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**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JAKARTA DECLARATION ON MILLENNIUM
DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC:
THE WAY FORWARD 2015**

(Item 3 of the provisional agenda)

Note by the secretariat

SUMMARY

The present document highlights the key items in the Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: the Way Forward 2015. The Declaration was adopted by the Ministers and representatives of countries of Asia and the Pacific who had met at the Regional Ministerial Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: the Way Forward 2015, held in Jakarta from 3 to 5 August 2005.

The document reviews the progress made by countries in the ESCAP region towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and highlights some of the key challenges. It proposes key actions to support the achievement of the Goals, taking into account the main findings of the ESCAP/United Nations Development Programme/Asian Development Bank publication entitled *A Future Within Reach: Reshaping Institutions in a Region of Disparities to Meet the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific* and the outcomes of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005 (also known as the 2005 World Summit).

The document also highlights action by ESCAP to support national efforts to achieve the Goals through promoting policy dialogue, facilitating the exchange of good practices and providing comprehensive regional analyses on progress towards the achievement of the Goals.

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INTRODUCTION

1. At the Regional Ministerial Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: the Way Forward 2015, organized by the Government of Indonesia and held in Jakarta from 3 to 5 August 2005, Ministers and representatives of countries of the Asian and Pacific region met to take stock of the progress made thus far in achieving the Goals and to arrive at a consensus on the region's position on the Goals to be articulated at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005 (also known as the 2005 World Summit). The Ministers and representatives issued the Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: the Way Forward 2015,¹ containing a number of specific commitments, reaffirmations and calls for action for achieving the Goals.

2. In paragraph 43, the Declaration called upon "the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific, at its 62nd session in April 2006, to be hosted by the Government of Indonesia in Jakarta, to include an item in its provisional agenda on modalities for regional implementation of the Declaration, including the formulation of an action plan, which will serve as a roadmap to move forward to 2015". The present document has been prepared in response to that call.

3. Achieving the Goals in the Asian and Pacific region will be a challenging task. It will require a comprehensive approach tackling many diverse problems, and engage a wide range of actors at the international, regional, national, community, family and individual levels. It will demand changes in the way Governments and organizations work together to provide services that meet the needs and priorities of the people, especially the poor. In view of the diversity of the Asian and Pacific region, there is no "one-size-fits-all" solution for reducing poverty. Each country must tailor its strategies based on rigorous estimates of country needs for achieving the Goals and on national capacity and resources.

4. The aim of the present document is to identify, for consideration by the Commission, key modalities and actions at the global, regional and national levels to promote the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration. The document is in three sections. Section I gives the status of achievement of the Goals and key challenges in the region. In section II, the main points of the Jakarta Declaration are summarized. Section III outlines potential strategies to support the achievement of the Goals in the region at the international, regional and country levels, including proposed action by ESCAP in support of the Declaration, for consideration by the Commission. It draws on the main elements of two documents: the ESCAP/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Asian Development Bank (ADB) second regional report on the Millennium Development Goals entitled *A Future Within Reach: Reshaping Institutions in a Region of Disparities to Meet the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific*² and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.³

¹ See A/60/313, annex.

² United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.F.27.

³ General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

I. STATE OF PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND CHALLENGES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

5. The developing countries in Asia and the Pacific lead the developing world in the progress made towards achieving many of the Goals. In eliminating extreme poverty, the region has seen the most dramatic progress. In the 23 countries with data on the proportion of people living on an income of less than \$1 a day, the proportion below that threshold fell from 31 per cent in 1990 to 20 per cent in 2001. The absolute number of the poor also fell, from 931 million to 679 million. In achieving universal primary education, the region as a whole has done well. Of the 33 countries with sufficient data, 8 have already achieved the target. On gender equality and empowering women, there has been remarkable progress in eliminating gender disparity at all levels of education. At the primary level, 26 countries have already achieved the target. At the secondary level, the ratio of girls to boys increased from 0.73 in 1990 to 0.87 in 2001.

