

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

**ANNUAL REPORT  
24 MAY 2012 – 1 MAY 2013**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2013**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 19**



**UNITED NATIONS**

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

**ANNUAL REPORT  
24 MAY 2012 – 1 MAY 2013**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2013**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 19**



**UNITED NATIONS**  
**New York, 2013**

#### NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Sales No.: EOR 2013, SUPP. 19  
Copyright © United Nations 2013  
All rights reserved  
ISBN-13: 978-92-1-880245-3  
e-ISBN: 978-92-1-056172-3  
Symbol: E/2013/39-E/ESCAP/69/27  
ISSN: 0252-2284

## Contents

[9 May 2013]

	<i>Page</i>
List of abbreviations .....	vi
Introduction .....	1
Chapter	
I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention.....	1
A. Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its sixty-ninth session .....	1
69/1 A conference structure of the Commission for the inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific .....	1
69/2 Final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region .....	9
69/3 Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on the Development Agenda beyond 2015 .....	12
69/4 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015 .....	16
69/5 Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization .....	18
69/6 Implementation of the Tehran Declaration to promote public-private partnerships in infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development .....	22
69/7 Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports.....	25
69/8 Enhancing knowledge-sharing and cooperation in integrated water resources management in Asia and the Pacific.....	39
69/9 Implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme towards voluntary follow-up to the Rio+20 outcome “The future we want” .....	42
69/10 Promoting regional information and communications technology connectivity and building knowledge-networked societies in Asia and the Pacific .....	44
69/11 Implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017 .....	47
69/12 Enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific .....	56
69/13 Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.....	60
69/14 Implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.....	81
69/15 Implementing the outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific .....	86
69/16 A core set of population and social statistics to guide national capacity development in Asia and the Pacific .....	90
69/17 Sustainable management, conservation and use of ocean resources for the development of Asia-Pacific small island developing States .....	91
B. Decisions adopted by the Commission at its sixty-ninth session .....	92
69/1 Reports of subsidiary bodies considered by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific .....	92
69/2 Signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports.....	93

69/3	Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012 .....	93
69/4	Membership of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.....	93
69/5	Report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing .....	94
69/6	Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.....	94
69/7	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia .....	95
69/8	Programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 .....	95
69/9	Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions.....	95
69/10	Final review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its subsidiary structure, pursuant to resolutions 64/1 and 67/15.....	97
69/11	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.....	97
69/12	Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventieth session of the Commission.....	98
II.	Work of the Commission since the sixty-eighth session .....	99
A.	Activities of subsidiary bodies .....	99
B.	Publications .....	99
C.	Relations with other United Nations programmes .....	99
III.	Sixty-ninth session of the Commission .....	100
A.	Attendance and organization of work .....	100
B.	Agenda .....	103
C.	Account of proceedings.....	104
	Agenda item 1	
	Opening of the session .....	102
	Agenda item 2	
	Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries.....	104
	Agenda item 3	
	Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions.....	107
	(a) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development.....	107
	(b) Trade and investment.....	109
	(c) Transport.....	111
	(d) Environment and development.....	114
	(e) Information and communications technology .....	115
	(f) Disaster risk reduction.....	117
	(g) Social development.....	119
	(h) Statistics.....	125
	(i) Subregional activities for development .....	127
	Agenda item 4	
	Management issues.....	131
	(a) Draft programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015.....	131
	(b) Programme changes for the biennium 2012-2013.....	132

---

(c) Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions .....	133
Agenda item 5	
Final review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its subsidiary structure, pursuant to resolutions 64/1 and 67/15.....	136
Agenda item 6	
Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.....	138
Agenda item 7	
Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventieth session of the Commission (2014).....	139
Agenda item 8	
Policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region.....	139
(a) Key challenges to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific .....	139
(b) Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013.....	147
Agenda item 9	
Theme topic for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission (2013): “Opportunities to build resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises” .....	155
Agenda item 10	
Other matters .....	158
Agenda item 11	
Adoption of the report of the Commission.....	158
Annexes	
I. Statement of programme budget implications of actions and proposals of the Commission .....	159
II. Meetings of subsidiary bodies and other intergovernmental bodies held since the sixty-eighth session of the Commission .....	161
III. Publications and documents issued by the Commission.....	163

## List of abbreviations

ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
ADB	Asian Development Bank
APCICT	Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APTA	Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
ARTNeT	Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
CAPSA	Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture
CCOP	Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia
CSAM	Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Machinery
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
EPO	ESCAP Pacific Office
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SPECA	United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Notes: Values are in United States dollars unless specified otherwise.  
The term “billion” signifies a thousand million.

## Introduction

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held its sixty-ninth session in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013. The present report covers the period from 24 May 2012 to 1 May 2013 and contains an account of the discussions and conclusions reached by the Commission.

## Chapter I

### **Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention**

2. At its sixty-ninth session, the Commission adopted 17 resolutions and 12 decisions, which appear below. Resolutions 69/1 and 69/5 require action by the Council; the remaining resolutions are brought to the attention of the Council.

#### **A. Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its sixty-ninth session**

##### **Resolution 69/1**

**A conference structure of the Commission for the inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific<sup>1</sup>**

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

*Recalling* its resolutions 64/1, in particular paragraph 8 in which it was decided to conduct, at its sixty-ninth session, a review of its conference structure, including its subsidiary structure, taking into account the outcome of the midterm review conducted at its sixty-seventh session, 67/15, 68/8 and 68/9,

*Recalling also* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>2</sup> in particular paragraph 100, and General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in particular paragraphs 21, 74, 144, 145 and 146,

*Noting* the Commission’s unique role as the most representative body for the Asia-Pacific region and its comprehensive mandate as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations development system for the Asia-Pacific region,

*Noting also* the importance of strengthening cooperation and creating synergies within the United Nations development system at the global, regional and country levels in the Asia-Pacific region through enhanced collaboration between the secretariat and the funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations development system, as well as the need to build new partnerships within that system,

*Recognizing* the need for the Commission to adapt and respond to the evolving development challenges and opportunities for the Asia-Pacific region,

---

<sup>1</sup> See chap. III, paras. 277-288.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.



*Underlining* that the effectiveness and efficiency of the Commission's conference structure benefits from enhanced transparency, engagement and communication between member States and the secretariat, as well as with other stakeholders, in accordance with its rules of procedure,

*Commending* the Executive Secretary on the initiatives taken to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the conference structure, in particular those taken to implement resolutions 64/1 and 67/15, and to facilitate an effective process of consultation among members and associate members on a comprehensive and thorough review of the conference structure of the Commission,

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Secretary on the final review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its subsidiary structure pursuant to resolutions 64/1 and 67/15,<sup>3</sup> which was informed by the report on the external evaluation of the Commission's conference structure,<sup>4</sup>

1. *Decides* to revise its conference structure, with immediate effect, to conform to the pattern outlined in the annexes to the present resolution;

2. *Also decides* to conduct, at its seventy-first session, a review of the progress in implementation of the present resolution and requests the Executive Secretary to provide a report on the outcomes of the changes to the conference structure, which will serve as a basis for that review;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to conduct further study and analysis, including from time to time through discussions in the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, and to submit to the Commission at its seventy-first session a report on the programmatic, organizational and budgetary implications of:

(a) Constituting a new committee on energy;

(b) Converting the Committee on Information and Communications Technology into a committee on technology;

(c) Reforming the governance structure of the regional institutions and their integration within the secretariat's programme of work;

(d) Strengthening the effectiveness of the resolutions adopted by the Commission, including indications of measurable outcomes and reporting modalities for the actions to be undertaken by member States and the secretariat;

(e) Convening the eight committees biennially, with four committees meeting each year for a maximum duration of three working days, with half a day or one day devoted to joint plenary sessions between multiple committees, if required. The Commission may mandate a specific committee or multiple committees to meet in the gap year where a particular topic becomes an urgent issue to the region;

(f) Organizing, by the secretariat's subregional offices, preparatory meetings prior to Commission sessions on the theme of those sessions at the subregional level, with a view to enlisting due participation of representatives from civil society and the private sector to provide inputs into the theme study;

---

<sup>3</sup> E/ESCAP/69/18.

<sup>4</sup> E/ESCAP/69/INF/9.

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To combine the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific* and the theme study prepared for each session of the Commission into one flagship publication;

(b) To promote through videoconferencing and other means the participation of countries which do not have permanent missions to the secretariat in Bangkok in meetings of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission;

5. *Calls upon* all development partners, in particular the relevant organizations of the United Nations development system, to support the Commission in promoting sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, and in fulfilling its mandate as the main economic and social development centre in the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region, through all appropriate mechanisms, including active participation in Commission sessions, enhanced cooperation on projects and policies aimed at supporting human development and the sharing of good practices and programme and administrative support.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

## **Annex I**

### **Conference structure of the Commission**

#### **I. The Commission**

1. The Commission shall meet annually under an overarching theme selected by member States, with each session comprising a senior officials segment of three days followed by a ministerial segment of two days, for a total of five working days, to discuss and decide on important issues pertaining to inclusive and sustainable development in the region, decide on the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, review and endorse the proposed strategic framework and programme of work and take any other decisions required in conformity with its terms of reference.

2. The sessions of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall be held jointly for a maximum of one day during the senior officials segment and shall have a status commensurate with the Committees of the Whole; a one-day preparatory meeting of the Special Body will be held immediately before the beginning of the Commission session.

3. The Commission session may include a distinguished person's lecture and high-level representatives of United Nations agencies may be invited to participate in panel discussions held during the Commission session, and corporate leaders and civil society organizations may be invited to participate in the session as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission.

4. The Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, which convenes prior to the Commission session, shall be reconstituted as the Working Group on Draft Resolutions during the senior officials segment and shall have a status commensurate with the Committees of the Whole.

5. The number of simultaneous meetings of the Committees of the Whole, including their commensurate bodies, held during the senior officials segment of the annual session of the Commission shall not exceed two.

6. Draft resolutions shall reflect the substantive deliberations of member States; furthermore, without prejudice to rule 31 of its rules of procedure, members of the Commission intending to submit draft resolutions to the Commission are strongly encouraged to submit them to the Executive Secretary at least one month prior to the commencement of the session of the Commission in order to allow sufficient time for review by members and associate members of the Commission, and the Commission shall not consider draft resolutions submitted within one week of the first day of the Commission session.

7. The report of the Commission will be composed of the decisions and resolutions of the Commission. The draft record of proceedings of the Commission, prepared by the secretariat, will be circulated among members and associate members for comment within 15 days after the conclusion of the session. Members and associate members will be requested to provide comments within 15 days of receiving the draft record of proceedings. The secretariat's final record of proceedings of the Commission session will be issued within two months of the conclusion of the session, taking into account the relevant comments of members and associate members.

## **II. Subsidiary structure**

8. The subsidiary structure of the Commission shall consist of the following eight committees:

- (a) Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development;
- (b) Committee on Trade and Investment;
- (c) Committee on Transport;
- (d) Committee on Environment and Development;
- (e) Committee on Information and Communications Technology;
- (f) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;
- (g) Committee on Social Development;
- (h) Committee on Statistics.

9. The eight committees shall meet biennially, with four committees meeting each year, for a maximum duration of five days for each session.

10. Within their respective areas of purview, the committees shall:

- (a) Review and analyse regional trends;
- (b) Identify, in consultation with member States, their priorities and emerging issues and consult on regional approaches, taking into consideration subregional aspects;
- (c) Promote regional dialogue, including its subregional synergies, and an exchange of experiences on policies and programmes;
- (d) Consider common regional positions as inputs to global processes and promote regional follow-up to their outcomes;
- (e) Propose issues for consideration by the Commission as the basis for possible resolutions;
- (f) Monitor the implementation of Commission resolutions;

(g) Promote a collaborative approach to addressing the development challenges of the region, where appropriate, between Governments and civil society, the private sector and United Nations and other international institutions at the regional and subregional levels.

11. Further, within their respective areas of purview, the committees shall provide the secretariat, including its regional institutions, with guidance in reviewing the proposed strategic framework and programme of work.

12. The following areas shall be mainstreamed into the work of all committees:

(a) Implementation of the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Poverty reduction and balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development;

(c) Gender equality;

(d) Priority needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

13. Representatives of civil society and the private sector may, upon consultation with member States, be invited to join the Committee sessions as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission.

14. The specific issues to be addressed by each of the eight committees in carrying out the above functions are listed in annex II to the present resolution.

### **III. Ad hoc ministerial conferences and other intergovernmental meetings**

15. Subject to the approval of the Commission, ad hoc ministerial conferences and other intergovernmental meetings may be organized on specific and cross-sectoral issues.

16. No more than six such ministerial conferences or other intergovernmental meetings may be held during a calendar year, and the total number of days shall not exceed twenty.

17. In those years when a ministerial conference or intergovernmental meeting is held covering issues normally discussed in a committee, the corresponding committee need not be convened.

### **IV. Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission**

18. The functions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall be in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex III to the present resolution.

19. The Advisory Committee may, if necessary, establish its own working groups on consideration of specific issues.

20. The Advisory Committee shall meet with sufficient frequency both in formal and informal meetings on topical subjects, especially prior to the Commission session. The number of formal meetings of the Advisory Committee per calendar year shall not be less than six or more than twelve. Any additional meetings, formal or informal, will be held in consultation with the Advisory Committee and the Executive Secretary, and may not require documentation by the secretariat, unless otherwise requested by the Advisory Committee.

21. Should the need arise to seek the views of United Nations entities or other intergovernmental organizations on subjects of interest to the Advisory Committee, members of the Advisory Committee can, if consensus has been reached, request the secretariat to invite representatives of particular United Nations entities or other intergovernmental organizations to attend a subsequent session of the Advisory Committee.

22. The Advisory Committee shall periodically review the work of subregional offices and regional institutions, and actively follow up and report on the implementation of resolutions by member States. The secretariat shall facilitate the reporting on resolutions by preparing the requisite guidelines and templates.

**V. Existing regional institutions under the auspices of the Commission**

23. The following institutions under the auspices of the Commission shall continue to function as prescribed in their respective statutes and terms of reference:

- (a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT);
- (b) Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA);
- (c) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP);
- (d) Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM);
- (e) Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT).

**VI. General provisions**

**A. Rules of procedure**

24. Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, the rules of procedure of the Commission, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the committees.

**B. Informal session**

25. An informal session among the heads of delegations during the ministerial segment of each Commission session may be organized but shall not be institutionalized. The agenda for the informal session shall be decided by consensus and the annotated agenda shall reach members at least thirty days before the opening of the session to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the session. Simultaneous interpretation shall be provided.

**Annex II**

**Issues to be addressed by the committees subsidiary to the Commission**

The issues listed below are the primary issues to be addressed by each committee. The Commission may adjust the list of issues for any committee at any time, as appropriate; the committees shall likewise retain the flexibility to address new or emerging issues brought to their attention by the secretariat upon consultation with member States.

1. Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development:

- (a) Experiences and practices in formulating and implementing macroeconomic policies to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable and inclusive development;

(b) Regional economic development policies and options, including in the area of financing for development;

(c) Strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, with a special focus on poverty reduction;

(d) Pro-poor economic growth for increasing the income and employment of the poor;

(e) Policy options and programmes for reducing rural poverty, including those with a gender dimension, through the sustainable development of secondary crops.

2. Committee on Trade and Investment:

(a) Regional cooperative mechanisms and agreements in trade, investment and finance, including the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement;

(b) Policy options on trade and investment, enterprise development and finance;

(c) Policy options and strategies for sustainable economic growth and rural poverty reduction through agro-technology transfer and agro-based enterprise development;

(d) Technology transfer to address regional development challenges.

3. Committee on Transport:

(a) Transport policy options and programmes, including those targeting the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) The Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and other initiatives promoted by the Commission for planning international intermodal transport linkages;

(c) Measures to improve road safety and the efficiency of transport operations and logistics;

(d) Support for the accession and implementation of international transport agreements.

4. Committee on Environment and Development:

(a) Integration of environmental sustainability in development policy;

(b) Policies and strategies for the use of sustainable planning and the use of water resources;

(c) Regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy resources;

(d) Policies and strategies for promoting inclusive and sustainable urban development.

5. Committee on Information and Communications Technology:

(a) Integration of information and communications technology-related issues in development policies, plans and programmes;

(b) Transfer and application of information and communications technology at the regional and subregional levels;

(c) Development of human and institutional capacity in the use of information and communications technology;

(d) Information and communications technology applications for disaster risk reduction.

6. Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction:
  - (a) Policy options and strategies on multi-hazard disaster risk reduction and mitigation;
  - (b) Regional cooperation mechanisms for disaster risk management, including space and other technical support systems;
  - (c) Multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks.
7. Committee on Social Development:
  - (a) Implementation of internationally agreed commitments, including those agreed at the United Nations on social development, population, ageing, disability, youth and disadvantaged groups, gender equality and health;
  - (b) Policy options, strategies and good practices in social policy and protection;
  - (c) Social policies and financing aimed at building inclusive societies.
8. Committee on Statistics:
  - (a) Ensure that all countries in the region by 2020 have the capability to provide a basic range of population, economic, social and environmental statistics;
  - (b) Create a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through stronger collaboration.

### **Annex III**

#### **Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission**

The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall have the following functions:

- (a) To strengthen close cooperation and consultation between the member States and the secretariat, including by providing advice and guidance to be taken into account by the Executive Secretary while undertaking the respective activities;
- (b) To serve as a deliberative forum for substantive exchange of views and provide guidance on the formulation of the agenda of the Commission and in connection with economic and social developments that have an impact on the Asia-Pacific region;
- (c) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the strategic framework, programme of work and theme topics for sessions of the Commission consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission;
- (d) To receive, on a regular basis, information on the administrative and financial functioning of the Commission;
- (e) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Commission's programme of work and resource allocation;
- (f) To review the draft calendar of meetings prior to its submission to the Commission at its annual session;
- (g) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for sessions of the Commission and committees subsidiary to the Commission, consistent with the need to ensure a results-oriented and focused agenda that is aligned

with the developmental priorities of member States, as defined by them, as well as chapter II of its rules of procedure;

(h) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary on the identification of emerging economic and social issues and other relevant issues for incorporation into the provisional agendas and on the formulation of the annotated provisional agendas for Commission sessions;

(i) To be informed of collaboration and related arrangements between the secretariat and other international and regional organizations, in particular on long-term cooperation programmes and joint initiatives, including those to be proposed by the Executive Secretary and conducted under the aegis of the Regional Coordination Mechanism;

(j) To carry out any other tasks entrusted to it by the Commission.

