need for policy actions to achieve targets and commitments in responding to HIV/AIDS, and the important role of strengthening health systems towards ensuring essential health care for all.

70. The Minister of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand delivered the inaugural address. In noting the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and its 10-year review meeting, he reaffirmed the vision of a "Society for All," which provided the long-term framework for a sustained effort towards poverty reduction, social inclusion, gender equality, productive employment and social justice. He highlighted Thailand's achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of halving extreme poverty and its successful population programmes, which focused on capacity-building, empowerment and improved provision of reproductive health services. That approach had also been effective in reducing HIV/AIDS, improving maternal and child health and adolescent health and responding to the needs of marginalized groups.

71. The Minister underscored the importance of investing in youth and expressed his Government's support to convene a regional consultation on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. He shared Thailand's experiences in dealing with rapid population ageing, responding to the avian flu outbreak, expanding income generation programmes of particular benefit to women and reducing violence against women and children.

72. The Minister emphasized that social policy was at the centre of Thailand's development strategy and stated that his country was willing to share its experience and expertise with members and associate members on the implementation of its universal health care policy, which resulted in a significantly reduced burden on the poor and vulnerable groups and an improvement in the overall health status of the population. He acknowledged the vital role played by ESCAP in facilitating and creating momentum for continued regional cooperation in achieving shared goals.

## **B. Attendance**

73. Representatives of the following members and associate members of ESCAP attended the meeting: Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Thailand, Viet Nam and Hong Kong, China.

74. In addition, representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended: International Labour Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Population Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Environment Programme and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

75. The following intergovernmental organization was represented: International Organization for Migration.

76. The following non-governmental organizations in general consultative status were represented: Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, World Veterans Federation and Zonta Club of Bangkok.

77. The Asian-Pacific Postal Union Bureau attended the meeting under the status "other entity".

## **C. Election of officers**

78. H.E. Ms. San Arun (Cambodia) was elected Chairperson. Mr. Hu Hongtao (China), Ms. Nelly Calimoso Miranda (Philippines) were elected Vice-Chairpersons. Mr. Asim Ahmed (Maldives) was elected Rapporteur.

## **D. Agenda**

79. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Regional follow-up to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.
5. Population and social integration.
6. Gender and development.
7. Health and development.

8. Programme planning and evaluation:
  - (a) Review of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009;
  - (b) Monitoring and evaluation.
9. Consideration of draft resolutions and decisions for submission to the Commission at its sixty-third session.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its third session.

## ANNEXES

### *Annex I*

#### LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
3	E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/L.1	Provisional agenda
3	E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/L.2	Annotated provisional agenda
4	E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/1	Regional challenges in managing migration for development
5	E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/2	Selected emerging issues in population and social integration
6	E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/3	Emerging issues and challenges related to gender and development
6	E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/INF.1	In-depth study on all forms of violence against women: report of the Secretary-General
7	E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/4	Selected issues related to health and development
8 (a)	E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/5	Review of subprogramme 8, Social development, including persistent and emerging issues
8 (b)	E/ESCAP/CESI(3)/6	Review of the project on population, development and poverty: emerging challenges



*Annex II*

**Draft resolution**

**Sponsor: Mongolia**

**Sustainable health financing towards achieving universal coverage of health care  
in Asia and the Pacific**

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

*Recalling* the internationally agreed goals, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, and the outcomes of other United Nations summits and conferences, in particular the health-related development goals,

*Recalling* also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>1</sup> adopted by Heads of State and Government at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005, including the commitments on HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other health issues,

*Welcoming* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 60/35 of 30 November 2005<sup>2</sup> on enhancing capacity-building in global public health,

*Noting* that in that resolution the General Assembly invited the regional commissions to cooperate closely with Member States, the private sector and civil society in their capacity-building in public health, as well as in regional cooperation to diminish and eliminate the deleterious impact of major infectious diseases,

*Alarmed* at the large number of people lacking access to basic health care in the region and the impact of catastrophic expenditures on health on the poor and vulnerable in the region,

*Concerned* at the deficiencies in infrastructure and human resources existing in the health sector in many countries of the region,

*Noting* that health-financing systems in many countries in the region need to be developed further to provide universal coverage of a basic level of health services to the whole population while providing financial protection,

*Recognizing* that Governments have the primary responsibility for provision of health services,

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<sup>1</sup> See resolution 60/1.

<sup>2</sup> See resolution 60/35.

*Acknowledging* that a number of countries have taken steps to augment health financing, involving a number of approaches including social health insurance, despite significant resource constraints,

*Considering* that the choice of a health financing system should be made taking into consideration the specific needs and context of each country,

1. *Urges* members and associate members:

(a) to develop sustainable health financing systems to provide universal coverage of health care for the entire population, as a means of attaining the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

(b) to recognize that options for provision of universal coverage would need to be considered in light of the particular socio-cultural, economic and political context of each country;

(c) ensure that infrastructure and human resources are strengthened in order to provide equitable and adequate health services to all sections of the population;

(d) share experiences on methods of health financing, including development of tax-funded and social health insurance schemes, as well as institutional, policy and regulatory frameworks required to effectively achieve universal coverage;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) to coordinate closely with relevant organizations in assisting members and associate members in their capacity-building on providing universal coverage and providing a platform for regional cooperation and exchange of experiences;

(b) analyse the situation of health care financing in the region and outline options available to countries in the region for providing universal coverage of health care;

(c) organize a high-level intergovernmental meeting to discuss sustainable health financing in the region towards achieving universal coverage of health services;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

. . . . .