6. However, the region is lagging behind in meeting key Goals relating to health and the environment. Based on current trends, a large number of countries are likely to miss the target on maternal mortality (25 countries) and child mortality (19 countries). Every year, in Asia and the Pacific, some 250,000 mothers die while, or soon after, giving birth. In combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, some parts of the region do not appear to be on track in halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. The region has over 9 million people living with HIV/AIDS and half a million die every year. What happens in Asia and the Pacific will determine the course of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. There are also serious concerns about the persistence of malaria and tuberculosis in some countries. Many of the least developed countries are engaged in battling a variety of communicable diseases.

7. With regard to ensuring environmental sustainability, a mixed picture emerges. Few countries seem to have integrated the principles of sustainable development into their country policies and programmes. The average per capita carbon dioxide emissions increased across the region from 2.2 to 2.5 tons between 1990 and 2002. The region as a whole seems to have done reasonably well in halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation, although concerns remain for the rural areas. However, the situation in the least developed countries remains quite serious. Widespread poverty has placed great stress on their environmental resources. If current trends persist, around 40 million people in those countries could be without sustainable access to safe drinking water in 2015 and around 60 million may be without access to improved sanitation.

8. Comparing the performance of the subregions in achieving the Goals, South and South-West Asia and North and Central Asia need special attention. The majority of countries in South and South-West Asia are not on track for more than one third of the indicators. This slow progress is largely due to the fact that this subregion includes four of the ESCAP region's least developed

countries. In North and Central Asia, countries show high and increasing rates of malnutrition. Education standards have also slipped and the virtual collapse of the social sector in some countries has resulted in the general deterioration of health indicators.

9. As can be seen from the foregoing, performance in achieving the Goals in the region is varied. There has been significant progress in achieving some of the Goals, but not others. Some countries have advanced, while others are lagging behind. Some of the key challenges to achievement of the Goals facing the Asian and Pacific region are discussed in the following paragraphs.

10. *Despite having the fastest economic growth rates in the world, the region still has the largest number of poor people.* Recent estimates show that the staggering figure of 679 million people in Asia and the Pacific, accounting for slightly less than two thirds of the world's poor, live on less than \$1 a day: about 81 per cent of them live in the world's two most populous countries, China and India. On the basis of a more "generous" poverty line, \$2 a day, 1.9 billion people, or 60 per cent of the region's population, lived in poverty in 2002.

11. *The sustainability of poverty reduction is a significant challenge.* In several countries, gains in terms of achieving the target of reducing poverty made during the early 1990s have been lost owing to ineffective macroeconomic management, poor governance and the continued exclusion of women, the poor and the marginalized in local-level delivery of health, education and sanitation services.

12. *During the 1990s, most countries saw an increase in inequality in the distribution of income.* This was partly a reflection of the shift from rapid rural and agricultural development to growth centred more on the urban areas and driven by export industries and services. Some increase in inequality was seen as the almost inevitable price of rapid growth. Instances of increasing income inequality were recorded in Central Asia, South Asia and the Pacific.

13. *Pockets of extreme poverty within countries are common.* These include geographical areas within large countries as well as urban slums, remote rural areas and mountainous villages. Extreme poverty is also often associated with ethnicity and indigenous populations. The rising poverty-stricken slum population in the region was estimated to number approximately 600 million in 2005.

14. *Vulnerability of the poor to event unrelated to income is becoming a significant concern in the region.* The poor are not only vulnerable to fluctuations in income or temporary loss of income, but are also particularly vulnerable to a whole range of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis owing to their weak immune systems arising out of malnutrition and a host of other factors. The Indian Ocean tsunami also demonstrated their acute vulnerability to natural disasters.

II. KEY ELEMENTS OF THE JAKARTA DECLARATION

15. The Jakarta Declaration embodied a number of commitments and emphasized key actions for the region to move forward to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Most of these actions were subsequently reflected in the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

16. The Declaration recognized the uneven progress towards achievement of the Goals in the region, the short time available until the deadline of 2015 and the need to pay special attention to those countries having difficulties in achieving the Goals.