### **Resolution 69/2**

#### **Final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region<sup>5</sup>**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 58/201 on 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,<sup>6</sup> and General Assembly resolution 59/245 on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 67/1 on the Ulaanbaatar Declaration: Outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries, 63/9 on implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), 65/6 on support for the establishment of an international think tank of landlocked developing countries,

*Taking note* of the outcome document of the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/2,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,<sup>7</sup> which was held from 20 to 22 September 2010, and General Assembly resolution 66/214, in which the Assembly decided to hold a comprehensive ten-year review conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014,

---

<sup>5</sup> See chap. III, paras. 27-47.

<sup>6</sup> *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28-29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.*

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution 65/1.



*Taking note with appreciation* of the Almaty Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Fourth Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 12 September 2012,<sup>8</sup>

*Recalling* the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>9</sup> in which the Conference recognized both the serious constraints that the landlocked developing countries face in achieving sustainable development and the need for effective national policies, enhanced global support and appropriate mechanisms at all levels for implementing the Almaty Programme of Action,

*Recalling also* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development invited the international community to speed up further the implementation of the specific actions in the five priority areas agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the declaration on the midterm review, in a better-coordinated manner, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities,

*Recognizing* that landlocked developing countries face complex challenges that highlight the need for both domestic policy reforms and changes in the global environment geared towards more inclusive and sustained growth of their economies,

*Expressing concern* about the continued vulnerability of the landlocked developing countries to the impact of global economic crises and to new and emerging challenges,

*Noting* that lack of direct access to and from the sea impairs the economic and social development of the landlocked developing countries and that their geographical disadvantage reduces their growth dynamics compared with coastal countries,

*Underlining* the desirability of World Trade Organization members considering general, as well as specific, support measures for landlocked developing countries, particularly in their accession process to the World Trade Organization, taking into account the special needs and particular challenges faced by these countries,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the convening of the Asian European Final Regional Review of the Almaty Programme of Action, which was organized jointly by the Government of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the secretariat of the Commission, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and held in Vientiane from 5 to 7 March 2013, and inaugurated by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic,

*Also noting with appreciation* the adoption of the Vientiane Consensus<sup>10</sup> by the Asian European Final Regional Review of the Almaty Programme of Action, which identified several key broad priorities for the global review, including: (a) a stable macroeconomic framework, trade and investment, mobilization of domestic resources, promoting foreign private investment, public-private partnerships for closing infrastructure gaps and building productive capacities; (b) deepening regional economic integration as an enabler to tap expanding markets in neighbouring countries for their products and services; (c) diversifying their export base; (d) job-creating and inequality-reducing growth; (e) strengthening education and vocational training; (f)

---

<sup>8</sup> A/67/386, annex.

<sup>9</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>10</sup> E/ESCAP/69/1, annex.

improving nutrition and health; and (g) promoting gender empowerment and social protection,

*Recognizing* the continued cooperation and collaboration between the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the secretariat of the Commission to support global, regional and national efforts of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States of the Asia-Pacific region,

*Underscoring* the importance of further enhancing the cooperation between the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the secretariat of the Commission within an appropriate framework of collaboration to support the full and timely implementation of the programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the Asia-Pacific region, with special emphasis on poverty eradication, reducing vulnerability and achieving other internationally agreed development goals,

1. *Requests* the countries of the region and international and regional organizations to endorse the Vientiane Consensus and urgently consider the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region to accede to the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in order to bring the think tank to its full operation;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries in forwarding the Vientiane Consensus as the Asia-Pacific regional input to the final global review of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014;

(b) To assist Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries, in cooperation with development partners and other international entities and taking into account their respective mandates, in implementing the recommendations of the Vientiane Consensus and in building their capacity to make appropriate policy responses that mitigate the impact of economic crises, restore growth, achieve the Millennium Development Goals and explicitly address the recent emerging development challenges to shape the development agenda beyond 2015 with sustainable development at its core;

(c) To submit to the Commission at its seventieth session a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

**Resolution 69/3**  
**Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on the Development Agenda beyond 2015<sup>11</sup>**

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

*Recalling* the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held from 20 to 22 September 2010,<sup>12</sup>

*Noting* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>13</sup> in which the Conference invited the regional commissions and other entities involved in sustainable development, according to their respective mandates, to support developing countries, upon request, to achieve sustainable development,

*Recalling* its resolution 68/2 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in the Asia-Pacific region, in which, inter alia, the Executive Secretary was requested to continue to assist Asia-Pacific least developed countries in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Expressing concern* at the slow pace of progress in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in closing their development gaps,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration on the United Nations Development Agenda for Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on 24 April 2013 at the meeting on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 for Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to assist Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) To forward the political declaration to all ongoing/upcoming intergovernmental processes leading to the development agenda beyond 2015 as an input of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States of the Asia-Pacific region.

*Fifth plenary meeting*  
*1 May 2013*

---

<sup>11</sup> See chap. III, paras. 27-47.

<sup>12</sup> General Assembly resolution 65/1.

<sup>13</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

## Annex

### **Bangkok Declaration on the United Nations Development Agenda for Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States**

1. We, the delegations of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States of the Asia-Pacific region, participated in a meeting on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 for Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States held in Bangkok on 24 April 2013.

2. We underline the importance of full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,<sup>14</sup> the Almaty Programme of Action,<sup>15</sup> the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States<sup>16</sup> and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,<sup>17</sup> and underscore the need for strong commitments to underpin the outcomes of the United Nations conferences on landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to be held in 2014 and their implementation.

3. We have made considerable progress in attaining some of the Millennium Development Goals with strong national leadership and support and cooperation from the international community. However, we note with grave concern that, despite major progress, Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States as a whole remain the most vulnerable groups of countries. Many of them are struggling with high incidence of poverty and hunger, unacceptably high maternal and child mortality rates, limited access to sanitation and grave climate change consequences.

4. We are concerned that, globally, more than 47 per cent of the population of least developed countries, 32 per cent of landlocked developing countries and 30 per cent of small island developing States are living below \$1.25 a day. We are also deeply disturbed that a good part of these deprived people live in Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

5. We reiterate our deep concern over the multiple and interrelated crises, including the financial and economic crises, volatile energy and food prices and ongoing concerns over food security, as well as the increasing challenges posed by climate change, desertification, land degradation and the loss of biodiversity, which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected our hard-earned development gains.

---

<sup>14</sup> *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

<sup>15</sup> 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 (*Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3)*, annex I).

<sup>16</sup> *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>17</sup> *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

6. We are deeply disappointed that, apart from acute poverty, our countries also continue to suffer from a high percentage of rural populations and women with extensive deprivation, lack of opportunities for a large share of the population, including the youth, due to deficiencies in access to water and sanitation, health, education, finance, markets etc., low level of productivity with large infrastructure deficits, limited access to modern technology, clean and efficient energy as well as high vulnerability to internal and external shocks, including the world economic and financial shocks, climate change and natural disasters. Furthermore, our countries have limited capacities and resources to deal with these shocks and constraints. For many of us, a number of Millennium Development Goals could remain an unfinished agenda to be taken forward even beyond 2015.

7. We affirm the critical importance of an enabling environment to support resilience to such challenges and of sustaining the momentum towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

8. We express our deep concern that, in 2012, official development assistance (ODA) from the members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development dropped by 4.0 per cent compared with 2011 and by 6.0 per cent compared with 2010 in real terms. We are further concerned that the bilateral net ODA to least developed countries fell by 12.8 per cent in real terms in 2012 compared with 2011 and by 3.4 per cent between 2010 and 2011 for landlocked developing countries. We are particularly concerned over the declining trends in ODA to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in Asia and the Pacific.

9. We recognize that, given the intensity of the challenges, business as usual is not an option, and we call upon all our development partners to fulfil their commitments, take decisive action and accord high priority to the poorest and the most vulnerable countries, which are finding it most difficult to make progress despite their best efforts, with a view to accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the remaining two years.

10. We strongly call upon the international community to draw on the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals and to work towards an expanded development agenda that reflects the three dimensions of sustainable development with more emphasis on productive capacity development, access to trade and trade facilitation, infrastructure, including access to affordable water and energy, inclusive economic growth, employment and decent work, migration, science and technology and structural transformation. We also underline the importance of protecting natural capital and look forward to mutually reinforcing support for poverty eradication, rapid and inclusive economic growth and environmental protection in an integrated manner. We believe that the promotion of the interests of the people and the planet should go hand in hand. We propose the adoption of a single and unified but differentiated and inclusive global development agenda which will address the severity of the challenges faced by least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

11. We stress that the process leading to a development agenda beyond 2015 provides a unique opportunity to advance a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach to economic growth that promotes sustainable development and poverty eradication as well as the happiness and well-being of all peoples.

12. We call upon the international community to make a determined effort to end extreme poverty and hunger in all least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including those in the Asia-Pacific region. We therefore underline that the concerns of these countries must be at

the forefront of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, as well as all other ongoing processes, including the formulation of sustainable development goals.

13. We also call upon all concerned to ensure that the priorities and actions contained in the above-mentioned programmes of action for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States are fully and effectively integrated in all the areas of the development agenda beyond 2015, which is not only a moral imperative, but is also indispensable for the promotion of a stable and peaceful global order.

14. We note that national action will not be enough to overcome the development challenges and structural disadvantages faced by least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the Asia-Pacific region and underline that many development challenges — from providing infrastructure to harnessing South-South economic integration — should be addressed effectively not only at the national but also at the regional and multilateral levels. We therefore recognize that the regional dimension of development is critical for an effective and coordinated response to addressing an ever-growing number of regional and transboundary development challenges. Thus, the development agenda beyond 2015 should not only factor in national priorities and global partnerships but also explicitly recognize the relevance of the regional dimension.

15. We recognize that most of us can exploit opportunities to render our development strategies more sustainable, with equitable distribution of economic benefits and social justice ensured. We call upon development partners to provide our countries with the necessary means, both financial and technological, to pursue a green and sustainable development path.

16. We underline the importance of strong and structured implementation of the development agenda beyond 2015. In this regard, the traditional donors, development partners from the South, the private sector and civil society organizations will have to play a decisive role. Strong and additional commitments and actions are necessary in favour of our countries in regard to ODA, debt, trade, technology transfer and diffusion and foreign direct investment (FDI) and must form an integral part of the development agenda beyond 2015. We recall the commitments made in the Istanbul Programme of Action<sup>14</sup> by donor countries to review their ODA commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for least developed countries. We also underline the need to establish a mutual accountability mechanism between our countries and our development partners with a view to ensuring the delivery of commitments made in international conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields.

17. While we recognize the need to improve institutions and governance structures in order to make ODA more effective in supporting our efforts to address our special needs, we also urge development partners to offer additional financial and technical assistance so that we may overcome our development challenges.

18. We call upon the international community to provide continued support to give the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States a strengthened voice, enabling them to participate effectively in international dialogues leading to the formulation of the development agenda beyond 2015.

19. We underline the need for full flexibility and policy space for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in framing their national and sectoral development strategies and plans to pursue a developmental state, which can play an active role in promoting structural transformation and the creation of productive employment.

20. We recognize that good governance, accountability and the rule of law are essential at all levels for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

21. Keeping in mind Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 68/8 on enhancing coordination within the United Nations system and cooperation with regional organizations for promoting regional development, in which the Commission emphasized the importance of the regional and subregional levels as an essential building block of effective global governance, and General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which the regional commissions, among others, were requested to further strengthen cooperation and coordination among themselves and with their respective headquarters, in close consultation with the Governments of the countries concerned and, where appropriate, to include the funds, programmes and specialized agencies that are not represented at the regional level, we invite the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to continue to support our countries, within a framework of cooperation and collaboration, including substantive capacity-building, in the implementation of the United Nations programmes of actions for our countries<sup>18</sup> and other internationally agreed development goals in the economic, social and environmental fields.

#### **Resolution 69/4**

#### **Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015<sup>19</sup>**

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

*Welcoming* the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>20</sup> and the high-level political commitment of member States in that document to sustainable development and the reaffirmation of the Rio Principles,<sup>21</sup> including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities,

*Recalling* the Seoul Outcome of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,<sup>22</sup> held in Seoul on 19 and 20 October 2011, hosted in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Asian Development Bank,

*Taking note* of the Asian and Pacific Regional Implementation Meeting on Rio+20 Outcomes, held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 April 2013,

*Acknowledging* the initiative of the Secretary-General to launch the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to advise him on a bold and, at the same time, practical United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, and noting the plan of the High-level Panel to submit a report to the Secretary-General by May 2013,

---

<sup>18</sup> See para. 2 above.

<sup>19</sup> See chap. III, paras. 49-64.

<sup>20</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>21</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>22</sup> E/ESCAP/68/10, chap. I.

*Recalling* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, called, among other things, for the development of sustainable development goals,<sup>23</sup>

*Recalling also* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, among other things, acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and noted that regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations regional commissions and their subregional offices, have a significant role to play in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions,<sup>24</sup>

*Stressing* the need for global, integrated and scientifically based information on sustainable development and, in this regard, noting that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development requested the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support the regional economic commissions in collecting and compiling national inputs in order to inform this global effort,<sup>25</sup>

*Recognizing* that initiatives under way at the national level in many States of the region can enrich and contribute to the elaboration of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015,

*Recalling* General Assembly decision 67/555, in which the Assembly established the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, in accordance with paragraph 248 of “The future we want”,<sup>20</sup>

*Emphasizing* the urgency of making every effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

*Stressing* the importance of the commitment of member States to sustainable development and the advancement of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 66/290 of 10 September 2012, in which the Assembly recognized that the advancement of human security should contribute to realizing sustainable development as well as the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Acknowledging* the need for dialogue in the Asia-Pacific region on how to make progress on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the delineation of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Government of Thailand to hold, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015 in Bangkok from 26 to 28 August 2013, and notes that the Dialogue could contribute to the discussions of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals;

2. *Decides* to collectively explore and identify the challenges in achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication in the region that should be addressed

---

<sup>23</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, paras. 245-251.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 97 and 100.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 251.



in the elaboration of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, taking into account the particular challenges of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

3. *Encourages* all members and associate members to participate, at the highest level, in the Ministerial Dialogue;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To support the organization of the Ministerial Dialogue;

(b) To facilitate the participation of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the Ministerial Dialogue;

(c) To also facilitate the participation of the private sector, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders in the Ministerial Dialogue;

(d) To report to the Commission at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

**Resolution 69/5  
Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization<sup>26</sup>**

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

*Recalling* its resolution 58/5 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery,

*Recalling also* its resolution 61/3 on the statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery,

*Taking note of* the report of the Governing Council of the Centre,<sup>27</sup>

*Noting* the adoption of a revised statute by the Governing Council of the Centre at its eighth session, with the Centre's new name already in effect as of 1 October 2012,<sup>28</sup>

1. *Adopts* the statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, as revised in the text annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Calls upon* members and associate members to continue to provide voluntary resources to support the work of the Centre;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to seek additional funding from donors to strengthen the Centre's mandated activities and their impact.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

---

<sup>26</sup> See chap. III, paras. 65-78.

<sup>27</sup> E/ESCAP/69/7.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 1 and 10.

**Annex**  
**Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization**

**Establishment**

1. The Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (hereinafter referred to as “CSAM” or the “Centre”) was established as the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery on 22 May 2002 pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 58/5 of the same date, and subsequently superseded by the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM) through Commission resolution 61/3 of 18 May 2005.
2. The membership of CSAM shall be identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as “ESCAP” or “the Commission”).
3. The Centre shall have the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

**Objectives**

4. The objectives of the Centre are to enhance technical cooperation among the members and associate members of ESCAP as well as other interested member States of the United Nations, through extensive exchange of information and sharing of knowledge and promotion of research and development and agro-enterprise development in the areas of sustainable agricultural mechanization and technology for the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in the region.

**Functions**

5. The Centre will achieve the above objectives through undertaking such functions as:
  - (a) Assistance in the improvement of agricultural engineering and sustainable agricultural mechanization;
  - (b) Enhancement of farm mechanization technologies in addressing issues related to subsistence farming for increased food security and poverty reduction and promoting agro-based small and medium-sized enterprise development and commercial farming to seize opportunities for increased market access and agro-food trade;
  - (c) A focus on an agro-based enterprise cluster concept and enterprise development activities to enhance the capabilities of members in identifying potential agricultural commodities in their respective countries on a clustering basis;
  - (d) Regional cooperation in green agro-technology transfer, including through networking of focal point national institutes in CSAM member countries and other relevant institutions;
  - (e) Setting up an interactive Internet website to allow members full access to information and technology databases, including the sharing of expert systems and decision support systems in financial management of small and medium-sized enterprises;

(f) Promotion of the technology transfer process from research and development institutes to the agricultural and farm machinery extension systems in member countries for poverty reduction;

(g) Assistance in the dissemination and exchange of sustainable and commercially successful machinery and related drawings of appropriate tools, machines and equipment;

(h) Technical assistance projects, capacity-building programmes, training workshops and seminars and advisory services on sustainable agricultural mechanization and related food safety standards;

(i) Tapping the resources of developed countries in building the capacity of member countries.

#### **Status and organization**

6. The Centre shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”), a Director, other staff and a Technical Committee.

7. The Centre is located in Beijing.

8. The Centre’s activities shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Centre shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

#### **Governing Council**

9. The Centre shall have a Governing Council consisting of a representative designated by the Government of China and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary or his/her representative shall attend meetings of the Council.

10. The Director of the Centre shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

11. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

12. The Council shall meet at least once a year and may adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.

13. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

14. Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, where that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has

been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

16. The Council shall review the administration and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

#### **Director and staff**

17. The Centre shall have a Director, and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Director shall be appointed in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post.

18. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work.

#### **Technical Committee**

19. The Centre shall have a Technical Committee consisting of experts from members and associate members of ESCAP as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members and associate members of ESCAP will be invited to propose candidates for the Technical Committee. Members of the Technical Committee shall be appointed by the Director in consultation with the Executive Secretary. The Director may also invite governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions to propose experts who would best contribute to Technical Committee discussions on a specific topic.

