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Agenda item 4

Management issues

Draft resolution

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Enhancing coordination within the United Nations system and cooperation with regional organizations for promoting regional development

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007, in which the Assembly, among other things, encouraged the United Nations development system to strengthen collaboration with regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and regional banks, as appropriate and consistent with their respective mandates, and requested the regional commissions to further develop their analytical capacities to support country-level development initiatives at the request of the programme countries, and to support measures for more intensive inter-agency collaboration at the regional and subregional levels,

Also recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in which the Council reaffirmed the role of the regional commissions as regional outposts of the United Nations and called for close cooperation between the commissions and other relevant regional bodies in order to reinforce synergies and complementarities between their respective programmes of work,

Further recalling its resolution 60/1 of 28 April 2004 containing the Shanghai Declaration, in which the members and associate members emphasized the Commission's unique role as the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region and its mandate as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region, and renewed their commitment to enhancing subregional and regional cooperation with a view to promoting sustainable development in the Asian and the Pacific region,

Recognizing that the regional dimension of development is critical for an effective and coordinated response to an ever growing number of regional and global issues, and that regional responses are of increasing importance as a buffer against global shocks and crises,

Emphasizing the importance of the regional and subregional levels as an essential building block of effective global governance, as they provide the critical link between the global and national levels, especially in the context of the ongoing discussions on an integrated approach to sustainable development and the development agenda beyond 2015,

Stressing the significant role played by the regional commissions as part of the institutional landscape in each region through norm setting, dissemination and analytical functions as well as operational activities that are complementary and mutually reinforcing, and as important forums for articulating regional and subregional perspectives on global issues and building consensus within each region,

Recognizing the importance of regional coordination mechanisms in promoting enhanced regional cooperation among agencies of the United Nations system and working together towards enhanced policy coherence, programme effectiveness and efficiency,

Taking note of the independent study entitled *The Regional Dimension of Development and the UN System*,¹ sponsored by the regional commissions,

1. *Commends* the Executive Secretary and the executive secretaries of the other regional commissions for sponsoring the independent study entitled *The Regional Dimension of Development and the UN System*, and calls on her to disseminate the findings and recommendations of the study to the members and associate members of the Commission;

2. *Invites* agencies of the United Nations, as appropriate, to work together in support of the implementation of the recommendations of the independent study on regionalism as a building block for multilateralism and on the need for a coherent regional strategy for development, as annexed to the present resolution;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To work, through the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism and in consultation with member States and other relevant organizations operating in Asia and the Pacific at the regional and subregional levels, towards the implementation of the recommendations so that the United Nations system's engagement with such organizations is coherent and strategically coordinated, and is geared to support regional integration efforts;

(b) To report to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

¹ Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (New York, November 2011), available from <https://www.un.org/regionalcommissions/PrintRegionalDimensionStudy.pdf>.

Annex

Recommendation 1

Regionalism as a building block for multilateralism

There is a need for the United Nations system to recognize the importance of regionalism, and its enormous potential as a building block for multilateralism. An increasingly assertive regional governance is emerging with significant implications on global governance. The rising importance of the regional dimension of development, and its critical role as a vital effective and efficient link between the global and national levels, has to be acknowledged and taken into account in all global development processes.

Recommendation 2

The need for a coherent regional strategy for development

A large number of United Nations and non-United Nations organizations, particularly the regional commissions, are working at the regional level. The value and impact of United Nations system engagement with regional organizations is best when efforts are coherent and strategically coordinated and fit into a larger comprehensive framework of collaboration with partner organizations. The United Nations system organizations working together in each region need to coordinate their interventions within an overarching collective strategy of engagement with the partner organizations and stakeholders, bearing in mind the specificities and priorities of each region. The regional commissions, the regional arms of the United Nations, with their convening power and their role as United Nations pan-regional intergovernmental platforms, have a central role to play in the development and implementation of such strategies.