17. The Declaration recognized the urgent need for Asian and Pacific countries to take “collective actions” in the spirit of cooperation and solidarity. In this context, the important role of South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, and existing subregional initiatives, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Pacific Islands Forum and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), were highlighted. It stated the commitment “to make poverty reduction the overarching objective of developmental partnership and cooperation in Asia and the Pacific”. The Declaration acknowledged, in para. 12, “the special needs and vulnerabilities of Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States” and called upon all development partners to address those unique challenges.

18. In para. 24, the Declaration reaffirmed “the vital importance of an effective multilateral system, including a stronger United Nations, in order to better address the challenges associated with achieving the MDGs”. In this context, in para. 39, it called upon the United Nations system “to ensure comprehensive and coherent programmes of support for countries in Asia and the Pacific in their efforts to attain the MDGs”. It also called upon ESCAP, UNDP and ADB to undertake “further joint regional analyses on key MDG areas to support national policy formulation processes” and “play an active role in mobilizing resources and technology for the region to achieve the MDGs”.

19. The Declaration suggested some key actions to expedite attainment of the Goals. These actions relate to trade, environmental sustainability, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, international migration and resource mobilization.

20. On trade, the Declaration emphasized the need for further work in the region to promote “an open, rules-based, predictable, non-discriminatory multilateral trading system”, conclude the Doha Development Agenda negotiations in 2006, negotiating for accession of developing countries in the region to the World Trade Organization (WTO), and advocate for special market access privileges to be accorded to least developed countries. In this context, it reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen South-South trade, including through the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries.

21. On environmental sustainability, two key strategies were highlighted: first, promoting regional cooperation to strengthen the capacity of countries to mainstream environmental dimensions in poverty eradication and Goal-related strategies; and second, reducing the impact of natural disasters through the efforts of the United Nations system to establish “multimodal early warning systems for natural hazards”.

22. With regard to HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, improvement in health services and the development of relevant regional initiatives to redress the spread of such diseases were highlighted.

23. On international migration, the Declaration drew attention to the need for country- and regional-level actions to address the opportunities and challenges and harness the positive effects of migration on development.

24. On resource mobilization, the Declaration emphasized the importance of achieving the commitments contained in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, enhancing the quality of aid and increasing its impact, assessing debt sustainability criteria and elaborating innovating financing mechanisms for development.

25. In addition, the Declaration recognized cross-cutting issues, such as gender and good governance, as important elements in the overall strategy for achieving the Goals. It called for regional cooperation to enhance capacity in those areas.

III. PROPOSED MODALITIES AND KEY ACTIONS TO SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

26. The implementation of the Jakarta Declaration requires comprehensive and coordinated programmes by Governments not only acting individually at the national level but also working together at the regional level. These efforts must be supported by global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, including a coherent programme of support by the United Nations system and other international development partners to facilitate regional cooperation efforts. The present document therefore suggests key actions for moving forward towards achievement of the goals at the international, regional and national levels, including actions that could be taken by ESCAP.

A. Action at the international level

27. Concrete actions by developed countries to generate more resources for development in accordance with their commitments in the Monterrey Consensus and enhance the quality and effectiveness of development assistance, as resolved in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, are crucial to the efforts of developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Many developed countries have intensified their efforts to achieve the target of allocating 0.7 per cent of

gross national product (GNP) for official development assistance (ODA) by 2015 and reach an allocation of at least 0.5 per cent of GNP for ODA by 2010. While sustaining these efforts is vital, it is equally important for those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard.

28. There is now a growing interest in establishing innovative sources of financing to increase and supplement traditional sources. The 2005 World Summit Outcome noted two such initiatives, the Action against Hunger and Poverty, aimed at identifying innovative and additional sources of financing for development on a public, private, domestic or external basis, and the International Finance Facility. The Facility would provide up to an additional \$50 billion a year in development assistance between now and 2015 from the international capital markets. Support from the international community is needed for these initiatives to be successful.