20. The Technical Committee shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the Centre's operations.

21. Reports of meetings of the Technical Committee, with the Director's observations thereon, shall be submitted to the Council at its next session.

22. The Chairperson of the Technical Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself at each meeting.

#### **Resources of the Centre**

23. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

24. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

25. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Centre.

26. The financial resources of the Centre shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

### **Amendments**

27. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

### **Matters not covered by the present statute**

28. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 12 of this statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

### **Entry into force**

29. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

### **Resolution 69/6**

#### **Implementation of the Tehran Declaration to promote public-private partnerships in infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development<sup>29</sup>**

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

*Reaffirming* the pivotal role of economic and social infrastructure in achieving sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals,

*Recognizing* that the private sector can play an important role in developing infrastructure and related services to promote sustainable development,

*Noting* the continued relevance of its resolutions 64/4 on the implementation of the Seoul Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific and 66/5 on the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>30</sup> in which the Conference recognized that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, including through the important tool of public-private partnerships,

*Noting* the significant progress made by some countries in strengthening their public-private partnership readiness and institutional capacities to implement public-private partnership initiatives, including through the enactment of public-private partnership and related laws, the establishment of public-private partnership units in central government offices and the promotion of training activities for public officials,

*Recognizing* the important contribution that the United Nations regional commissions, together with development partners, such as bilateral donors, international and regional financial institutions and other organizations, are making to assist countries in increasing private sector involvement in infrastructure development, with a particular emphasis on the Build-Operate-Transfer Model as referred to in the *Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings – A Trade and Transport Facilitation*

---

<sup>29</sup> See chap. III, paras. 80-105.

<sup>30</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

*Perspective* published by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Economic Commission for Europe,<sup>31</sup>

1. *Takes note with appreciation of* the Tehran Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific<sup>32</sup> as the successful outcome of the third Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development, held in Tehran on 14 November 2012, and welcomes this Declaration;

2. *Invites* members and associate members, as appropriate, to review and assess:

(a) Opportunities to engage the private sector in infrastructure and related services which support sustainable development;

(b) Public-private partnership strategies, policy frameworks and action plans for infrastructure development, as well as legislative, regulatory and institutional arrangements for public-private partnerships at the general and sectoral levels in order to identify any barriers to their effectiveness;

(c) Capacities in the public and private sectors to develop and implement public-private partnership projects, including risk and financial management;

(d) Gaps and challenges encountered by the public and private sectors in the implementation of public-private partnerships and possible strategies/actions in improving and strengthening partnerships;

3. *Also invites* members and associate members to integrate sustainable development considerations into public-private partnership projects by:

(a) Involving all relevant stakeholders in planning and implementing public-private partnership projects;

(b) Ensuring the transparency and accountability of the public-private partnership implementation process;

(c) Enhancing infrastructure development through public-private partnership initiatives for women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, smallholder and subsistence farmers, fisherfolk and those working in small and medium-sized enterprises to improve the livelihood and empowerment of the poor and of vulnerable groups;

(d) Integrating respective climate change adaptation measures and disaster risk reduction strategies in public-private partnership plans and projects for infrastructure development at the local, national and regional levels to enhance their sustainability, preservation and maintenance, as well as increase the resiliency of infrastructure projects to the adverse impacts of climate change and natural calamities;

(e) Building social and environmental sustainability into the formulation, contract documents, awarding and implementation of public-private partnership projects, where appropriate;

(f) Creating open communication technologies/sites to ensure the sustainability and availability of data and access to information for both the public and private sectors and all relevant stakeholders;

---

<sup>31</sup> See [www.unece.org/trans/publications/wp30/best\\_practices.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/publications/wp30/best_practices.html).

<sup>32</sup> E/ESCAP/69/24, annex.

4. *Encourages* members and associate members, as appropriate, to actively engage in regional cooperation initiatives, including the exchange of information, undertake steps for the standardization of contracts, processes and procedures, the sharing of experiences of both successful and unsuccessful public-private partnership projects, and the provision of training and technical assistance;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, relevant offices of the United Nations secretariat, international and regional financial institutions, bilateral donors and other organizations, to continue to support the promotion of public-private partnerships for sustainable infrastructure development in the region, in particular by:

(a) Assisting members and associate members in meeting sustainable infrastructure development challenges through: (i) regional and interregional cooperation in the development of public-private partnerships; (ii) the organization of meetings and regional networking arrangements aimed at promoting the exchange of experiences and information, particularly on disaster risk reduction and water resource management; (iii) promotion of the use of information and communications technology-based products, networks, services and applications, to help countries overcome the digital divide, as stipulated in the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society,<sup>33</sup> and (iv) the mainstreaming of information and communications technologies in their work programmes and the provision of assistance for developing countries at all levels to enable them to be involved in the preparation and implementation of national action plans to support the fulfilment of the goals indicated in the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society<sup>34</sup> while taking into account the importance of regional initiatives;

(b) Assisting members and associate members in their capacity-building programmes, including the formulation of public-private partnership policy frameworks, legislative and regulatory reform and the administrative arrangements for public-private partnerships;

(c) Working collectively to strengthen an Asia-Pacific network of public-private partnership units and programmes which would, among other things, provide ad hoc advisory and training services, disseminate information on public-private partnership and coordinate regional meetings of national public-private partnership units and programmes with the aim of developing public-private partnership programmes that contribute to sustainable development;

(d) Providing technical assistance, upon request, to help increase the public-private partnership readiness of countries of the Asia-Pacific region, giving special emphasis to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including but not limited to: (i) preparing regional financing and risk management tools to reduce transaction costs; and (ii) developing risk mitigation mechanisms against exchange rate misalignment, environmental adverse impact and natural disasters;

(e) Encouraging financial and monetary institutions as well as international development banks to invest in bankable public-private partnership projects, especially in the transport, energy, water resources, and information and communications technologies sectors;

(f) Exploring ways to facilitate cooperation among countries of the Asia-Pacific region on public-private partnership projects in their effort towards: (i) streamlining financial flows and motivating investment, especially through attracting

---

<sup>33</sup> See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

foreign direct investment to public-private partnership projects; (ii) setting up forums to invite representatives of the private sector from different countries to cooperate in public-private partnership projects; (iii) launching a process for establishing a working group comprising interested Asian and Pacific countries to explore leveraging prudential financial institutions and instruments, including emerging ones, such as Islamic financial instruments, for financing public-private partnership projects; and (iv) encouraging and inviting countries of the Asia-Pacific region to consider setting up an Asian investment bank;

(g) Expanding their supporting activities on public-private partnerships through cooperation with all regional arrangements and organizations;

(h) Undertaking a periodic review of the progress made in infrastructure development through public-private partnerships and to report to the Commission at its seventy-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

**Resolution 69/7  
Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports<sup>35</sup>**

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

*Recognizing* the vital role of transport in promoting international trade and economic and social development,

*Also recognizing* that transport is central to sustainable development and that sustainable transport achieves better integration of the economy, as affirmed in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>36</sup>

*Further recognizing* the importance of the Joint Project on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages, which is aimed at facilitating access to markets, economic opportunities and social services for the countries situated along the Euro-Asian transport routes, including landlocked and transit developing countries,

*Acknowledging* that dry ports of international importance along with the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway networks constitute important building blocks of a sustainable international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system,

*Keeping in view* the role of dry ports in integrating modes of transport, reducing border-crossing and transit delays and associated costs, facilitating the use of energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable means of transport and creating new opportunities for the growth and establishment of development clusters in inland areas, and addressing the specific needs of landlocked, transit and coastal States,

*Recalling* its resolution 66/4 on the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the request contained therein to work towards the development of an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports,

*Also recalling* the Regional Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Dry Ports along the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Networks and the second session of the Committee on Transport, both held in Bangkok from 1 to 3 November

---

<sup>35</sup> See chap. III, paras. 79-104.

<sup>36</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.



2010, which initiated the process of drafting an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports,<sup>37</sup>

*Further recalling* the outcomes of negotiations and consultations held among member States on the draft agreement during three subregional meetings held in 2011 — for South-East Asia in Vientiane, for South and South-West Asia in Dhaka, and for Central and North-East Asia in Dushanbe,<sup>38</sup>

*Welcoming* the finalization of the draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports by the Ad hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on an Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, held in Bangkok from 20 to 22 June 2012,<sup>39</sup> and the subsequent approval of the finalized draft agreement by the Committee on Transport at its third session, held in Bangkok from 10 to 12 October 2012,<sup>40</sup>

*Expressing its appreciation* to the Government of the Russian Federation for the valuable support it provided in the process of developing the intergovernmental agreement on dry ports, including the convening of the expert group meeting, the subregional meetings and the Ad hoc Intergovernmental Meeting,

*Encouraged* by continued commitment of member States to coordinated development of the regional transport networks, within the framework of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network<sup>41</sup> and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network,<sup>42</sup>

*Welcoming* the proposal to organize a signing ceremony for the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports<sup>43</sup> during the second session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport, which will be held in Bangkok from 6 to 8 November 2013,<sup>44</sup>

*Convinced* that the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports will strengthen regional cooperation among member States to promote inclusive and sustainable development through coordinated development of the transport and logistics system and have a substantial positive impact on the region by helping to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>45</sup>

1. *Adopts* the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present resolution;
2. *Invites* all relevant members of the Commission to become parties to the Agreement in order to ensure its rapid entry into force;

---

<sup>37</sup> See E/ESCAP/67/7, para. 4.

<sup>38</sup> See E/ESCAP/IADP/IGM.1/1, para. 14.

<sup>39</sup> See E/ESCAP/IADP/IGM.1/3.

<sup>40</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/8, para. 1.

<sup>41</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. 41607.

<sup>42</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2596, No. 46171.

<sup>43</sup> E/ESCAP/69/8/Add.1.

<sup>44</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/8, para. 27.

<sup>45</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/2.

3. *Invites* the international and regional financing institutions and multilateral and bilateral donors to consider providing financial and technical support for the development and operation of dry ports of international importance;

4. *Invites* international organizations to continue to collaborate with members of the Commission to promote the development and operation of dry ports of international importance;

5. *Encourages* member States to develop dry ports of international importance as a means of facilitating the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;<sup>46</sup>

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist member States in the process of becoming parties to the Agreement;

(b) To accord priority to the development of dry ports of international importance within the programme of work of the Commission;

(c) To collaborate effectively with international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors and international and subregional organizations for the development and operation of dry ports of international importance;

(d) To continue to work towards the development of a sustainable, international, integrated, intermodal transport and logistics system for the region, including through the development of the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway and dry ports of international importance, as appropriate;

(e) To discharge effectively the functions of the secretariat of the Agreement;

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

## **Annex**

### **Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports**

*The Parties to this Agreement,*

*Recalling* Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 66/4 of 19 May 2010 on the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the request contained therein to work towards the development of an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports,

*Conscious* of the need to promote and develop an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system in Asia and with neighbouring regions,

---

<sup>46</sup> 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 (*Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I*).

*Mindful* of the expected increase in international goods transport as a consequence of growing international trade in the ongoing process of globalization,

*Determined* to strengthen connectivity and seamless international movement of goods, facilitate increased efficiency and reduce the cost of transport and logistics as well as to extend its reach to inland areas and wider hinterlands,

*Encouraged* by the successful regional cooperation that led to the entry into force of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network<sup>47</sup> and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network,<sup>48</sup>

*Considering* that, in order to strengthen relations and promote international trade among members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, it is essential to develop dry ports of international importance to the requirement of international transport and to reduce the adverse impact of transport on the environment,

*Recognizing* the need to develop guiding principles for the development and operation of dry ports of international importance for harmonization and facilitation of intermodal transport in Asia and the Pacific,

*Keeping in view* the role of dry ports of international importance as an important component of an effective and efficient international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system, especially in addressing the specific needs of landlocked, transit and coastal States,

*Have agreed* as follows:

#### **Article 1** **Definition**

For the purposes of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports (the “Agreement”), a dry port of international importance (“dry port”) shall refer to an inland location as a logistics centre connected to one or more modes of transport for the handling, storage and regulatory inspection of goods moving in international trade and the execution of applicable customs control and formalities.

#### **Article 2** **Identification of dry ports**

The Parties hereby adopt the list of dry ports, contained in annex I to the Agreement, as the basis for the coordinated development of important nodes in an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system. The Parties intend to develop these dry ports within the framework of their national programmes and in accordance with national laws and regulations.

#### **Article 3** **Development of the dry ports**

The dry ports listed in annex I to the Agreement should be brought into conformity with the guiding principles for the development and operation of dry ports as described in annex II to the Agreement.

---

<sup>47</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. 41607.

<sup>48</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2596, No. 46171.

**Article 4**  
**Signature, ratification, acceptance, approval and accession**

1. The Agreement shall be open for signature to States that are members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at Bangkok, Thailand, on 7 and 8 November 2013, and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 November 2013 to 31 December 2014.

2. The Agreement shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by signatory States.

3. The Agreement shall be open to accession by non-signatory States which are members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

4. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval of or accession to the Agreement shall be deposited in good and due form with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

**Article 5**  
**Entry into force**

1. The Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date on which the eighth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval of or accession to the Agreement is deposited pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 4 of the Agreement.

2. For each State which deposits its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval of or accession to the Agreement after the date on which the eighth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval of or accession to the Agreement is deposited, the Agreement shall enter into force for that State thirty (30) days after the date of its deposit of the said instrument.

**Article 6**  
**Working Group on Dry Ports**

1. A Working Group on Dry Ports (the “Working Group”) shall be established by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to consider the implementation of the Agreement and to consider any amendments proposed. All States which are members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall be members of the Working Group.

2. The Working Group shall meet biennially. Any Party may also, by a notification addressed to the secretariat, request that a special meeting of the Working Group be convened. The secretariat shall notify all members of the Working Group of the request and shall convene a special meeting of the Working Group if not less than one third of the Parties signify their assent to the request within a period of four (4) months from the date of the notification by the secretariat.

**Article 7**  
**Procedures for amending the main text**

1. The main text of the Agreement shall be amended by the procedure specified in this Article.

2. Amendments to the Agreement may be proposed by any Party.

3. The text of any proposed amendment shall be circulated to all members of the Working Group by the secretariat at least forty-five (45) days before the Working Group meeting at which it is proposed for adoption.

4. An amendment shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the Parties to the Agreement present and voting at the meeting of the Working Group. The amendment as adopted shall be communicated by the secretariat to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall circulate it to all Parties for acceptance.

5. An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 4 of the present Article shall enter into force thirty (30) days after it has been accepted by two thirds of the number of States which are Parties to the Agreement at the time of adoption of the amendment. The amendment shall enter into force with respect to all Parties except those which have not accepted the amendment. Any Party which does not accept an amendment adopted in accordance with this paragraph may at any time thereafter deposit an instrument of acceptance of such amendment with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The amendment shall enter into force for that State thirty (30) days after the date of deposit of the said instrument.

#### **Article 8** **Procedures for amending annex I**

1. Annex I to the Agreement shall be amended by the procedure specified in this Article.

2. Amendments shall be proposed by any Party in whose territory the subject of the proposed amendment is located.

3. The text of any proposed amendment shall be circulated to all members of the Working Group by the secretariat at least forty-five (45) days before the Working Group meeting at which it is proposed for adoption.

4. The proposed amendment shall be deemed adopted if the Party in whose territory the subject of the proposed amendment is located reconfirms the proposal after consideration of the proposal at the Working Group meeting. The amendment as adopted shall be communicated by the secretariat to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall circulate it to all Parties.

5. The amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 4 of the present article shall be deemed accepted and shall enter into force for all Parties after a period of forty-five (45) days following the date of the circular notification of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

#### **Article 9** **Procedures for amending annex II**

1. Annex II to the Agreement shall be amended by the procedure specified in this Article.

2. Amendments may be proposed by any Party.

3. The text of any proposed amendment shall be circulated to all members of the Working Group by the secretariat at least forty-five (45) days before the Working Group meeting at which it is proposed for adoption.

4. An amendment shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the Parties to the Agreement present and voting at the meeting of the Working Group. The

amendment as adopted shall be communicated by the secretariat to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall circulate it to all Parties.

5. An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 4 of the present Article shall be deemed accepted if, during a period of ninety (90) days from the date of the notification, less than one third of the Parties notifies the Secretary-General of the United Nations of their objection to the amendment.

6. An amendment accepted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the present Article shall enter into force for all Parties thirty (30) days after the expiry of the period of ninety (90) days referred to in paragraph 5 of the present Article.

#### **Article 10 Reservations**

Reservations may not be made with respect to any of the provisions of the Agreement, except as provided in Article 13, paragraph 5 of the Agreement.

#### **Article 11 Withdrawal**

Any Party may withdraw from the Agreement by written notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The withdrawal shall take effect twelve (12) months after the date of receipt by the Secretary-General of such notification.

#### **Article 12 Suspension of validity**

The operation of the Agreement shall be suspended if the number of Parties becomes less than eight (8) for any period of twelve (12) consecutive months. The provisions of the Agreement shall again become operative thirty (30) days after the number of Parties reaches eight (8). In such situations, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify the Parties.

#### **Article 13 Settlement of disputes**

1. Any dispute between two or more Parties which relates to the interpretation or application of the Agreement and which the Parties in dispute are unable to settle by negotiation or consultation shall be referred to conciliation if any of the Parties in dispute so requests and shall, to that end, be submitted to one or more conciliators to be mutually agreed by the Parties in dispute. If the Parties in dispute fail to agree on the choice of conciliator or conciliators within ninety (90) days after the request for conciliation, any of those Parties may request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to appoint a single independent conciliator to whom the dispute shall be submitted.

2. The recommendation of the conciliator or conciliators appointed in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article, while not binding in character, shall become the basis of renewed consideration by the Parties in dispute.

3. The Parties in dispute may agree in advance to accept the recommendation of the conciliator or conciliators as binding.

4. Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the present Article shall not be construed as excluding other measures for the settlement of disputes mutually agreed between the Parties in dispute.

5. Any State may, at the time of depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, deposit a reservation stating that it does not consider itself bound by the provisions of the present Article relating to conciliation. Other Parties shall not be bound by the provisions of the present Article relating to conciliation with respect to any Party which has deposited such a reservation.

