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Item 3 (g) of the provisional agenda

**Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure
of the Commission, including the work of the ESCAP
regional institutions: Social development**

Draft resolution

Sponsored by: Indonesia

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Strengthening social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010 on keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in which Heads of State and Government committed themselves to, among other things, promoting comprehensive systems of social protection that provide universal access to essential social services, consistent with national priorities and circumstances, by establishing a minimum level of social security and health care for all,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/12 of 22 July 2010, in which the Council, among other things, recognized that social protection is an investment in people and in long-term social and economic development, while appropriate social protection systems make a critical contribution to meeting the development goals directed towards poverty eradication and exerting a positive impact on economic growth, social cohesion and social development,

Recalling further that the Commission at its sixty-sixth session endorsed “Beyond the crises: long-term perspectives on social protection and development” as the theme topic for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission,

Noting that the theme study for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission,¹ through its analysis and recommendations, offers a valuable

¹ *The Promise of Protection: Social Protection and Development in Asia and the Pacific* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.II.F.5).

contribution to the policy debate on the direction of social protection in Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing that social protection must be integrated into broader economic and social strategies to guarantee all citizens a minimum level of security,

Emphasizing the mutually reinforcing interrelationship among the Millennium Development Goals and how, without due consideration of risks in the development process and the provision of suitable social risk management mechanisms, including social protection, the Millennium Development Goals will not be achieved,

Acknowledging that political commitment at the highest level and the participation of multiple actors, including the beneficiaries themselves, are crucial to formulate and implement social protection policies that effectively meet the needs of all in society,

Acknowledging also the range of social protection programmes in the Asian and Pacific region that are aimed at addressing inequality, vulnerability and social exclusion,

Noting with concern that the coverage of existing social protection programmes tends to be low and uneven, with the most excluded social groups — in particular the poor and vulnerable — having the lowest levels of protection, despite having the greatest need,

1. *Calls upon* all members and associate members:

(a) To accord higher priority to social protection policies and programmes based on universal principles as a core component of development policy and planning at the national level, and as a foundation for the attainment of equality and poverty reduction, as well as the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) To further strengthen and build effective systems of social protection in order to shield people better from many of the risks of daily life, including ill health and disability, unemployment and falling into poverty in old age;

(c) To ensure the development of integrated approaches to social protection that are rooted in universalism and a rights-based framework and that effectively address processes of discrimination and exclusion based on national capacity;

(d) To invest in building social protection systems that might form the basis of a “social protection floor”, which would offer a minimum level of access to essential services and income security for all, and subsequently enhancing the capacity for extension, according to national aspirations and circumstances;

(e) To encourage active participation of all segments of society, including the poor and disadvantaged, in processes regarding developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating social protection programmes;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with other concerned United Nations bodies and relevant stakeholders:

(a) To support members and associate members in their capacity-building by mainstreaming social protection concerns into diverse development sectors in support of fulfilling internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in the region;

(b) To provide a regional platform for the sharing and dissemination of knowledge related to social protection;

(c) To undertake analytical studies and comprehensively document good practices on social protection in order to develop a toolbox of policy and programme options for social protection, for use by member States, as appropriate, which is adaptable to the specific conditions of each country, including data collection, monitoring and evaluation tools, and support regional cooperation for further country-level initiatives;

(d) To promote South-South and triangular cooperation, which complements North-South cooperation, as well as effective public-private partnerships in order to enhance the affordability, scope and depth of social protection;

(e) To undertake advocacy on investing in social protection in order to create enabling environments for programmes based on universal principles and within a rights-based framework;

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