29. To further support efforts by developing countries to enhance their resources for development, the international community should ensure that developing countries, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, can participate in and benefit fully from the world trading system. To this end, the international community must (a) expedite implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, which provides that products from least developed countries should be accorded duty-free and quota-free market access to markets of developed countries and developing countries in a position to do so; (b) conclude the Doha Development Agenda negotiations in 2006; and (c) strengthen South-South trade, especially through the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries.

30. To address debt problems, there is a need to consider innovative measures aimed at ensuring long-term debt sustainability. The 2005 World Summit Outcome stressed the need “to consider significant debt relief or restructuring for low- and middle-income developing countries with an unsustainable debt burden that are not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, as well as the exploration of mechanisms to comprehensively address the debt problems of those countries. Such mechanisms may include debt for sustainable development swaps or multicreditor debt swap arrangements, as appropriate”.

B. Action at the regional level

31. The Jakarta Declaration emphasized the need for Asian and Pacific countries to work together in a coordinated way to accelerate progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It stressed the need to utilize existing mechanisms and institutions for regional cooperation, including ASEAN, SAARC and the Pacific Islands Forum. The present document therefore suggests the following key actions for regional cooperation.

32. Governments can work together to gain more resources for development through expanding trade, increasing foreign direct investment (FDI) and giving ODA in favour of countries having difficulties in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Intraregional trade could be expanded if Governments dismantled trade barriers through bilateral agreements and if existing subregional agreements such as those of ASEAN and SAARC on free trade areas were implemented. With regard to FDI, countries are urged to expand FDI within the region in sectors that offer greater employment opportunities, such as agriculture, manufacturing and tourism. Given the region's growing prosperity, there is considerable scope for regional cooperation in intraregional ODA. Countries in a position to do so are urged to increase their aid to vulnerable countries in Asia and the Pacific, following the examples of China, India and Thailand, the leading donors to a number of least developed countries in the region.

33. Given that a financial crisis could be a serious setback for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, Governments could encourage regional monetary cooperation through the creation of an Asian monetary facility that would supplement assistance from the International Monetary Fund. The region has built up reserves of around \$3 trillion, offering the opportunity to create such a facility. A number of initiatives have already prepared the ground for regional monetary cooperation, including the Chiang Mai Initiative to create a system of currency swap arrangements within the ASEAN +3 countries,⁴ and subsequently the Asian Bond Markets Initiative to create bond markets in local currencies.

34. Labour migration is a major contributor to poverty reduction and employment for the poor. Given the scale of migration and remittances, Governments are urged to look beyond traditional unilateral and bilateral mechanisms and to promote regional cooperation on laws and institutions that assist and protect migrant workers and regularize at least part of the migrant workforce. In addition, Governments could take advantage of existing regional consultative processes of a non-binding nature as viable mechanisms for cooperation. One example is the newly constituted Thematic Working Group on International Migration, established in September 2005 under the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism.

35. With regard to tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other diseases, Governments could cooperate with regional institutions to declare HIV/AIDS a regional emergency and mandate an emergency response. Bodies such as ASEAN and SAARC could advance intergovernmental cooperation by articulating clear action plans with fixed milestones. Countries of the region could also consider developing regional compacts to ensure the provision of drugs and other materials for both prevention and treatment. Governments are urged to make use of existing mechanisms within the Agreement on Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and the Doha Declaration, adopted at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Meeting, held in Doha in November 2001, that can be used to keep the prices of anti-retroviral and related drugs within reach of the poorest countries.