#### **Article 14** **Limits to the application**

1. Nothing in the Agreement shall be construed as preventing a Party from taking such action, compatible with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and limited to the exigencies of the situation, as it considers necessary for its external or internal security.

2. Each Party shall make every possible effort to develop the dry ports in accordance with national laws and regulations in a manner that is consistent with the Agreement. However, nothing in the Agreement shall be construed as acceptance of an obligation by any Party to permit the movement of goods across its territory.

#### **Article 15** **Annexes**

Annexes I and II to the Agreement shall form an integral part of the Agreement.

#### **Article 16** **Secretariat**

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall be designated the secretariat of the Agreement.

#### **Article 17** **Depositary**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be designated the depositary of the Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed the present Agreement, in a single copy in the Chinese, English and Russian languages, the three texts being equally authentic.

#### **Annex I** **Dry ports of international importance**

1. The dry ports are normally located in the vicinity of: (a) inland capitals, provincial/state capitals; and/or (b) existing and/or potential production and consumption centres with access to highways and/or railways including the Asian Highway and/or Trans-Asian Railway, as appropriate.

2. Dry ports have transport connections to other dry ports, border posts/land customs stations/integrated check posts, seaports, inland waterway terminals and/or airports.

3. Dry ports are listed below.

4. The name of a dry port is followed by its location or the name of the nearest town/city.

5. Potential dry ports are indicated below in square brackets.

## List of dry ports

### Afghanistan

Haqueena, Mimana	Heiratan Dry Port, Mazar-e-Sharif
Islam Qala, Herat	Kabul Dry Port, Kabul
Shirkhan Bander Dry Port, Konduz	Speenboldake Chaman Dry Port, Kandahar
Torkham Dry Port, Jalalabad	Turghundi, Herat

### Armenia

Akhuryan Logistic Center  
Gyumri Airport  
Karmir Blur/ Apaven Cargo Terminal  
Zvartnots International Logistic Center

### Azerbaijan

Baku Cargo Terminal of Heydar Aliyev International Airport, Baku  
Balakan Cargo Terminal, Azerbaijan-Georgia border  
Bilasuvar Cargo Terminal, Azerbaijan-Islamic Republic of Iran border  
Gabala International Airport, Ganja International Airport,  
Gabala Ganja  
Heydar Aliyev International Airport, Baku  
Julfa Cargo Terminal, Azerbaijan-Islamic Republic of Iran border  
Lenkoran International Airport, Lenkoran  
Nakhichevan International Airport, Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan  
Silk Way Cargo Terminal, Baku Zagatala International Airport,  
Zagatala  
[Baku City Goods Depot, Khirdalan Station]  
[Cargo Terminal on frontier point at state border, Samur]  
[Cargo Terminal on frontier point at state border, Sinig-Korpu]  
[Container Terminal of Baku International Sea Trade Port, Baku]  
[Ganja Station, Ganja]  
[International Logistics Centre, Alyat] [Keshla Station, Baku]  
[New Baku International Sea Trade Port, Alyat]  
[South Terminal on frontier point at state border (Astara)]  
[Sumgait Station, Sumgait]

### Bangladesh

Akhaura, Brahmanbaria	Benapole, Jessore
Bibirbazar, Comilla	Burimari, Lalmonirhat



Hili, Dinajpur	Kamlapur ICD, Dhaka
Sonamasjid, Chapai Nawabganj	Teknaf, Cox's Bazar
[Bangladbandh, Panchagargh]	[Bhomra, Satkhira]
[Bilonia, Feni]	[Dhirasram ICD, Gajipur]
[Gobrakura, Mymensingh]	[Koraitali, Mymensingh]
[Nakugao, Sherpur]	[Ramgarh, Khagrachari]
[Tamabil, Sylhet]	
<b>Bhutan</b>	
Phuentsholing Dry Port, Phuentsholing	[Gelephu, Sarpang]
[Gomtu, Samtse]	[Nganglam, Samdrupjongkhar]
[Samdrupjongkhar, Samdrupjongkhar]	[Samtse, Samtse]
<b>Cambodia</b>	
CWT Dry Port, Phnom Penh	Olair World Wide Dry Port, Phnom Penh
Phnom Penh International Port, Phnom Penh	
Phnom Penh Special Economic Zone, Phnom Penh	
So Nguon Dry Port, Bavet	Tech Srun Dry Port, Phnom Penh
Teng Lay Dry Port, Phnom Penh	
<b>China</b>	
Changchun Longxing Bonded International Logistics Port, Changchun	Erlianhaote South International Logistics Center, Erlianhaote
Harbin Longyun Logistics Park, Harbin	Hekou Port Transport Logistics Park, Hekou
Korgas International Logistics Park, Korgas	Hunchun International Logistics Park, Humchun
Jinghong Mengyang International Logistics Center, Jinghong	Kashi International Logistics Park, Kashi
Tengjun International Land Port, Kunming	Manzhouli New International Freight Yard, Manzhouli
Nanning Bonded Logistics Center, Nanning	Pingxiang Border Trade Logistics Center, Pingxiang (Youyi Guan)
Ruili Cargo Centre, Ruili	Suifenhe Cargo Centre, Suifenhe
Xinjiang Railway International Logistics Park, Urumqi	Yiwu Inland Port Station, Yiwu
Zhangmu Port Warehouse Logistics Trading Center, Zhangmu	
<b>Georgia</b>	
Poti Free Industrial Zone, Poti	[Tbilisi International Logistics Centre, Tbilisi]

## India

Ajni, Nagpur, Maharashtra	Amingaon, Guwahati, Assam
Aroor, Kerala	Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana
Bhadohi, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	
Bhagat Ki Kothi, Jodhpur, Rajasthan	Chehreta, Amritsar, Punjab
Dadri, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	Daulatabad, Aurangabad, Maharashtra
Dhandarikalan, Punjab	Dhannad Rau, Indore, Madhya Pradesh
Dronagiri Node, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Durgapur, West Bengal
Garhi Harsaru, Gurgaon, Haryana	Irugur, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
Jamshedpur, Jharkhand	Janory, Nasik, Maharashtra
Kanakpura, Jaipur, Rajasthan	Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
Khodiyar, Gujarat	Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
Majerhat, Kolkata, West Bengal	Mandideep, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh	Patli, Gurgaon, Haryana
Pithampur, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh	Raipur, Chhattisgarh
Sachin, Surat, Gujarat	Sanath Nagar, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
Senewal, Ludhiana, Punjab	Tondiarpet, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Tughlakabad, Delhi	Vadodara, Gujarat
Whitefield, Bangalore, Karnataka	

## Indonesia

Gedebage Dry Port, Bandung	Cikarang Dry Port, Bekasi
----------------------------	---------------------------

## Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Imam Khomeini International Airport, Tehran Province
Motahari Rail Station, Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi Province
Salafchegan Special Economic Zone, Qom Province
Sirjan Special Economic Zone, Kerman Province
[Arvand Free Industrial Zone, Khozestan Province]
[Sahlan Special Economic Zone, Tabriz, East Azerbaijan Province]
[Sarakhs Special Economic Zone, Khorasan Razavi Province]
[Shahid Dastgheyb International Airport, Shiraz, Fars Province]
[Zahedan Logistics Centre, Sistan and Baluchestan Province]

## Kazakhstan

Aktobe Centre, Aktobe	Damu Industrial and Logistics Centre, Almaty
[High Tech Logistics, Almaty Region]	

[Korgas International Border Cooperation Centre, Almaty Region]

[Tau Terminal, Almaty Region]

### **Kyrgyzstan**

Alamedin, Bishkek

Osh, Osh

### **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

Thanaleng, Vientiane

[Houyxai, Bokeo]

[Laksao, Borikhamsai]

[Luangprabang, Luangprabang]

[Nateuy, Luangnamtha]

[Oudomsai, Muangxai]

[Pakse, Champasack]

[Seno, Savanakheth]

[Thakhek, Khammouane]

### **Malaysia**

Inland Clearance Depot Kontena  
Nasional, Prai

Inland Container Depot, Padang  
Besar

Internal Clearance Depot Seri Setia, Kuala Lumpur

Ipoh Cargo Terminal, Ipoh

Nilai Inland Port, Nilai

Tebedu Inland Port, Sarawak

[Pulau Sebang Inland Depot, Pulau Sebang]

### **Mongolia**

Altanbulag

Sainshand

Ulaanbaatar

Zamyn-Uud

[Choibalsan]

### **Myanmar**

[Bago]

[Mandalay]

[Mawlamyine]

[Monywa]

[Muse]

[Pyay]

[Tamu]

[Yangon]

### **Nepal**

Bhairahawa ICD, Bhairahawa

Biratnagar ICD, Biratnagar

Birgunj ICD, Birgunj

Kakarbhitta ICD, Kakarbhitta

[Tatopani ICD, Larcha]

### **Pakistan**

Customs Dry Port, Hyderabad

Customs Dry Port, Peshawar

Faisalabad Dry Port Trust,  
Faisalabad

Lahore Dry Port, Mughalpura

Margalla Dry Ports, Islamabad

Multan Dry Port Trust, Multan

National Logistics Center Container Freight Station, Lahore

National Logistics Center Dry Port, Quetta	Pakistan Railways Prem Nagar Dry Port, Kasur
Railways Dry Port, Quetta	Sambrial Dry Port, Sialkot
Silk Route Dry Port, Sost, Gilgit, Baltistan	
<b>Philippines</b>	
Clark, Angeles City, Pampanga, Luzon	Davao City, Eastern Mindanao
Koronadal City, South Cotabato	
Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental, Northern Mindanao	
Zamboanga City, Western Mindanao	
<b>Republic of Korea</b>	
Uiwang ICD, Uiwang	
<b>Russian Federation</b>	
Janino Logistic Park, Saint Petersburg Region	
Multimodal Logistic Complex “Rostov universal port”, Rostov-on-Don Region	
Terminal Logistics Centre “Baltiysky”, Leningrad Region	
Terminal Logistics Centre “Kleshchiha”, Novosibirsk	
Terminal Logistics Centre “Doskino”, Nizhny Novgorod, [Dmitrovsky Multimodal Centre, Moscow Region]	
[Kaliningrad]	[Kazan]
[Multimodal Logistic Complex “Southern Primorsky Terminal”, Primorsky Region]	
[Svijazhsky Multimodal Logistic Centre, Tatarstan]	
[Terminal Logistics Centre “Primorsky” Ussuriysk, Primorsky Region]	
[Terminal Logistics Centre “Tamansky”, Krasnodar Region]	
[Terminal Logistics Centre “Beliy Rast”, Moscow Region]	
[Volgograd]	[Yekaterinburg]
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	
[Peliyagoda, Colombo]	[Telangapata, Colombo]
<b>Tajikistan</b>	
Dushanbe, Dushanbe	Karamyk, Jirgital
Khujand, Khujand	Kurgan-Tube, Kurgan-Tube
Nizhniy Panj, Qumsamgir	Tursunzade, Tursunzade
Vakhdat, Vakhdat	
<b>Thailand</b>	
Lat Krabang ICD, Bangkok	[Chiang Khong, Chiang Rai]
[Natha, Nong Khai]	

## **Turkey**

Gelemen, Samsun	Kazan, Ankara
[Bogazkopru, Kayseri]	[Bozuyuk, Bilecik]
[Gokkoy, Balikesir]	[Habur]
[Halkali, Istanbul]	[Hasanbey, Eskisehir]
[Kaklik, Denizli]	[Kars]
[Kayacik, Konya]	[Kosekoy, Izmit]
[Mardin]	[Palandoken, Erzurum]
[Sivas]	[Turkoglu, Kahramanmaras]
[Uzak]	[Yenice, Mersin]
[Yesilbayir, Istanbul]	

## **Viet Nam**

ICD Lao Cai, Lao Cai Province	ICD Song Than, Binh Duong Province
ICD Tan Cang-Long Binh, Dong Nai Province	ICD Tien Son, Bac Ninh Province
[Hanoi]	[ICD Gia Lai, Gia Lai Province]
[ICD Vinh Phuc, Vinh Phuc Province]	[Lang Son]

## **Annex II**

### **Guiding principles for the development and operation of dry ports**

#### **1. General**

The development and operation of dry ports, as listed in annex I of the Agreement, shall be guided by the principles described below. Parties shall make every possible effort to conform to these principles in constructing, upgrading and operating dry ports.

#### **2. Functions**

The basic functions of dry ports shall include the handling, storage and regulatory inspection of goods moving in international trade and the execution of applicable customs control and formalities. Additional functions of dry ports may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Receipt and dispatch;
- (b) Consolidation and distribution;
- (c) Warehousing;
- (d) Trans-shipment.

#### **3. Institutional, administrative and regulatory framework**

Parties shall initiate institutional, administrative and regulatory frameworks that are favourable to the development and smooth operation of dry ports, including procedures for regulatory inspection and the execution of applicable customs control and formalities in line with the national laws and regulations of the Party concerned. Dry ports, as listed in annex I of this Agreement, may be designated as points of origin or destination in transport and customs documentation. The Parties shall collaborate with relevant transport service providers, international organizations and institutions to

ensure recognition of dry ports. The ownership of dry ports can be public, private or public-private partnerships.

#### **4. Design, layout and capacity**

Dry ports shall be developed with adequate capacity and layout to allow for the secure and smooth flow of containers, cargoes and vehicles within and through the dry port and to make provision for expansion of capacity, as appropriate, taking into account the modes of transport served, the requirements of the users of the dry port and expected future container and cargo volumes.

#### **5. Infrastructure, equipment and facilities**

Dry ports shall have infrastructure, equipment and manpower commensurate with existing and expected freight volumes at the discretion of the Parties in accordance with their national laws, regulations and practices. This provision is recommendatory in nature and shall not be binding with respect to the following:

- (a) A secure area with a gate for dedicated entrance and exit;
- (b) Covered and open storage areas separated for import, export and trans-shipment, and for perishable goods, high-value cargoes and dangerous cargoes, including hazardous substances;
- (c) Warehousing facilities, which may include customs bonded warehousing facilities;
- (d) Customs supervision, control, inspection and storage facilities;
- (e) Appropriate cargo and container-handling equipment;
- (f) Internal service roads and pavement for use in the operation and stacking area;
- (g) Vehicle holding areas with adequate parking space for freight vehicles;
- (h) An administrative building for customs, freight forwarders, shippers, customs brokers, banks and other related agencies;
- (i) Information and communications systems, which include electronic data interchange systems, scanners and vehicle-weighing equipment;
- (j) A container, vehicle and equipment repair yard, if necessary.

#### **Resolution 69/8**

#### **Enhancing knowledge-sharing and cooperation in integrated water resources management in Asia and the Pacific<sup>49</sup>**

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

*Recalling* paragraph 119 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>50</sup> in which the Conference recognized that water is at the core of sustainable development and is closely linked to a number of key global challenges, reiterating the importance of integrating water into sustainable development and underlining the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development,

---

<sup>49</sup> See chap. III, paras. 105-115.

<sup>50</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

*Recalling* that the period from 2005 to 2015 was proclaimed by the General Assembly as the International Decade for Action “Water for Life”,<sup>51</sup> and that 2013 was declared the International Year of Water Cooperation,<sup>52</sup>

*Recalling* the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”)<sup>53</sup> and recognizing that managing natural resources, including water, in a sustainable and integrated manner is essential for sustainable development,

*Reaffirming* the roles of United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Environment Programme and UN-Water, as well as multilateral and regional development banks, in promoting an exchange of views on best practices related to water management,

*Noting* the launch of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum in September 2006 and appreciating the ongoing efforts of the Forum in strengthening mechanisms to encourage more collaborative efforts on water resources management, such as those on safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and to accelerate the process of effective integration of water resources management at the national level into the socioeconomic development process of countries in the Asia-Pacific region,

*Highlighting* the need to strengthen the implementation and operationalization of integrated water resources management,

*Calling* for the development of ecologically efficient water infrastructure, and further exploration of the use of rainwater harvesting, water reuse and flood management systems, among others, in order to increase the resilience of Asia-Pacific member countries to natural disasters,

*Noting* the outcome document of the first Asia-Pacific Water Summit, the Message from Beppu, in which Asian and Pacific leaders agreed to accord the highest priority to water and sanitation in their economic and development plans and agendas and to increase substantially their allocation of resources to the water and sanitation sectors,<sup>54</sup>

1. *Invites* members and associate members:

(a) To work towards integrating water resource management into national economic and social development plans to manage water resources efficiently, equitably and sustainably and to strengthen integrated water resource management as an important tool for supporting a linkage between water and other vital resources towards assuring sustainable development;

(b) To continue the commitment made in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to develop integrated water resources management and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, as outlined in the Millennium Declaration,<sup>55</sup> and to encourage appropriate

---

<sup>51</sup> General Assembly resolution 58/217.

<sup>52</sup> General Assembly resolution 65/154.

<sup>53</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>54</sup> See [www.apwf.org/archive/documents/summit/Message\\_from\\_Beppu\\_071204.pdf](http://www.apwf.org/archive/documents/summit/Message_from_Beppu_071204.pdf).