⁴ ASEAN plus China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

36. To address the special needs and vulnerabilities of Asian and Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, Governments could take advantage of the existing regional mechanisms to address the special issues and problems facing these groups of countries in the spirit of regional cooperation through the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries. The aims should be to develop coherence and linkages between the Millennium Development Goals and the programmes of action, to sustain national commitment to and effective ownership of the mechanisms, and to advocate actively for the effective implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

37. On environmental sustainability, Governments could make full use of the existing subregional bodies and networks, including the newly constituted Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth, to develop and implement regional and subregional strategies to create synergies between the environment, poverty and economy. Governments could take advantage of the ESCAP-managed multidonor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia. The Trust Fund will contribute to the broader United Nations response to tsunamis by supporting the development of a regional early warning system that would take the form of a network of national and regional centres.

38. The Declaration also called for regional cooperation to enhance capacity on cross-cutting issues, such as good governance and gender equality, as a means to share best practices and provide enhanced technical cooperation. On good governance, one possibility would be an Asia-Pacific convention on the elimination of corruption. This could cover agreements on law enforcement and the sharing of information, as well as on extraditing and prosecuting offenders and seizing their assets. On gender issues, Governments are urged to support existing bilateral and regional initiatives to promote gender equality and enhance their capacity to mainstream gender in key government bodies, including finance, planning and sectoral ministries, national parliaments, local governments and elected bodies.

39. The Jakarta Declaration reaffirmed the importance of an effective multilateral system, including a stronger United Nations. It called upon the United Nations system to ensure a comprehensive and coherent programme of support for countries in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. To this end, ESCAP has undertaken, or plans to undertake, the following key actions to advance the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration.

(a) To enhance coherence and coordination among United Nations entities in support of the Millennium Development Goals, at the regional and subregional levels, the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism was formed as a platform for regional United Nations agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions to work together to provide concrete and coordinated assistance in addressing regional issues.

(b) To further strengthen the existing regional platform for high-level engagement among national Governments, United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and other stakeholders, ESCAP is promoting the sharing of experiences and lessons learned in support of the formulation and implementation of Goal-based national development strategies with an emphasis on mainstreaming South-South cooperation.

(c) ESCAP also extends technical assistance to support national efforts towards the adoption of national Goal-based development strategies by 2006, particularly in conducting needs assessments for the Goals, by building national capacity for collecting data to monitor progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and for estimating the human resources, infrastructure and financial resources needed to reach the Goals.

(d) ESCAP is implementing a regional advocacy and communication strategy on the Goals to promote awareness, gain support and galvanize action from Governments, civil society, communities, the general public and the media. The strategy also advocates the findings of the second regional report published jointly by ESCAP, UNDP and ADB (see para. 4 above), as well as the Jakarta Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

(e) ESCAP, in collaboration with UNDP and ADB, is preparing the third regional report on achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, which is scheduled to be issued in 2007.

(f) ESCAP is implementing various technical cooperation projects in key development areas to provide support to Governments in meeting the Goals.

C. Action at the national level

40. The strong political commitment to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals that the Jakarta Declaration represents needs to be acknowledged by the Commission and translated into action. One key action that could be taken is the adoption by 2006 of comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, as resolved in the 2005 World Summit Outcome. In support of this effort, the United Nations, through its Millennium Project, has developed guidelines to assist developing countries in aligning their current development process, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, with the Goals. Governments are also urged to develop statistical capacity to improve the availability, quality and use of national statistical data to monitor progress towards achieving the Goals.

41. Under the national development strategy based on the Goals, a set of interventions for implementation is required, at a scale sufficient to achieve the Goals. For this purpose, priority should be given to access to basic goods and services by the most vulnerable groups, including the poor, women, ethnic groups and people affected by communicable diseases, such as HIV/AIDS. Governments are urged to examine locally suitable interventions that remove barriers to access to, and enhance the quality and availability of, public services, particularly in health and education. At the same time, Governments may consider alternative models for service provision, including public-private partnerships. In this context, an enabling environment for partnership with the private sector and civil society is vital to promote the participation of a wide range of stakeholders. Governments could also intensify their efforts at South-South cooperation as a means to share good practices and promote technical cooperation on the provision of basic services for the poor.