<sup>55</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/2.

consideration of water issues in the discussion of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

(c) To promote and share experiences regarding the efficient use of water resources while taking into account basic human needs and balances between preservation of ecosystems and human domestic, industrial and agricultural needs;

(d) To enhance cooperation in data and knowledge sharing, research and planning to promote the sustainable use and management of water resources, including international rivers;

(e) To promote the use and transfer of sustainable technology on mutually agreed terms and conditions in ensuring sustainable water management and managing water-related challenges with a view to minimizing their adverse impact on people, livelihoods, the economy and the environment;

(f) To consider allocating the necessary resources to improve household water management and sanitation services to meet the needs of the people, as well as secure water for ecosystems, human health and human well-being;

(g) To encourage all stakeholders, in particular the private sector, to address water challenges;

(h) To consider participating in the second Asia-Pacific Water Summit, to be hosted by the Government of Thailand in Chiang Mai from 14 to 20 May 2013, under the theme of "Water security and water-related disaster challenges: leadership and commitment";

(i) To consider supporting and actively participating in the seventh World Water Forum, which will be held in Daegu Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea, in 2015;

(j) To consider participating in the Singapore International Water Week 2014, from 1 to 5 June 2014;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To coordinate with other United Nations agencies to make effective use of technology and innovation on all relevant aspects of water management for the benefit of the Asia-Pacific region;

(b) To facilitate the sharing, by members and associate members at the regional and subregional levels, of experiences, best practices and technologies in managing integrated water resources management;

(c) To continue to provide and support, in consultation with members and associate members, a capacity development programme to build resilience to water-related disasters and to manage water-related risks in Asia-Pacific countries that suits various groups of stakeholders through knowledge-sharing;

(d) To take appropriate steps to promote awareness of the importance of integrating water into sustainable development within the framework of the mandate and programme of the work of the secretariat;

(e) To report to the Commission at its seventy-first session on the progress made in implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*



**Resolution 69/9**  
**Implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme towards voluntary follow-up to the Rio+20 outcome “The future we want”<sup>56</sup>**

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

*Recalling* that the Astana Green Bridge Initiative: Europe-Asia-Pacific Partnership for the Implementation of “Green Growth”<sup>57</sup> was welcomed and endorsed by the sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>58</sup>

*Noting* that the Green Bridge Partnership Programme<sup>59</sup> was developed after the sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, welcomed by the seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference which was held in Astana in September 2011,<sup>60</sup> and welcomed and supported by the Ministerial Declaration: “Save water, grow green!” adopted by the ministers of the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,<sup>61</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 67/3, in which it encouraged all members and associate members to encourage the private sector and civil society to participate in activities related to the Green Bridge Initiative, and requested the Executive Secretary to support the implementation of the Initiative and its proposed programme for partnership through various activities, including participation in meetings and conferences organized by the Government of Kazakhstan and the Economic Commission for Europe,

*Noting* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in its outcome document entitled “The future we want,”<sup>62</sup> encouraged coordinated regional actions to promote sustainable development, and recognized in that regard that important steps had been taken to promote sustainable development, in particular in the Arab region, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Asia-Pacific region, through relevant forums, including within the United Nations regional commissions,<sup>63</sup>

*Noting also* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which, inter alia, welcomed regional and cross-regional initiatives for sustainable development, such as the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, which is voluntary and open for participation by all partners,<sup>64</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the steps taken by the Executive Secretary to date on the implementation of resolution 67/3 in providing platforms and networks for exploring the interest in the development of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme,

*Taking into account* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development emphasized that regional and subregional organizations, including the

---

<sup>56</sup> See chap. III, paras. 105-115.

<sup>57</sup> See E/ESCAP/67/8, chap I, sect. C.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid., chap II, para. 10.

<sup>59</sup> See ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/6.

<sup>60</sup> See ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.2, para. 9.

<sup>61</sup> See ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1.

<sup>62</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid., para. 185.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid., para. 102.

United Nations regional commissions and their subregional offices, have a significant role to play in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions,<sup>65</sup>

*Recognizing* that member States underscored the need to support these institutions, including through the United Nations system, in the effective operationalization and implementation of sustainable development, and to facilitate institutional coherence and harmonization of relevant development policies, plans and programmes,<sup>66</sup>

*Underlining* the need for more coherent and integrated planning and decision-making at the national, subnational and local levels, as appropriate and, to this end, calling on countries to strengthen national, subnational and/or local institutions or relevant multi-stakeholder bodies and processes, as appropriate, dealing with sustainable development,

*Appreciating* the commitment of Kazakhstan to continuously support the cross-regional cooperation for sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes* the convening by the Government of Kazakhstan of the Meeting of Stakeholders of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, which is scheduled to be held in Astana in September 2013, to consider the establishment of relevant bodies responsible for (a) overall governance, (b) implementation and coordination and (c) a financing facility;

2. *Invites* members and associate members to participate in this upcoming stakeholder meeting as a key step towards implementing, as appropriate and on a voluntary, mutually beneficial basis, specific measures on the development of relevant structures of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, opening opportunities for regional cooperation by using the expertise, programmes, platforms and structures existing in the region, that could extend its support and aspiration to the region for sustainable development;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to support the elaboration of the institutional framework and programmatic activities of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme by:

(a) Providing expert technical support in the preparations for the above stakeholder meeting, including through collaboration with the Economic Commission for Europe and special programmes, in particular the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, as appropriate;

(b) Supporting capacity development, technical expertise and access to policy tools and frameworks;

(c) Encouraging the development and application of policies and tools, such as environmentally sound technologies, for promoting and facilitating, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies, on mutually agreed terms and conditions;

(d) Promoting knowledge-sharing networks to exchange experiences and analyses and lessons learned from sustainable development pilot projects highlighting pro-poor pro-environment growth;

---

<sup>65</sup> Ibid., para. 100.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

(e) Supporting the necessary transfer of know-how and technologies for capacity-building to developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region, on mutually agreed terms and conditions;

4. *Invites* international and regional organizations, including the Economic Commission for Europe, to contribute to and be part of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, jointly with interested countries and partners, including the Economic Commission for Europe, as appropriate, a report on the progress in regional implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme to be submitted to the seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, in 2015;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventieth session on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

**Resolution 69/10  
Promoting regional information and communications technology connectivity and building knowledge-networked societies in Asia and the Pacific<sup>67</sup>**

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

*Inspired* by the global commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and sustainable information society,<sup>68</sup>

*Recognizing* that information and communications technology has the potential to provide new solutions to foster economic growth, towards an informed and knowledgeable society,

*Acknowledging* the importance of information and communications technology in enhancing productivity and development, particularly in poverty eradication, improving delivery of public services through e-governance, disaster mitigation and management, and social inclusion, resulting in the increased competitiveness of the region,

*Acknowledging also* the significance of information and communications technology in building and promoting a safe, secure and trusted online environment, encouraging widespread use of information and communications technology and related services,

*Recalling* its resolution 62/5 on building the information society in Asia and the Pacific, in particular the reaffirmation of the regional commitment to strengthening regional cooperation in information and communications technologies for development,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 60/252 on the World Summit on the Information Society, in which the Assembly acknowledged the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries, including least developed

---

<sup>67</sup> See chap. III, paras. 116-132.

<sup>68</sup> See the Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva Phase, Geneva, 10-12 December 2003, para. 1 (A/C.2/59/3, annex).

countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition to benefit fully from the potential of information and communications technologies,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 64/186, in which the Assembly recognized that well-developed information and communications network infrastructures, such as information superhighways, act as one of the main technological enablers of the digital opportunities and encouraged interested Member States to participate in the development of regional connectivity solutions,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 67/194, in which the international community, including Member States, international organizations, the private sector and civil society, was invited to support efforts to improve global telecommunications connectivity, with a focus on countries with inadequate access to the international information and communications technologies backbone, by way of participation in such initiatives as the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway project,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 67/195 in which the Assembly noted the progress that had been made by United Nations entities in cooperation with national Governments, regional commissions and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,<sup>69</sup>

*Reaffirming* the declaration by Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that it is essential to work towards improved access to information and communications technology, especially broadband networks and services, and bridge the digital divide<sup>70</sup> to facilitate the flow of information between Governments and the public,

*Expressing concern* that less than 7 per cent of the region's population from developing countries has access to broadband Internet that is high-speed, reliable and affordable,<sup>71</sup>

*Recognizing* the importance of public-private partnerships in the development, deployment and operation of information and communications technology infrastructure, as well as the associated services and content, for the achievement of reliable, affordable and universal access to and use of information and communications technology,

*Recognizing also* that, given the vast landmass and diversity of the Asian and Pacific region, land-based and sea-based fibre-optic cable networks both play a critical role in developing a seamless regional information space, as various configurations and models of information and communications technology infrastructure deployment are viable,

*Recognizing further* that a higher level of connectivity among Member States due to a well-established infrastructure can be used effectively for environmental protection and disaster risk management and response, thereby protecting precious

---

<sup>69</sup> Ibid., and the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda (see A/60/687).

<sup>70</sup> See General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, para. 44.

<sup>71</sup> International Telecommunication Union, *Measuring the Information Society 2012* (Geneva, International Telecommunication Union, 2012). Available online from [www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/mis2012.aspx](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/mis2012.aspx).

lives and the environment while contributing to the improvement of economic growth and living standards,

*Noting* that current and near-future technological innovations in information and communications technology, including cloud computing, mobile platforms, sensor-based computing and big data, hold immense potential for sustainable development,

*Expressing appreciation* for the human capacity-building programmes of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, particularly its flagship programmes, entitled the “Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders” and “Turning Today’s Youth into Tomorrow’s Leaders”,<sup>72</sup>

*Welcoming* the new partnership between the International Telecommunication Union and the secretariat in developing the first regional map on land-based information and communications technology infrastructure,<sup>73</sup>

*Recognizing* subregional efforts, such as the Mactan Cebu Declaration “Connected ASEAN: Enabling Aspirations”, which was adopted on 16 November 2012 by the Ministers Responsible for Telecommunications and Information Technology of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at their 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, held in Mactan, Cebu, Philippines,<sup>74</sup>

*Expressing appreciation* for the ongoing efforts of Governments to promote information and communications technology as a key enabler of social and economic development in the Asian and Pacific region,

1. *Encourages* all members and associate members:

(a) To continuously promote regional cooperation to address the digital divide, and to formulate and implement coherent information and communications technology policies that promote social and economic development and build knowledge-networked societies throughout the Asian and Pacific region;

(b) To collaborate with international and regional organizations, the private sector and civil society to conduct further in-depth analysis of the challenges and opportunities associated with achieving a seamless regional information and communications space, with particular attention paid to gaps in backbone infrastructure networks;

(c) To further develop a regional connectivity environment by strengthening partnerships with other organizations and policy think tanks at the international, regional and subregional levels;

(d) To support the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, particularly in setting statistical standards for information and communications technology indicators that are timely, relevant and accurate;

(e) To inform the Executive Secretary of the steps taken to implement the present resolution;

---

<sup>72</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/3, paras. 102 and 103.

<sup>73</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/9, para. 4. See also E/ESCAP/69/3, para. 99.

<sup>74</sup> [www.asean.org/news/asean-statement-communicues/item/mactan-cebu-declaration-connected-asean-enabling-aspirations](http://www.asean.org/news/asean-statement-communicues/item/mactan-cebu-declaration-connected-asean-enabling-aspirations).

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To explore ways to strengthen the role and capacity of the secretariat in the area of information and communications technology for development;

(b) To promote, in collaboration with national, regional and international development partners, civil society and the private sector, the exchange of best practices and experiences and knowledge related to the development of information and communications technology infrastructure, including in-depth analysis of the policy and regulatory barriers that may impede efforts to synchronize the deployment of infrastructure across the region in a seamless manner;

(c) To assist member States, through the provision of policy studies and capacity-building activities, in their efforts to integrate information and communications technology into national development processes;

(d) To pursue the facilitation and coordination of the regional review of progress in implementation of the targets set out in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society;<sup>75</sup>

(e) To continue to strengthen the programmes of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development through inclusive and participatory approaches involving strategic collaboration with partners, enhancement of knowledge sharing among member States, and adoption, adaptation and integration of those approaches into national capacity-building frameworks in line with national budgetary requirements;

(f) To work towards a regional framework for action, guided by the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,<sup>76</sup> that strengthens regional policymaking processes related to information and communications technology for inclusive and sustainable development;

(g) To report to the Commission at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

**Resolution 69/11**

**Implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017<sup>77</sup>**

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

*Recognizing* that applications of space technology and geographical information systems have contributed significantly to address issues related to disaster risk reduction and management as well as sustainable development in the region,

*Taking into account* the strong acknowledgement and key commitments contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>78</sup> in relation to information and

---

<sup>75</sup> See the Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva Phase, Geneva, 10-12 December 2003, para. 1 (A/C.2/59/3, annex).

<sup>76</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>77</sup> See chap. III, paras. 117-133.

<sup>78</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

communications technologies, especially in the areas of space and geographic information system applications,

*Recalling* its resolution 68/5 on the Asia-Pacific Years of Action for Applications of Space Technology and the Geographic Information System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017,

*Reiterating* the key elements of resolution 68/5, recognizing the importance of regional cooperation and the significant impact that applications of space technology and geographic information systems can contribute to the areas of disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management, as well as environment and development,

*Expressing appreciation* to the Governments of Japan and Thailand for sponsoring and co-organizing the Intergovernmental Meeting on Asia-Pacific Years of Action for Applications of Space Technology and the Geographic Information System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017, which was held in Bangkok from 18 to 20 December 2012,

*Expressing appreciation also* to the Governments that participated in the Intergovernmental Meeting and committed support and contributions to the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Years of Action,

*Welcoming* the successful outcome of the Intergovernmental Meeting and taking note of the report of the Meeting,<sup>79</sup>

1. *Endorses* the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017, as annexed to the present resolution;
2. *Requests* members and associate members to carry out activities relevant to the Asia-Pacific Years of Action and to provide continued support for activities to implement programmes, projects and capacity-building efforts identified in the Plan of Action;
3. *Encourages* members and associate members to inform the Executive Secretary on the steps taken to implement the Plan of Action;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to accord priority to the implementation of the Plan of Action and to report to the Commission as requested in resolution 68/5.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

**Annex**  
**Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017**

*The Intergovernmental Meeting on the Asia-Pacific Years of Action for Applications of Space Technology and the Geographical Information System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017,*

---

<sup>79</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/25.

*Acknowledging* the endorsement of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>80</sup> by Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, with full participation of civil society, to renew the commitment to sustainable development and to ensure the promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for the planet and for present and future generations,

*Taking into account* the strong acknowledgement and key commitments of that outcome document with regard to information and communications technologies, especially in the areas of space and geographic information system applications, as shown in excerpts from that document below:

(a) Paragraph 65: We recognize the power of communications technologies, including connection technologies and innovative applications, to promote knowledge exchange, technical cooperation and capacity-building for sustainable development...;

(b) Paragraph 187: .... We further recognize the importance of comprehensive hazard and risk assessments, and knowledge- and information-sharing, including reliable geospatial information...;

(c) Paragraph 209: We reiterate the need for cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information and forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to dust and sandstorms, at the global, regional and subregional levels...;

(d) Paragraph 274: We recognize the importance of space-technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations...;

(e) Paragraph 277: We emphasize the need for enhanced capacity-building for sustainable development and, in this regard, we call for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation,

*Recognizing* that the outcome document urges the regional organizations to prioritize sustainable development through, inter alia, development and implementation of regional agreements, as appropriate, more efficient and effective capacity-building, and exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned through regional and cross-regional initiatives for sustainable development. In this regard, the enhancement of the United Nations regional commissions and their subregional offices in their respective capacities to support member States in implementing sustainable development was called for,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,<sup>81</sup> the outcome document calls for disaster risk reduction and building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and, as appropriate, to be integrated into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and considered within relevant future frameworks,

*Recognizing* that ESCAP has an important role in supporting developing countries to achieve the goals of sustainable development, including through, inter alia, “green economy” policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in particular in countries with special needs, and in building the capacity

---

<sup>80</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>81</sup> A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.



of member States for harnessing space and geographic information system applications for sustainable development,

*Reiterating* the key elements of ESCAP resolution 68/5 on Asia-Pacific Years of Action for Applications of Space Technology and the Geographic Information System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017,

*Recalling* the objectives of the Asia-Pacific Years of Action — to enhance efforts at the national and regional levels to broaden and deepen the contribution of space and geographic information systems to addressing issues related to disaster risk reduction and management, as well as environment and development, by increasing relevant activities at the national, subregional and regional levels,

Has formulated the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017, which appears below.

#### **I. Towards disaster risk reduction and management**

1. Space and geographic information system applications can contribute significantly to disaster risk reduction and management by enabling comprehensive hazard and risk assessments, land use planning and disaster impact assessment. These applications are instrumental in establishing effective end-to-end early warning systems as part of effective disaster risk reduction at the regional, subregional and national levels, in order to reduce economic and social damage, including the loss of human life. The Asia-Pacific region is the most disaster-prone area in the world, having incurred more than 80 per cent of the global disaster losses in 2011. It is therefore necessary to promote and strengthen risk assessment and other disaster risk reduction instruments in a timely manner.

2. Space and geographic information system applications can play a crucial role in strengthening much needed cross-sectoral linkages in support of disaster risk reduction, response, recovery and long-term development planning. Geographic information system applications can also facilitate the integration of gender perspectives into the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management.

3. Space and geographic information system applications continue to be underutilized primarily because of the lack of capacity in developing countries in terms of human, scientific, technological, organizational and institutional resources and expertise for operational applications of these technical tools. In this regard, regional and subregional cooperation plays an important role in sharing expertise and promoting space and geographic information system applications for disaster risk reduction and management. Enhanced efforts at the national and regional levels are crucial to broaden and deepen the contribution of space technology and geographic information systems for disaster risk reduction and management.

4. To this end, the actions described below are proposed.

##### **A. At the regional and subregional levels**

5. Regional cooperation should be strengthened by enhancing networking and harmonization among the relevant initiatives and efforts being made, and by enlarging the base of stakeholders around a common theme. There are several initiatives at the international level, namely the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and its Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT), the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, the Global Earth Observation System of Systems under the

Group on Earth Observations and the International Global Monitoring Aerospace System; and at regional and subregional levels, such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, the Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Council, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Applied Geoscience and Technology Division, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). These initiatives provide Earth observation information and satellite communication capabilities to strengthen disaster risk reduction and management efforts in the region.

6. Member States welcome proven initiatives, such as the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, Sentinel Asia, Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum and the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, which may contribute Earth observation products and services, and satellite communications capabilities for disaster response and planning. With a view to enhance disaster management support systems in the region, the ESCAP secretariat should make concerted efforts through the existing Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and other United Nations programmes, such as UNITAR and UNOSAT, to harmonize the various initiatives by widening and deepening cooperation on space and geographic information system applications, particularly at the regional level, in order to foster synergies and reduce duplication. Arrangements should be made for regular sharing of programmes of work, as well as cross-participation, joint delivery of capacity-building and other activities, so that member States can derive effective and timely benefits from these valuable initiatives, including access to Earth observation products and services, and establishment of reliable multi-hazard early warning systems.

7. The rapid advances in cutting edge space technology applications offer immense potential to improve the quality of services in disaster risk reduction and management. In this regard, it is important to promote the use of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), such as the Global Positioning System of the United States of America, the Global Navigation Satellite System of the Russian Federation, the Galileo positioning system of the European Union, the Compass Navigation System of China, the Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System and the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System of Japan. A feasibility study should be conducted through international frameworks, such as Multi-GNSS Asia and the International Committee on GNSS, taking into consideration the diverse context of the region. The ESCAP secretariat should work with space agencies in member States to facilitate this process.