42. Local communities also have to be involved in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and ensure long-term and sustainable development. This will necessitate the creation of new institutions as well as new ways of working within existing organizations. NGOs have often served as catalysts in this process, adopting a rights-based approach as “claim-making” organizations for the poor. Community involvement should extend to implementation. Communities also need more information generally about government performance. In this context, Governments are urged to take action that empowers local communities to meet their needs and claim their entitlements through education and other capacity-building activities.

43. Concrete action by Governments aimed at promoting good governance and enhancing institutional capacity is essential so that their economies acquire the needed flexibility to take full advantage of market access opportunities as well as make effective use of ODA. In this context, sound economic policies, enhanced domestic capacity for planning and project implementation, improved infrastructure and sustained action to address corruption at all levels are needed for sustainable development. To this end, Governments that have not done so are urged to consider signing, ratifying and implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption.⁵

IV. CONCLUSION

44. The Asian and Pacific region has made remarkable progress in achieving many of the Goals, particularly in reducing extreme poverty, achieving universal primary education and addressing gender disparity at all levels of education. However, the region is lagging behind in meeting key Goals related to health and the environment. The region also faces considerable challenges in sustaining the progress made so far, particularly in addressing inequalities resulting from rapid economic growth and in dealing with various communicable diseases and natural disasters.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003, annex.

45. The Jakarta Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome demonstrate that there is strong political commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. To support national efforts towards achieving the Goals, the Jakarta Declaration reaffirmed the vital importance of regional cooperation with the United Nations system and regional development agencies. In this regard, the Declaration is an important milestone as it strengthens the existing regional platform for high-level engagement among Governments and other stakeholders and for the sharing of experiences and lessons learned in support of the formulation and implementation of Goal-based national development strategies.

Annex

**JAKARTA DECLARATION ON MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ASIA
AND THE PACIFIC: THE WAY FORWARD 2015**

Jakarta, 5 August 2005

1. *We, the Ministers and representatives from countries of Asia and the Pacific*, gathered in Jakarta, Indonesia from 3 - 5 August 2005 to attend the Regional Ministerial Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): the Way Forward to 2015, in which representatives of relevant international and civil society organizations also took part.
2. *We reinvigorate* our commitment to the achievement of the MDGs, as an important element of an integrated and coherent approach to development, by 2015. We recognize the urgent needs for Asia and the Pacific to undertake collective actions, considering that five years have passed since the MDGs were launched and much remains to be done for the next ten years.
3. *We reaffirm* the solidarity amongst the countries in Asia and the Pacific region and recognize the critical importance of the regional and global partnership and cooperation in the achievement of the MDGs, including to assist those having difficulties in achieving the MDGs.
4. *We reaffirm* the role of South-South cooperation, including through triangular cooperation, in the overall context of regional partnership in achieving the MDGs.
5. *We recognize* that Asia and the Pacific region contains two-thirds of the over 1 billion world's poor and therefore, strong political will as well as bold and decisive action are needed for achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty.
6. *We commit* to make poverty reduction the overarching objective of developmental partnership and cooperation in the Asia and the Pacific.
7. *We recognize* that each country must take primary responsibility for development and for achieving MDGs nationally, a process facilitated by greater involvement of relevant stakeholders wherever necessary. In this regard we urge the strengthening of partnership between all these stakeholders.
8. *We recognize* that conducive global programmes, measures, policies and financial architecture and trading system aimed at maximising the development opportunities for developing countries are essential for the success of national efforts for development and achieving MDGs. *In this context*, creating conducive environment for private sector to play its supplementary role in enhancing flows of funds, technology and entrepreneurship to developing countries should be promoted.
9. *We acknowledge* the uniqueness of the diversity, and dynamics between the subregions of Asia and the Pacific. Although progress to date on some goals of the MDGs has been made, it has been uneven.
10. *We recognize* that fora such as ASEAN, Pacific Island Forum, SAARC, and other regional initiatives should be used as platforms for enhanced regional cooperation and invite them to work closely with the United Nations system and regional development agencies, including the Asian Development Bank and other International Financial Institutions to ensure synergies in programmes to support the achievement of the MDGs.