8. Information exchange and the sharing of good practices in space and geographic information system applications for disaster risk reduction and management should be enhanced and facilitated. Regional and subregional information-sharing platforms, such as the Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Management and Development and Sentinel Asia, need to be promoted and made operational. These platforms enable access to and capacity for space-based products and services, such as those for disaster monitoring and management, including hazard zoning and risk assessment, early warning, emergency communications, and impact mapping and damage assessment. Their contributions towards land and ocean observation conducted during the so-called Great East Japan Earthquake and floods in Thailand in 2011 provide remarkable examples. These platforms should also enable sharing of good practices in disaster risk reduction and management by following South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation strategies. The ESCAP secretariat should work closely with member States and other stakeholders to facilitate this process.

9. Capacity-building should be given high priority, especially in the context of high-risk and low-capacity developing countries. While there are initiatives at the regional and subregional levels that promote capacity-building, it is necessary to

address capacity-building needs collaboratively. The ESCAP secretariat should work in close cooperation with various regional initiatives, partners and key stakeholders not only to foster synergy, but also to enhance the effectiveness of these efforts to address capacity gaps, particularly in high-risk and low-capacity developing countries in the region.

10. To this end, expert group meetings should be organized by the ESCAP secretariat, with the outcomes of those meetings implemented through ESCAP intergovernmental mechanisms, such as the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction.

11. Mutual understanding and dialogue should be promoted between disaster management authorities and space agencies in order to integrate space and geographic information system applications more effectively in disaster risk reduction and management. The ESCAP secretariat should encourage the participation of the respective stakeholders in intergovernmental meetings, including the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development.

12. The Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development should continue to enable specialized training and education and the sharing of good practices in applications, operations and policy development, with a special focus on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. The education and training network<sup>82</sup> set up under the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development should also be strengthened and enhanced as a key initiative for regional capacity-building.

13. Capacity-building efforts should bring together relevant United Nations agencies and institutions, subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners that have made significant contributions in this area. They include the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN-SPIDER, UNITAR, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Meteorological Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center, the SAARC Disaster Management Centre, the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific and the Geoinformatics Center of the Asian Institute of Technology.

#### **B. At the national level**

14. It is encouraged that space and geographic information system applications be included in national disaster risk reduction and management policies and regulation and implementation plans, with priority areas identified and established.

15. Mutual understanding and coordination across relevant government agencies needs to be strengthened, and dialogue should be promoted between disaster management authorities and space agencies to reduce information gaps, system incompatibilities and duplication. Institutional infrastructure and networking among relevant agencies should be strengthened.

---

<sup>82</sup> Consisting of the National Remote Sensing Center of China, the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific in India and the National Coordinating Agency for Surveys and Mapping in Indonesia.

16. National spatial data infrastructure, data policies and data-sharing arrangements that would improve and ensure wider access to space-based data and products in a timely and affordable manner for disaster management planning and response, among other things, should be systematized and promoted.

17. National Governments should prioritize and support capacity-building and the creation of a critical mass of professionals in the applications of space and geographic information systems for disaster risk reduction and management, including through active participation in the capacity-building efforts of regional initiatives.

18. Experiences and good practices gained at the national level should be shared across the region, through regional cooperation initiatives, communities of practices, other innovative approaches and networks.

19. Space agencies, research organizations, non-governmental organizations as well as the private sector, including communication service providers and the geographic information system industry, should commit to provide services and products in support of disaster management, including rapid response.

## **II. Towards sustainable development**

20. The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development emphasizes the importance of enhancing the capacity of Member States to manage natural resources sustainably and with lower negative environmental impacts in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. There are many areas where space and geographic information system applications can be put to effective use for natural resources management, food security and poverty eradication.

21. Space and geographic information system applications have demonstrated effective support for natural resources management and urban planning, and provide inputs for breaking the nexus between poverty and environmental degradation.

22. In particular, space and geographic information system applications can assist in the monitoring of vast areas of the Earth's land surface to identify high-risk drought-prone areas and feed into effective monitoring and early warning for drought. Such uses have pertinent impacts on food security and poverty, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, as many countries and economies are agrarian based and drought prone.

23. Furthermore, satellite communications can, in a cost-effective manner, connect distant locations, including the most inaccessible mountainous areas, and the most isolated small island developing States, thus improving their connectivity.

24. Last but not least, the continued expansion and market penetration of global navigation satellite system applications for positioning, navigation and timing products and services, such as automated agriculture, efficient transportation, position-specific information service and urban management using mapping, show the pertinence of space applications for sustainable social and economic development.

25. Currently, while most countries in the region are aware of the importance and effectiveness of using space and geographic information system applications for supporting sustainable development, as in the case of disaster risk reduction and management, space and geographic information system applications continue to be underutilized primarily because of lack of capacity. Compounding the effects of such a gap are the limited number of initiatives and in situ observation networks and their insufficient resource base for providing free or low-cost space-based data, products and services to achieve sustainable development goals.

26. To this end, the actions described below are proposed.

**A. At the regional and subregional levels**

27. There are multitiered cooperation initiatives at international and regional levels, including the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum and its initiatives, such as Space Applications for Environment and the Regional Readiness Review for Key Climate Missions. Those initiatives should be promoted and harmonized, and their links with other initiatives strengthened, such as the Global Forest Observation Initiative and the Global Agricultural Monitoring Initiative of the Group on Earth Observations, as well as with the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific. The ESCAP secretariat should play an important role in harmonizing the regional initiatives and building partnerships with key initiatives at the global, regional and subregional levels.

28. A thematic working group should be established under the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, which might capitalize on the Regional Cooperative Mechanism on Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning, Particularly Drought in order to enhance its work. The Mechanism should reach out to multilateral partners, such as UNITAR, the FAO-Global Information and Early Warning System, the World Food Programme, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research networks and UN-SPIDER, which are making effective contributions to drought-related early warning worldwide.

29. As with the efforts that have been made for improving drought monitoring and early warning and food security, regional cooperation initiatives should be similarly enhanced to make practical and operational use of space and geographic information system applications to support climate change adaptation and to address issues related to environment and development in areas beneficial to society, such as water resource management, food security, public health, forest monitoring and biodiversity.

30. Regional cooperation should enable access to the latest Earth observation products and services at low or no cost for use in sustainable development and related planning work, in accordance with the data-sharing principles agreed by all members of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). Capacity-building initiatives on the use and analysis of Earth observation products should be continued through established international training and education networks. To align capacity-building efforts closely with needs and gaps on the ground, the ESCAP secretariat, in partnership with regional initiatives, should undertake needs assessments, especially for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

31. Given the technological prowess of the private sector and the policy objectives of the public sector, public-private partnerships should be supported as a key mechanism for enhancing the development of, and access to, information and communications technology, and space and geographic information system applications. The ESCAP secretariat may serve as the regional platform for pooling expertise and exchange good practices on information and communications technologies, and space and geographic information system applications in order to accelerate progress towards achieving a sustainable future.

**B. At the national level**

32. National Governments should incorporate space and geographic information system applications for supporting sustainable development into their policies, regulations, and midterm and long-term implementation plans.

33. National Governments are encouraged to allocate sufficient financial and human resources within their means to enable the use of space and geographic

information system applications towards the planning and implementation of national initiatives.

34. Spatial and geographic information system products and services should be shared and made available at the national level through the establishment of national spatial data infrastructure, including data policy and arrangement, in order to ensure that all relevant applications for sustainable development are promoted.

35. National Governments are encouraged to utilize all relevant regional cooperation mechanisms to obtain, at little or no cost, the latest technologies, techniques and space-based information products and services towards sustainable development.

36. National Governments are encouraged to share their experiences and good practices across the region, through regional and subregional cooperation initiatives, communities of practices, other innovative approaches and networks.

37. Institutional infrastructure and networking among relevant institutions, such as community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, should be strengthened for the benefit of users.

38. National Governments should consider supporting capacity-building activities and the creation of a cadre of professionals in the domain of space and geographic information system applications for sustainable development.

39. National Governments should consider policies that encourage private sector participation, particularly to provide public services by using space and geographic information system solutions, to cover remote, underserved and mountainous or island areas. The private sector and academia should be involved in capacity-building initiatives.

### **III. Finance and resources**

40. Commitment of resources, including financial, human and space-based products and services, software licences and customization of free and open-source software, and adoption of open standards by all stakeholders should be encouraged for the successful implementation of the Plan of Action.

41. Member States are strongly encouraged to prioritize inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in the allocation of resources in accordance with national priorities and needs while recognizing the crucial importance of enhancing financial support from all sources, including public-private partnership arrangements in the areas of space and geographic information system applications.

42. Member States and other stakeholders are encouraged to provide resources to implement programmes, projects and capacity-building efforts identified under the Plan of Action.

### **IV. The way forward**

43. Representatives of members and associate members of ESCAP, together with relevant United Nations agencies and intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, convened in an intergovernmental meeting jointly organized by ESCAP and the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency of Thailand, held in Bangkok from 18 to 20 December 2012, and formulated the present Plan of Action to express their common resolve to enhance regional cooperation regarding space and geographic information system applications for improving disaster risk reduction and management, as well as sustainable development in the region.

44. The Plan of Action should be submitted to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for endorsement at its sixty-ninth session, in 2013. The ESCAP secretariat, in collaboration with all partners and stakeholders, should take the lead in implementing the Plan of Action at the regional level and facilitating its implementation at the national level. A midterm review of progress in implementing the Plan of Action should be undertaken in due course for submission to the Commission at its seventy-second session, in 2016.

45. A ministerial conference on space applications for disaster risk reduction and management and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific should be organized in 2015 to evaluate the progress made in implementing the Plan of Action, provide further guidance for its successful implementation and build stronger political support and ownership among all stakeholders.

**Resolution 69/12**  
**Enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific**<sup>83</sup>

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 60/195 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in which the Assembly endorsed the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,<sup>84</sup> 63/217 on natural disasters and vulnerability, 65/157 and 67/209 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and 65/264 on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, 66/290 on follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and Commission on the Status of Women resolution 56/2 on gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters,<sup>85</sup>

*Recalling* the results of the midterm review of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,<sup>86</sup>

*Also recalling* its resolutions 62/7 on strengthening regional cooperation and coordination of early warning system arrangements for tsunamis through the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, 64/2 on regional cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific, and 68/5 on the Asia-Pacific Years of Action for Applications of Space Technology and the Geographic Information System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017,

*Reaffirming* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, in particular the sections related to disaster risk reduction,<sup>87</sup>

*Recalling* the Yogyakarta Declaration adopted on 25 October 2012 at the fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,

---

<sup>83</sup> See chap. III, paras. 133-148.

<sup>84</sup> A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolutions 1 and 2.

<sup>85</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 7 (E/2012/27-E/CN.6/2012/16)*, chap. I, sect. D.

<sup>86</sup> See A/66/301. See also General Assembly resolution 66/199.

<sup>87</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, paras. 186-189.

*Welcoming* global dialogue processes on disaster risk reduction, such as the United Nations Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters as well as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction,

*Recalling* that, at its sixty-eighth session, it endorsed “opportunities to build resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises” as the theme topic for its sixty-ninth session,<sup>88</sup>

*Noting* that the theme study for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission,<sup>89</sup> through its analysis, offers a valuable contribution to the policy debate on one of the most pressing contemporary development challenges that the region faces and provides useful recommendations on building resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises in Asia and the Pacific,

*Expressing deep concern* at the challenges to member States in addressing the negative impacts of multiple shocks, in particular disasters and environmental hazards, including climate-related risks, on the achievement of sustainable development,

*Underlining* the important role of traditional and community-based disaster risk management, as well as encouraging governments at all levels to incorporate successful traditional and community-based disaster risk management into their policies,

*Acknowledging* the importance of building resilience and improving adaptive capacities to cope with hazards and multiple shocks to protect development gains made by member States, including progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and addressing the underlying risk factors identified in the Hyogo Framework for Action,

*Emphasizing* the added value of governments at all levels, as well as relevant subregional, regional and international organizations in committing adequate, timely and predictable resources for disaster risk reduction in order to enhance the resilience of cities and communities to disasters, according to their own circumstances and capacities,

*Recognizing* that Asia and the Pacific is highly vulnerable to disasters and that climate change may aggravate the intensity and frequency of extreme events, and therefore acknowledging that disaster risk reduction strategies and related climate adaptation measures need to be developed in a coordinated and holistic manner,

*Also recognizing* the need to further strengthen existing regional initiatives and mechanisms for building the capacity for disaster risk reduction, and the role of the regional commissions in supporting the efforts of member States in this regard, in coordination with agencies of the United Nations system and other partners,

*Acknowledging* the contributions by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and other regional organizations, and recognizing the value of partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations in fostering cooperation for effectively addressing disaster risk reduction at the subregional level,

---

<sup>88</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No.19* (E/2012/39-E/ESCAP/68/24), para. 291.

<sup>89</sup> ST/ESCAP/2655. See also E/ESCAP/69/23.



*Emphasizing* the importance of local participation and partnership in disaster risk management to enhance the adaptive capacity of communities and local institutions in the event of disasters,

*Recognizing* the contributions made by the Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction to building awareness and sharing experiences on disaster risk reduction at the regional, national and local levels, and welcoming the next Ministerial Conference, which is to be held in Thailand in 2014,

*Expressing appreciation* to the Government of Thailand, the Government of Sweden and the Governments of other States members of the Commission for their contribution to the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries,

*Acknowledging* that the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries has strengthened regional capacity, promoted South-South and triangular cooperation for multi-hazard risk reduction and related climate change adaptation measures, and enhanced the tsunami early warning capacity of member States,

*Recognizing* the importance of integrating gender perspectives as well as empowering and actively engaging women and other vulnerable groups in decision-making on disaster risk reduction at all levels,

*Also recognizing* the importance of a disaster risk management integration approach with special emphasis on sustainable development and poverty reduction at all levels of government,

*Welcoming* the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>90</sup> which contains a specific goal, as well as related targets and indicators, to promote disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management,

*Also welcoming* the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017,<sup>91</sup> and recognizing that information and communications technology can play an important role in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Thailand in 2014 and the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in early 2015, the latter to review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action<sup>92</sup> and to adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

2. *Invites* members and associate members, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, the private sector and civil society, as appropriate:

(a) To work towards implementing the key policy recommendations on building resilience to natural hazards and disasters provided by the theme study, as appropriate;

---

<sup>90</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/12, chap. I, sect. A, annex I.

<sup>91</sup> E/ESCAP/69/25, annex II.

<sup>92</sup> A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

(b) To address building resilience to natural hazards and disasters with a renewed sense of urgency by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction considerations and climate change adaptation into long-term development strategies, as appropriate, through policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels of government, and across all relevant ministries, including those responsible for planning and for finance;

(c) To ensure that disaster risk reduction strategies and related climate change adaptation measures are developed in a coordinated manner;

(d) To improve the quality and availability of disaggregated data related to disasters, to enable a more comprehensive assessment of the socioeconomic effects of disasters and to strengthen evidence-based policymaking for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation;

(e) To strengthen capacities in disaster risk reduction, including those related to climate change adaptation, and share capacity-building and training resources and experiences with all developing countries in Asia and the Pacific;

(f) To make effective use of information and communications technology for disaster risk reduction and relief systems, including for climate monitoring and early warning, and, in the event of major disasters, ensure network resilience and recovery and share products and services associated with space-based and geographic information systems;

(g) To consider contributing to the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries through financial contributions and technical cooperation;

(h) To encourage public-private partnerships, strengthen collaborative efforts and share experience in the region in engaging the private sector more effectively in disaster risk reduction;

(i) To work to ensure that disaster risk reduction is given due consideration in the post-2015 development agenda;

(j) To consider continuing the dialogue on water and disasters in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in continuation of the discussion at the United Nations Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters;

(k) To respect local cultures and practices in disaster risk management;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further strengthen the capacity of the secretariat in building resilience to disasters in the region in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Development Programme as well as other relevant United Nations agencies;

4. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, and call upon States, the United Nations system, international financial institutions, subregional, regional and international organizations and civil society to accelerate implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the achievement of its goals;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international financial institutions, and donor organizations, as appropriate:

(a) To facilitate the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as they pertain to disaster risk reduction in the region, and to work with relevant United Nations entities to encourage appropriate consideration of disaster risk reduction and, including as related to climate change adaptation, in discussions of the post-2015 agenda as it may pertain to disaster risk reduction;

(b) To provide a platform for the members and associate members of the Commission to articulate a strong regional voice in favour of giving due consideration to disaster risk reduction in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, emphasizing the view that sustainable development cannot be achieved without disaster risk reduction considerations and measures, based on the experience of the region;

(c) To enhance regional knowledge-sharing and, in particular, strengthen the capacity of member States, especially the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to design and implement strategies and policies that mainstream disaster risk reduction into all sectors and levels of government;

(d) To provide substantive support, in cooperation with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, to the organization of the sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which will be hosted by Thailand in 2014, and subsequent biennial Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and facilitate the implementation of the outcomes of the ministerial conferences within the framework of the mandate and programme of work of the Commission;

(e) To continue to ensure that the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries contributes effectively to the Commission's goal of achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific;

(f) To support the implementation at the regional level of the World Meteorological Organization Global Framework for Climate Services<sup>93</sup> by, inter alia, providing assistance to member States in developing national capacities in the fields of meteorology and hydrology;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

**Resolution 69/13  
Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific<sup>94</sup>**

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

*Recalling* its resolution 68/7 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022,

*Also recalling* the United Nations Decade of Persons with Disabilities, the First and the Second Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons,<sup>95</sup> the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,<sup>96</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>97</sup>

---

<sup>93</sup> [www.wmo.int/pages/gfcs/index\\_en.php](http://www.wmo.int/pages/gfcs/index_en.php).

<sup>94</sup> See chap. III, paras. 133-148.

<sup>95</sup> A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

<sup>96</sup> General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

<sup>97</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

*Welcoming* the successful outcome of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, which was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea in Incheon from 29 October to 2 November 2012,<sup>98</sup>

*Noting with satisfaction* the high-level participation of members and associate members and the contribution of key stakeholders, including organizations of and for persons with disabilities, to the above-mentioned High-level Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. *Endorses* the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Decides* to convene a high-level intergovernmental meeting to review the progress made during the Decade at the midpoint of the Decade, in 2017, and another high-level intergovernmental meeting to mark the conclusion of the Decade in 2022;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy;

(b) To submit a road map for the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to the Commission at its seventieth session for endorsement;

(c) To submit the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, to the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, to be convened by the General Assembly on 23 September 2013,<sup>99</sup> through the President of the General Assembly;

(d) To report to the Commission triennially thereafter until the end of the Decade on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

**Annex**  
**Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022**

*We, the ministers and representatives of members and associate members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) assembled at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, held at Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 29 October to 2 November 2012,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, in which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled

---

<sup>98</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/12.

<sup>99</sup> See General Assembly resolution 66/124.

Persons,<sup>100</sup> and resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993, in which the Assembly adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

*Also recalling* General Assembly resolution 61/106 of 13 December 2006, in which the Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, which entered into force on 3 May 2008,

*Further recalling* General Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”, in which the Assembly, inter alia, recognized that policies and actions must focus on the poor and those living in the most vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities, so that they benefit from progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

*Welcoming* the decision of the General Assembly to hold the High-level Meeting on the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities, at the level of heads of State and Government, on 23 September 2013, with the overarching theme “The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond”,<sup>101</sup>

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 66/290 of 10 September 2012, which stipulates an agreed common understanding on human security, which, inter alia, states that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential,

*Also recalling* Commission resolution 48/3 of 23 April 1992 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, in which the Commission proclaimed the first such regional decade in the world,

*Further recalling* Commission resolution 58/4 of 22 May 2002 on promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty-first century, in which the Commission proclaimed the extension of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons for another decade, from 2003 to 2012,

*Recalling* Commission resolution 59/3 of 4 September 2003 on the regional implementation 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 during the Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, in which the Commission, inter alia, requested members and associate members to support the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action,

*Also recalling* Commission resolution 64/8 of 30 April 2008 on regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, in which the Commission mandated the convening of a high-level intergovernmental meeting to review the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five in 2012, the concluding year of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012,

---

<sup>100</sup> A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

<sup>101</sup> See General Assembly resolution 66/124.

*Further recalling* Commission resolution 66/11 of 19 May 2010 on regional preparations for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, in which the Commission encouraged the participation of all key stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities from Asia and the Pacific, in the preparatory process leading up to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting,

*Recalling* Commission resolution 68/7 of 23 May 2012, in which the Commission proclaimed the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and urged all members and associate members to participate actively in the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting and to consider and adopt a strategic framework to guide the implementation of the Decade that is based on the general principles and obligations stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

*Noting* that the *World Report on Disability* estimates that 15 per cent of the population experience some form of disability, which in the Asian and Pacific region equates to 650 million persons with disabilities, with 80 per cent living in developing countries,<sup>102</sup>

*Welcoming* the progress that has been achieved over the course of two Asian and Pacific Decades, spanning the period 1993 to 2012, by ESCAP members and associate members in establishing the foundation for a rights-based approach, with a focus on the dignity of persons with disabilities, to inclusive development, particularly through policy and institutional commitments, as well as new strides in legislation and empowerment,

*Noting with appreciation* the contributions of civil society, particularly organizations of and for persons with disabilities, to the progress achieved, including through continuous awareness-raising of the rights of persons with diverse disabilities, innovation of good practices, and engagement in policy dialogue,

*Bearing in mind* that Pacific Leaders at the Forty-first Pacific Islands Forum, held in Port Vila, reaffirmed, through their Communiqué of 5 August 2010,<sup>103</sup> their strong support for the Pacific Regional Strategy on Disability 2010-2015<sup>104</sup> to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, to provide a framework for coordination in building a disability-inclusive Pacific, and to strengthen stakeholder commitment towards the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other disability-related human rights instruments,

*Noting with appreciation* the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community,<sup>105</sup> adopted on 17 November 2011 by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at its nineteenth summit, held in Bali, Indonesia, in which ASEAN, inter alia, proclaimed the period 2011 to 2020 as the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities, towards ensuring the effective participation of persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability perspectives in ASEAN policies and programmes across the economic, political security and sociocultural pillars of the ASEAN Community,

---

<sup>102</sup> World Health Organization/World Bank, *World Report on Disability* (Geneva: World Health Organization, 2011), p. 29.

<sup>103</sup> See [www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2010\\_Forum\\_Communique.pdf](http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2010_Forum_Communique.pdf).

<sup>104</sup> Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, document PIFS(09)FDMM.07 (available from [www.forumsec.org.fj](http://www.forumsec.org.fj)).

<sup>105</sup> See [www.aseansec.org/documents/19th%20summit/Bali\\_Declaration\\_on\\_Disabled\\_Person.pdf](http://www.aseansec.org/documents/19th%20summit/Bali_Declaration_on_Disabled_Person.pdf).

*Welcoming* the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation,<sup>106</sup> adopted on 1 December 2011 by the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Busan, Republic of Korea, which, inter alia, recognized the importance of international commitments on disability for forming the foundation of cooperation for effective development,

*Also welcoming* the Beijing Declaration on Disability-Inclusive Development,<sup>107</sup> adopted on 8 June 2012 by the Beijing Forum with the theme “removing barriers, promoting integration”, which, inter alia, recognized the significance of accelerating the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and incorporating the disability dimension in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 in diverse sectors,

*Noting* the Community-based Rehabilitation Guidelines,<sup>108</sup> a joint document of the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Disability and Development Consortium, which provides a comprehensive, multisectoral poverty reduction strategy for implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>109</sup> which was adopted by the Conference on 22 June 2012, and which, inter alia, identified persons with disabilities and recognized their right to inclusion in measures that accelerate the implementation of sustainable development commitments,

*Noting with concern* that there are still many challenges to be addressed to ensure that persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific have the right to equitable access to economic and social opportunities and political participation and all other aspects of life,

*Underscoring* the need to address the disability dimensions of the long-term consequences of the rapid population ageing that is under way in Asia and the Pacific,

*Noting with serious concern* the disproportionate impact of disasters on persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, which in the past three decades has been the region that has suffered the largest number of disasters,

*Also noting with serious concern* that negative stereotyping and discriminatory behaviour towards persons with disabilities still prevail,

*Mindful* that there are increasing opportunities for promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, including through the use of new technologies for enhancing the accessibility of the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication,

1. *Adopt* the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, as attached, to catalyse action that shall accelerate, during the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, the

---

<sup>106</sup> See [www.aideffectiveness.org/busanhlf4/images/stories/hlf4/OUTCOME\\_DOCUMENT\\_-\\_FINAL\\_EN.pdf](http://www.aideffectiveness.org/busanhlf4/images/stories/hlf4/OUTCOME_DOCUMENT_-_FINAL_EN.pdf).

<sup>107</sup> See E/ESCAP/APDDP(3)/INF/5.

<sup>108</sup> See [www.who.int/disabilities/cbr/guidelines/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/disabilities/cbr/guidelines/en/index.html).

<sup>109</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

achievement of the regional vision of an inclusive society that ensures, promotes and upholds the rights of all persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific;

2. *Recognize* the central role of government in ensuring, promoting and upholding the rights of persons with disabilities and in promoting the inclusion of disability dimensions in the development agenda beyond 2015 in diverse sectors;

3. *Commit* to implement the present Declaration and the Incheon Strategy by promoting action to reach the Incheon goals and targets by 2022;

4. *Invite* all concerned stakeholders, including the following, to join in a region-wide partnership to contribute to the implementation of the present Declaration and the Incheon Strategy:

(a) Subregional intergovernmental entities, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Pacific Islands Forum and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, to promote and strengthen subregional cooperation for disability-inclusive development, in coordination with ESCAP;

(b) Development cooperation agencies, to strengthen the disability-inclusiveness of their policies, plans and programmes;

(c) The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, to harness their technical and financial resources for promoting disability-inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) The United Nations system, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and ESCAP, to jointly deliver disability-inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific, including through effective use of existing mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels, such as the United Nations Development Group and United Nations country teams;

(e) Civil society organizations, particularly organizations of and for persons with disabilities, to participate effectively in the monitoring and evaluation of the Decade to foster continuous responsiveness on the aspirations and needs of persons with disabilities, including through outreach to diverse disability groups, and contributing to policy and programme development and implementation;

(f) Organizations of and for persons with disabilities, to participate actively in decision-making processes concerning the Incheon Strategy;

(g) The private sector, to promote disability-inclusive business practices;

5. *Request* the Executive Secretary of ESCAP:

(a) To accord priority to supporting members and associate members in the full and effective implementation of the present Declaration and the Incheon Strategy, in cooperation with other concerned entities;

(b) To engage with stakeholders and encourage their participation in the implementation of the present Declaration and the Incheon Strategy;

(c) To submit the outcome of this High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session for endorsement;

(d) To submit the outcome of this High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to the High-level Meeting on the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities, to be convened on 23 September 2013, through the President of the General Assembly;



(e) To report to the Commission triennially thereafter until the end of the Decade on the progress in the implementation of the present Declaration and the Incheon Strategy;

(f) To develop a road map for the implementation of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities, including reporting requirements, for submission to the Commission at its seventieth session;

6. *Recommend* that the Commission at its sixty-ninth session decide to convene a high-level intergovernmental meeting to review the progress of the Decade at the midpoint of the Decade (2017), and to mark the conclusion of the Decade (2022).

## **Appendix I**

### **Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific**

#### **A. Background**

1. The development of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific was derived from the experiences in the implementation of two consecutive Asian and Pacific Decades of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 and 2003-2012, as well as the historic adoption by the General Assembly, in 2006, of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.<sup>110</sup>

2. The development of the Incheon Strategy benefited from the contributions of Governments, organizations of and for persons with disabilities, and other key stakeholders. It drew from the observations, feedback and insights obtained through the following regional consultations: the Expert Group Meeting-cum-Stakeholder Consultation to Review the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012: The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action (Bangkok, 23-25 June 2010); the Committee on Social Development, second session (Bangkok, 19-21 October 2010); the Regional Stakeholder Consultation for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012 (Bangkok, 14-16 December 2011); and the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012 (Bangkok, 14-16 March 2012).

3. The responses of Governments and organizations of and for persons with disabilities to the ESCAP Disability Survey 2011-2012 on the final review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012 provided a rich evidence base for developing the Incheon Strategy.

4. The Incheon Strategy is not intended to replicate the comprehensive coverage 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, the Biwako Plus Five and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which will all continue to serve as overarching policy frameworks for regional work in the field of disability.

5. Similar to the Millennium Development Goals,<sup>111</sup> the Incheon goals and targets are time-bound for accelerating implementation by focusing particular attention on the achievement of a set of priority goals and targets during the course of the new

---

<sup>110</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>111</sup> The Millennium Development Goals comprise 8 goals, 21 targets and 60 indicators.

Decade, 2013-2022, as well as facilitating the measurement of progress to be attained by countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region.

**B. Key principles and policy direction**

6. The Incheon Strategy is based on the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:

- (a) Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy, including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
- (b) Non-discrimination;
- (c) Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- (d) Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- (e) Equality of opportunity;
- (f) Accessibility;
- (g) Equality between men and women;
- (h) Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

7. In order to realize and protect the rights of persons with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region, the Incheon Strategy underscores the following policy direction:

- (a) Legislative, administrative and other measures supportive of rights fulfilment are adopted, implemented, reviewed and strengthened so that disability-based discrimination is eliminated;
- (b) Development policies and programmes are disability-inclusive and gender-sensitive and harness the potential of combining universal design with technological advancements for enabling persons with disabilities to fulfil their rights;
- (c) Development policies and programmes address the basic needs of persons with disabilities and their families who live in poverty;
- (d) Effective and timely collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated disability data are pursued for evidence-based policymaking;
- (e) National, subnational and local policies and programmes are based on plans that are explicitly inclusive of persons with disabilities and that also prioritize the active participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in relevant decision-making processes;
- (f) The necessary budgetary support is provided at all levels for disability-inclusive development and tax policies facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities;
- (g) All national, subregional, regional and international entities concerned with development include disability dimensions in their policies and programmes;
- (h) National, subnational and local coordination, with subregional and regional linkages, ensure that disability inclusion in development policies and programmes is strengthened through intensification of multisectoral consultation and collaboration, to expedite and review Decade implementation and share related good practices;
- (i) Community- and family-based inclusive development is promoted in order to ensure that all persons with disabilities, irrespective of socioeconomic status, religious affiliation, ethnicity and location, are able, on an equal basis with others, to

contribute to and benefit from development initiatives, particularly poverty reduction programmes;

(j) Persons with disabilities are included in mainstream community life and are supported with life choices equal to those of others, including the option to live independently;

(k) Persons with disabilities have access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication, in a usable manner, through universal design and assistive technologies with reasonable accommodation provided, and taking into consideration the need to accommodate economic, geographic, linguistic and other aspects of cultural diversity, which altogether constitute a critical bridge to fulfilling their rights;

(l) Diverse disability groups are empowered that include but are not limited to the following underrepresented groups: girls and boys with disabilities, young persons with disabilities, women with disabilities, persons with intellectual, learning and developmental disabilities, persons with autism, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons who are deaf, hard of hearing and deafened, persons who are deaf-blind, persons with multiple disabilities, persons with extensive disabilities, older persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities living with HIV, persons with disabilities arising from non-communicable diseases, persons with disabilities affected by leprosy, persons with disabilities caused by medical conditions and intractable epilepsy, persons with disabilities affected by road crashes, indigenous and ethnic minority persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities who are homeless and inadequately housed, persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, and the occurrence of natural and human-made disasters, persons with disabilities who are victims of landmines, persons with disabilities who do not have legal status, persons with disabilities who are victims of domestic violence, particularly women and children, and family advocacy groups, as well as particularly marginalized persons with disabilities living in slums, rural and remote areas and atolls;

(m) Organizations of and for persons with disabilities, self-help groups and self-advocacy groups, with support, as required by families and caregivers, participate in decision-making, as appropriate, to ensure that the interests of marginalized groups are adequately addressed;

(n) Action on awareness-raising is strengthened and continued, including through the provision of adequate budgetary support, in the Asian and Pacific region during the Decade to improve attitudes and behaviour and mobilize effective multisectoral engagement in implementation modalities.

### **C. Incheon goals and targets**

8. The Incheon Strategy is composed of 10 interrelated goals, 27 targets and 62 indicators.

9. The time frame for achieving the goals and targets is the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013 to 2022.

10. Goals describe the desired end results. Targets are aimed to be achieved within a given time frame. Indicators measure progress towards the targets and verify that the targets have been achieved. There are two types of indicators: core indicators and

supplementary indicators.<sup>112</sup> All indicators should be disaggregated by sex wherever possible.

## **Goal 1**

### **Reduce poverty and enhance work and employment prospects**

11. The Decade must see greater progress in reducing poverty among persons with disabilities and their families. Persons with disabilities experience significant labour market disadvantages, have less economic participation and hence are disproportionately poorer than persons without disabilities. Having a decent job and the necessary education, training and support to keep that job is one of the best means of overcoming poverty. Those who can and want to work must therefore be better supported, protected and equipped to do so. This requires more accommodating labour markets. Lifting persons with disabilities and their families out of poverty would contribute to the achievement of inclusive growth and sustainable development.

#### **Target 1.A**

##### **Eliminate extreme poverty among persons with disabilities**

#### **Target 1.B**

##### **Increase work and employment for persons of working age with disabilities who can and want to work**

#### **Target 1.C**

##### **Increase the participation of persons with disabilities in vocational training and other employment-support programmes funded by Governments**

---

#### **Indicators for tracking progress**

---

##### **Core indicators**

- 1.1 Proportion of persons with disabilities living below the US\$ 1.25 (PPP) per day international poverty line, as updated by the World Bank and compared to the overall population
- 1.2 Ratio of persons with disabilities in employment to the general population in employment
- 1.3 Proportion of persons with disabilities who participate in government-funded vocational training and other employment-support programmes as a proportion of all people trained

##### **Supplementary indicator**

- 1.4 Proportion of persons with disabilities living below the national poverty line
- 

## **Goal 2**

### **Promote participation in political processes and in decision-making**

12. The participation of persons with disabilities in the political process and in decision-making is the cornerstone for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. Being able to exercise the right to vote and the right to be elected is intrinsic to this goal. The Decade must witness greater and more widespread progress in the participation of diverse groups of persons with disabilities, including women and youth with disabilities, in political processes and in decision-making at all levels.

---

<sup>112</sup> Core indicators facilitate intercountry sharing of progress in the course of the new Decade; these are indicators for which data can be generated with some effort. Supplementary indicators may facilitate progress tracking among countries with similar social and economic development conditions and for which data may be less easy to collect.

Moreover, technological improvements should be harnessed to enable persons with disabilities to participate in public decision-making processes and to exercise their rights and fulfil their responsibilities as full members of society. The improvements include the provision of an enabling environment for persons with disabilities to have equitable access to appointments in the judicial, executive and legislative branches of government, including those of the supreme court, ministries and national legislative body.

**Target 2.A**

**Ensure that persons with disabilities are represented in government decision-making bodies**

**Target 2.B**

**Provide reasonable accommodation to enhance the participation of persons with disabilities in the political process**

---

**Indicators for tracking progress**

---

**Core indicators**

- 2.1 Proportion of seats held by persons with disabilities in the parliament or equivalent national legislative body
- 2.2 Proportion of members of the national coordination mechanism on disability who represent diverse disability groups
- 2.3 Proportion of those represented in the national machinery for gender equality and women's empowerment who are persons with disabilities
- 2.4 Proportion of polling stations in the national capital that are accessible with processes in place that ensure confidentiality of voters with disabilities

**Supplementary indicators**

- 2.5 Proportion of cabinet positions held by persons with disabilities at the national level
  - 2.6 Proportion of supreme court judges who are persons with disabilities
  - 2.7 Availability of legislation that requires the national election authority to conduct the election process in a manner that makes it accessible for persons with diverse disabilities
- 

**Goal 3**

**Enhance access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication**

13. Access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication is a precondition for persons with disabilities to fulfil their rights in an inclusive society. The accessibility of urban, rural and remote areas based on universal design increases safety and ease of use not only for persons with disabilities, but also for all other members of society. Access audits are an important means of ensuring accessibility and must cover all stages of the process of planning, design, construction, maintenance and monitoring and evaluation. Access to assistive devices and related support services is also a precondition for persons with disabilities to optimize their level of independence in daily life and live in dignity. Ensuring the availability of assistive devices for those living in low-resource settings involves encouraging research, development, production, distribution and maintenance.