11. We are *encouraged* to learn of the pioneering step taken by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to prepare an ASEAN Millennium Development Compact which will catalyse many inter-country initiatives to plan for effective collective action at all levels in achieving the MDGs.
12. We *acknowledge* the special needs and vulnerabilities of Asia Pacific Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States, in their effort to achieve the MDGs, and call upon all development partners to give more attention in assisting these countries to address unique challenges. To this end the effective implementation of Brussels and Almaty Declaration and Programme of Action, and the Mauritius Strategy is vital. In this context, promotion of greater international cooperation including the mobilisation of financial resources on a more predictable basis is crucial.
13. We *acknowledge* that the special characteristic of the Pacific Island region incurs significant transaction costs and place practical constraints on the prospect for achieving the MDGs. We seek to reaffirm the need for a specific focus on synergies and interrelationship between aid, trade and investment, debt relief and good governance, including in the coordination and the effective use of aid.
14. We *emphasize* the importance of the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly in comprehensively reviewing the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, in particular on development cooperation. We wish to set some key actions to expedite the achievement of the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific.
15. We *recognize* that regional partnership and regional cooperation in the field of trade, investment, capacity building, and technology support, and infrastructure development, such as transport, and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and promotion of environmental sustainability are crucial in addressing the specific concerns of countries with special needs in meeting the MDGs.
16. We *take* into account the need for national policy space for developing countries to apply appropriate policy instrument in their implementation of national development plans and priorities. We therefore recognize that regional dialogue can help forge a stronger consensus in this important area.
17. We *emphasize* the adverse impact on development of pandemics, such as HIV/AIDS, and other communicable diseases, particularly the significant economic and social costs and thus slow down the rate reduction of poverty. Of paramount importance are improving health services as well as developing regional initiatives to address the prevailing and rapid growth of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, avian flu, SARS and other communicable diseases.
18. We *recognize* that poverty, hunger and malnutrition are the main causes of child and maternal mortality and call for enhanced regional partnership and cooperation to support national effort in addressing these problems on a priority basis.
19. We *emphasize* the urgent need to promote understanding of the linkages between poverty and the environment and, where appropriate, promote regional cooperation to assist Governments, upon their request, to mainstream environmental dimension in the poverty eradication strategies.
20. We *believe* that promoting environmental sustainability, within the framework of sustainable development, is crucial for Asia and the Pacific region. Environmental sustainability should be integrated in the regional cooperation strategies aimed at achieving the MDGs.
21. We *stress* the need to ensure that relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and the MDGs are mutually supportive and reinforcing.

22. We *believe* that strengthening capacity of developing countries in Asia and the Pacific for the implementation of sustainable development, including through utilization of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building of the United Nations Environment Programmes is crucial in promoting environmental sustainability in the context of the MDGs.
23. We *recognize* the high susceptibility of the region to natural disasters that can reverse the progress in the achievement of the MDGs and therefore reiterate the need for the region to enhance their cooperation to establish multi modal early warning systems for natural hazards, which are fully integrated with local communities and allow for effective quick responses to such hazards including on rehabilitation and recovery. We therefore call for the various entities of the United Nations system that have initiated work in this regard to continue with their efforts.
24. We *reaffirm* the vital importance of an effective multilateral system, including a stronger United Nations, in order to better address the challenges associated with achieving MDGs.
25. We *reaffirm* the importance of enhancing cooperation in the region in fostering greater coherence between the multilateral development agencies and the multilateral financial and trading systems to ensuring the availability of resources to accomplish MDGs.
26. We *recognize* the importance of trade as an engine of growth and development, and emphasize the need for further work in the region to promote an open, rules-based, predictable, non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, including through achieving the development objective of the Doha Round. We also recognise the need to facilitate an early accession of developing countries in the region to the WTO.
27. We *reiterate* our commitment to conclude the Doha Development Agenda negotiations in 2006 in such a way that fulfill the high ambition including on the development dimension as sets out in the Doha Ministerial Declaration. In this context a successful outcome of the WTO VI Ministerial Meeting in December 2005 in Hong Kong, China, is crucial.
28. We *reaffirm* that products originating from LDCs should be accorded duty free and quota free access to markets of developed countries and developing countries in position to do so.
29. We *reaffirm* our commitment to strengthen South-South trade including through the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP), which offers another major avenue for South-South development solidarity and contribution of trade to the achievement of MDGs.
30. We *recognise* that the continuing high oil prices pose a major economic challenge to many developing countries in reaching MDGs targets. This issue needs to be address in a multi faceted manner including support for the development of alternative energy sources, promoting efficiency in energy sector and sustainability of supply.
31. We *recognize* the important relation between international immigration and development and the need to deal with the issue, including at the regional level, in a coordinated and coherent manner with a view to addressing the opportunities and challenges and harness its positive effects on development.
32. We *reiterate* the importance of integrating gender equality and justice as the crucial components of MDGs leading to human-centred sustainable development which will facilitate and enhance sustained and constructive global partnership in all fields of life and at all levels of society.
33. We *reiterate* our commitment to enhancing good governance, the rule of law and combating corruption, at all levels, and underline these as essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and eradication of poverty and hunger. We also recognise the importance of promoting stability and security. We call for regional cooperation leading to capacity enhancement in these areas.

34. We *encourage* the scaling up of the achievement of the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific region by initiating national "quick win", in accordance with national development strategies.
35. We *recognize* the need to manage ODA effectively in donor and recipient countries. We call on the implementation on the provision of ODA that take into account the national development priorities of developing countries and meet ODA commitments in support of pro-poor and poverty reduction policies. We reiterate the importance of achieving the commitments contained in the Monterey Consensus with regard to ODA. We call on the implementation of this commitment, taking into account the national development priorities of developing countries. We also welcome recent efforts and initiatives to enhance the quality of aid and to increase its impact.
36. We *stress* that in assessing debt sustainability criteria, consideration be given to allowing a country to achieve its national development goals, including the MDGs in 2015, without an increase in its debt ratios.
37. We *call* for the further elaboration of innovative financing mechanism for development, including public-private partnership for increased investments targeted at development, debt swap for MDGs, and micro-finance scheme.
38. We *recognize* the need to prioritise affordable and environmentally sustainable infrastructure that targets the needs of the poor.
39. We *call* upon the United Nations system to ensure comprehensive and coherent programmes of support for countries in Asia and the Pacific in their efforts to attain the MDGs, with particular reference to the implementation of the present Jakarta Declaration and to play a key role in promoting policy dialogue and in facilitating the exchange of best practices, particularly through South-South cooperation, among countries of the Asian and Pacific region.
40. We *recognize* the New Asia-African Strategic Partnership adopted by the Asian and African Heads of States/Governments in the Asian African Summit 2005 could play an important role in enhancing solidarity and inter regional development cooperation.
41. We *welcome* the partnership between the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), that has resulted in a joint regional assessment of progress by Asia and Pacific countries in achieving the MDGs, and call for further joint regional analyses in key MDG areas to support national policy formulation processes. We urge these organizations to play an active role in mobilising resources, and technology for the region to achieve MDGs. We call upon the UNDP and the United Nations Millennium Project to support operationalising of the achievement of MDGs by assisting Governments in sectoral investment needs assessments leading to costing and financing plans.
42. We *request* the Government of Indonesia, as host of the present Regional Ministerial Meeting, to transmit the outcome of the Meeting to the High Level Plenary Meeting of the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2005.
43. We *call* upon the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at its 62nd session in April 2006 to be hosted by the Government of Indonesia in Jakarta, to include an item in its provisional agenda on modalities for regional implementation of the present Declaration, including the formulation of an action plan which will serve as a roadmap to move forward to 2015.

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