**Target 3.A**

**Increase the accessibility of the physical environment in the national capital that is open to the public**

**Target 3.B**  
**Enhance the accessibility and usability of public transportation**

**Target 3.C**  
**Enhance the accessibility and usability of information and communications services**

**Target 3.D**  
**Halve the proportion of persons with disabilities who need but do not have appropriate assistive devices or products**

---

**Indicators for tracking progress**

---

**Core indicators**

- 3.1 Proportion of accessible government buildings in the national capital
- 3.2 Proportion of accessible international airports
- 3.3 Proportion of daily captioning and sign-language interpretation of public television news programmes
- 3.4 Proportion of accessible and usable public documents and websites that meet internationally recognized accessibility standards
- 3.5 Proportion of persons with disabilities who need assistive devices or products and have them

**Supplementary indicators**

- 3.6 Availability of government access audit programmes that require the participation of experts with disabilities
  - 3.7 Availability of mandatory technical standards for barrier-free access that govern the approval of all designs for buildings that could be used by members of the public, taking into consideration internationally recognized standards, such as those of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
  - 3.8 Number of sign language interpreters
  - 3.9 Availability of mandatory technical standards for barrier-free access that govern the approval of all ICT-related services, such as websites for the public, taking into consideration internationally recognized standards, such as those of ISO
- 

**Goal 4**  
**Strengthen social protection**

14. Social protection coverage in developing countries of Asia and the Pacific is often limited to social insurance programmes and available only to those with regular employment contracts in the formal sector, leaving the vast majority of the population, especially persons with disabilities, without sufficient coverage. It is therefore crucial to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to social protection on an equal basis with others, and to promote further the social protection floor with a focus on health care and basic income protection for all. Furthermore, there is a lack of affordable services, including personal assistance and peer counselling services, which enable persons with disabilities to live independently in the community. For many persons with disabilities, these services are prerequisites for their participation in society.

**Target 4.A**

**Increase access to all health services, including rehabilitation, for all persons with disabilities**

**Target 4.B**

**Increase coverage of persons with disabilities within social protection programmes**

**Target 4.C**

**Enhance services and programmes, including for personal assistance and peer counselling, that support persons with disabilities, especially those with multiple, extensive and diverse disabilities, in living independently in the community**

---

**Indicators for tracking progress**

---

**Core indicators**

- 4.1 Proportion of persons with disabilities who use government-supported health-care programmes, as compared to the general population
- 4.2 Coverage of persons with disabilities within social protection programmes, including social insurance and social assistance programmes
- 4.3 Availability of government-funded services and programmes, including for personal assistance and peer counselling, that enable persons with disabilities to live independently in the community

**Supplementary indicators**

- 4.4 Number of government-supported programmes for care services, including for respite care
  - 4.5 Availability of national community-based rehabilitation programmes
  - 4.6 Availability of health insurance for persons with disabilities
  - 4.7 A decrease in the unmet need for assistance and support services
- 

**Goal 5**

**Expand early intervention and education of children with disabilities**

15. There has been relative neglect of the issue of developmental delays and disabilities among children, many of whom are the children of families living in poverty. In much of the Asia-Pacific region, a disproportionate number of children with disabilities do not have access to early intervention and education programmes. Early detection of delays in reaching developmental milestones is as important as regularly measuring the height and weight of infants and children. Following early detection of delay in reaching developmental milestones, it is necessary to provide prompt and appropriate responses to optimize their all-round development. Such early intervention responses cover, inter alia, stimulation, nurturing and care, and pre-school education. Investing in early childhood programmes yields higher returns than at subsequent levels of education and training. Government commitment to early childhood programmes would significantly improve their development outcomes. Furthermore, it is essential for Governments to ensure that children with disabilities have access, on an equitable basis with others in the communities in which they live, to high-quality primary and secondary education. This process includes engaging families as partners in providing more effective support for children with disabilities.

**Target 5.A**

**Enhance measures for early detection of, and intervention for, children with disabilities from birth to pre-school age**

**Target 5.B**

**Halve the gap between children with disabilities and children without disabilities in enrolment rates for primary and secondary education**

---

**Indicators for tracking progress**

---

**Core indicators**

- 5.1 Number of children with disabilities receiving early childhood intervention
- 5.2 Primary education enrolment rate of children with disabilities
- 5.3 Secondary education enrolment rate of children with disabilities

**Supplementary indicators**

- 5.4 Proportion of pre- and antenatal care facilities that provide information and services regarding early detection of disability in children and protection of the rights of children with disabilities
  - 5.5 Proportion of children who are deaf that receive instruction in sign language
  - 5.6 Proportion of students with visual impairments that have educational materials in formats that are readily accessible
  - 5.7 Proportion of students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, deafblindness, autism and other disabilities who have assistive devices, adapted curricula and appropriate learning materials
- 

**Goal 6**

**Ensure gender equality and women's empowerment**

16. Girls and women with disabilities face multiple forms of discrimination and abuse. Isolation, compounded by dependency on caregivers, renders them extremely vulnerable to many forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, with attendant risks, including of HIV infection, pregnancy and maternal and infant death. Girls and women with disabilities are largely invisible in mainstream gender equality programmes. Information concerning sexual and reproductive health, general health care and related services is seldom in formats and language that are accessible. The true promise of the Decade will be fully realized only when girls and women with disabilities are active participants in mainstream development.

**Target 6.A**

**Enable girls and women with disabilities to have equitable access to mainstream development opportunities**

**Target 6.B**

**Ensure representation of women with disabilities in government decision-making bodies**

**Target 6.C**

**Ensure that all girls and women with disabilities have access to sexual and reproductive health services on an equitable basis with girls and women without disabilities**

**Target 6.D**

**Increase measures to protect girls and women with disabilities from all forms of violence and abuse**



---

**Indicators for tracking progress**

---

**Core indicators**

- 6.1 Number of countries that include the promotion of the participation of women and girls with disabilities in their national action plans on gender equality and empowerment of women
  - 6.2 Proportion of seats held by women with disabilities in the parliament or equivalent national legislative body
  - 6.3 Proportion of girls and women with disabilities who access sexual and reproductive health services of government and civil society, compared to women and girls without disabilities
  - 6.4 Number of programmes initiated by government and relevant agencies aimed at eliminating violence, including sexual abuse and exploitation, perpetrated against girls and women with disabilities
  - 6.5 Number of programmes initiated by government and relevant agencies that provide care and support, including rehabilitation, for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of any form of violence and abuse
- 

**Goal 7****Ensure disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management**

17. The Asia-Pacific region is the region that is most adversely affected by disasters, including those caused by climate change. Persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are at higher risk of death, injury and additional impairments, as a result of exclusion from disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes. Public service announcements are often issued in formats and language that are not accessible by persons with disabilities. In addition, emergency exits, shelters and facilities tend not to be barrier-free. Regular participation of persons with disabilities in emergency preparedness drills and other disaster risk reduction measures at the local and district levels could prevent or minimize risk and damage when disasters occur. Physical and information infrastructure that incorporates universal design principles would improve the chances of safety and survival.

**Target 7.A****Strengthen disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction planning****Target 7.B****Strengthen implementation of measures on providing timely and appropriate support to persons with disabilities in responding to disasters**

---

**Indicators for tracking progress**

---

**Core indicators**

- 7.1 Availability of disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction plans
- 7.2 Availability of disability-inclusive training for all relevant service personnel
- 7.3 Proportion of accessible emergency shelters and disaster relief sites

**Supplementary indicators**

- 7.4 Number of persons with disabilities who died or were seriously injured in disasters
  - 7.5 Availability of psychosocial support service personnel that have the capacity to assist persons with disabilities affected by disasters
  - 7.6 Availability of assistive devices and technologies for persons with disabilities in preparing for and responding to disasters
-

**Goal 8**  
**Improve the reliability and comparability of disability data**

18. Persons with disabilities tend to be unseen, unheard and uncounted. Increasingly in recent years, when they have been counted, definitions of “disability” and “persons with disabilities” that are used for collecting disability data have varied widely in the Asia-Pacific region. Taken together, data comparisons across countries are frequently unreliable. The Asia-Pacific region needs more accurate statistics on the population of persons with diverse disabilities and on their socioeconomic status. The adequacy of disability statistics would enable policymaking to be evidence-based to support the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. The Decade is an opportunity to enhance data collection aimed at generating comparable disability statistics over time and across borders. It is crucial that baseline data for the Incheon Strategy indicators are made available to enable effective progress tracking towards the achievement of goals and targets.

**Target 8.A**  
**Produce and disseminate reliable and internationally comparable disability statistics in formats that are accessible by persons with disabilities**

**Target 8.B**  
**Establish reliable disability statistics by the midpoint of the Decade (2017), as the source for tracking progress towards the achievement of the goals and targets in the Incheon Strategy**

---

**Indicators for tracking progress**

---

**Core indicators**

- 8.1 Disability prevalence based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) by age, sex, race and socioeconomic status
  - 8.2 Number of Governments in the Asia-Pacific region that have established, by 2017, baseline data for tracking progress towards achievement of the Incheon goals and targets
  - 8.3 Availability of disaggregated data on women and girls with disabilities in mainstream development programmes and government services, including health, and sexual and reproductive health, programmes
- 

**Goal 9**  
**Accelerate the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the harmonization of national legislation with the Convention**

19. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is the first disability-specific, international legal instrument that provides a comprehensive approach to respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of persons with disabilities. The Convention explicitly empowers persons with disabilities as holders of rights, as distinct from being treated as objects of charity. The ESCAP region played an instrumental and historic role in the initiation and drafting of the Convention. As of 30 October 2012, 126 States globally are parties to the Convention and 154 are signatories, of which, in the Asia-Pacific region, 35 Governments have signed the Convention and 25 have ratified the Convention or acceded to it.

**Target 9.A**

**By the midpoint of the Decade (2017), 10 more Governments in Asia and the Pacific will have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and by the end of the Decade (2022) another 10 Governments in Asia and the Pacific will have ratified or acceded to the Convention**

**Target 9.B**

**Enact national laws which include anti-discrimination provisions, technical standards and other measures to uphold and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and amend or nullify national laws that directly or indirectly discriminate against persons with disabilities, with a view to harmonizing national legislation with the Convention**

---

**Indicators for tracking progress**

---

**Core indicators**

- 9.1 Number of Governments that have ratified or acceded to the Convention
- 9.2 Availability of national anti-discrimination legislation to uphold and protect the rights of persons with disabilities

**Supplementary indicators**

- 9.3 Number of Governments in Asia and the Pacific that have ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
  - 9.4 Number of amended or nullified laws that directly or indirectly discriminate against persons with disabilities
- 

**Goal 10**

**Advance subregional, regional and interregional cooperation**

20. The experience of two Asian and Pacific Decades underscores the value of cooperation, at subregional, regional and interregional levels, for facilitating mutual support, including through sharing lessons learned, good practices and innovative solutions. The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation,<sup>113</sup> adopted on 1 December 2011 by the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan, Republic of Korea) recognized the importance of international commitments on disability to form the foundation of cooperation for effective development. Civil society and the private sector could play important roles in catalysing innovative approaches to reaching the Incheon goals and targets. The Asia-Pacific region still faces long-term challenges. In post-conflict areas, such challenges as landmines and remnants of war continue to exacerbate the occurrence of disability and undermine livelihoods. The Decade provides an opportunity for international cooperation, with multisectoral dimensions, to overcome such challenges and support effective implementation.

**Target 10.A**

**Contribute to the Asia-Pacific Multi-donor Trust Fund managed by ESCAP as well as initiatives and programmes to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy**

**Target 10.B**

**Development cooperation agencies in the Asia-Pacific region strengthen the disability-inclusiveness of their policies and programmes**

---

<sup>113</sup> See [www.aideffectiveness.org/busanhlf4/images/stories/hlf4/OUTCOME\\_DOCUMENT\\_-\\_FINAL\\_EN.pdf](http://www.aideffectiveness.org/busanhlf4/images/stories/hlf4/OUTCOME_DOCUMENT_-_FINAL_EN.pdf).

**Target 10.C**

**United Nations regional commissions strengthen interregional exchange of experiences and good practices concerning disability issues and the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

---

**Indicators for tracking progress**

---

**Core indicators**

- 10.1 Annual voluntary contributions by Governments and other donors to the Asia-Pacific Multi-donor Trust Fund to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
  - 10.2 Number of donors contributing each year to the Asia-Pacific Multi-donor Trust Fund to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
  - 10.3 Annual voluntary contributions by Governments or other donors to initiatives or programmes to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
  - 10.4 Number of United Nations entities that have regional cooperation programmes, including for South-South cooperation, that explicitly support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
  - 10.5 Number of subregional intergovernmental bodies that have programmes, including for South-South cooperation, which support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
  - 10.6 Number of regional and subregional projects, including for South-South cooperation, in which organizations of and for persons with disabilities participate in order to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
  - 10.7 Number of development cooperation agencies operating in Asia and the Pacific that have mandates, policies, action plans and dedicated and appropriately experienced focal points on disability-inclusive development, supportive of ratification and implementation of the Convention and review of follow-up action
  - 10.8 Number of joint activities among the five regional commissions of the United Nations to support the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
  - 10.9 Number of statisticians in the Asia-Pacific region trained in disability statistics, in particular on the ICF approach, by ESCAP and other relevant agencies
  - 10.10 Number of United Nations country- or regional-level development assistance frameworks that explicitly reference disability-inclusive development in line with the United Nations Development Group guidance note on including the rights of persons with disabilities in United Nations programming at the country level
-

**D. Modalities for effective implementation: national, subregional and regional levels**

21. This section identifies the modalities that together promote and support implementation. In particular, these modalities build data and information and strengthen multilevel cooperation for advancing progress towards realizing the rights of persons with disabilities through the implementation of the Incheon Strategy in the course of the Decade.

**1. National level**

22. The heart of the implementation of the Incheon Strategy is the national coordination mechanism on disability, with its all-important subnational linkages.

23. Many such mechanisms were established in the course of the past two Asian and Pacific Decades of Disabled Persons. Thus, they would assume primary responsibility for coordinating and catalysing the implementation of the Incheon Strategy at the national and subnational levels.

24. Under the auspices of the national coordination mechanisms, national statistical offices would assume the role of focal point for establishing baseline data for indicators and tracking progress in the implementation of the Incheon Strategy.

25. National coordination mechanisms on disability should undertake tasks that include but are not limited to the following:

(a) Mobilize diverse sectoral ministries, departments and government institutions at all levels, civil society, including organizations of and for persons with disabilities and their family support groups, research institutions and the private sector for multisectoral and nationwide engagement in implementing the Incheon Strategy;

(b) Develop, monitor and report on the implementation of national action plans on achieving the goals and targets of the Incheon Strategy;

(c) Translate the Incheon Strategy into national languages and ensure availability of the national language versions in accessible formats for wide dissemination to all sectors and at all administrative levels;

(d) Undertake national and subnational campaigns, such as the Make the Right Real! Campaign, to raise awareness throughout the Decade that fosters positive perceptions of persons with disabilities;

(e) Promote and support research on the situation of persons with disabilities as a basis for policymaking.

26. The United Nations country teams should support the revitalization and functioning of national coordination mechanisms, as may be required, with particular attention to advocacy, coordination and cooperation directed at implementation, including at subnational levels.

**2. Subregional level**

27. Subregional intergovernmental entities, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Pacific Islands Forum and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, have an important role in contributing to accelerated implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy by actively promoting disability-inclusive policies and programmes within their respective mandates.

28. The ESCAP secretariat, in its promotion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, shall support subregional and inter-subregional cooperation, in partnership with subregional intergovernmental bodies. In doing so, it shall harness the active participation of its subregional offices in North and Central Asia, East and North-East Asia, the Pacific, and South and South-West Asia, supported by its regional institutions,<sup>114</sup> in promoting disability-inclusive development.

### 3. Regional level

29. ESCAP members and associate members should discuss the progress, challenges and good practices in implementing the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy in the regular sessions of the Committee on Social Development or its equivalent. Representatives of civil society organizations are encouraged to attend the sessions.

30. A regional working group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, shall be established. The working group shall support full and effective implementation throughout the Decade. Its functions shall focus on the provision of advice and support to the members and associate members, as appropriate, on the regional implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy. The terms of reference of the working group are annexed.

31. The ESCAP secretariat shall contribute to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy through its regional convening role, analytical work and technical support to Governments. In particular, it shall undertake the following in cooperation with United Nations entities:

(a) Support Governments, as appropriate, in harmonizing legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in promoting the Make the Right Real! Campaign;

(b) Promote sharing among members and associate members of national experiences and good practices in disability-inclusive development and in protecting and upholding the rights of persons with disabilities, including the sharing of experiences among national legislative or administrative institutions, in order to promote and support the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(c) Track progress and support the improvement of disability statistics during the Decade;

(d) Support members and associate members in capacity-building to promote disability-inclusive development;

(e) Engage with civil society organizations, in particular organizations of and for persons with disabilities, and provide a regional platform for stakeholder consultations.

32. The Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability, which was established as a legacy of the first Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons to promote the empowerment of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations and a barrier-free and inclusive society, is called upon to continue building the capabilities of persons with disabilities and multisectoral collaboration, with special

---

<sup>114</sup> Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), Incheon, Republic of Korea; Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), New Delhi; Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), Tokyo; Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA), Bogor, Indonesia; and Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), Beijing.

attention to encouraging private sector engagement in disability-inclusive business that promotes disability-friendly products, services, employment opportunities and entrepreneurship development.

33. The Make the Right Real Fund, to be initiated by and based in the Republic of Korea, is invited to support the successful implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy.

34. Civil society organizations and, in particular, organizations of and for persons with disabilities, are encouraged to participate in the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy and promote continuous responsiveness to the aspirations and needs of persons with disabilities over the Decade.

## **Appendix II**

### **Terms of reference of the working group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities**

#### *Objective*

1. The objective of the proposed regional working group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities is to provide technical advice and support to members and associate members, to promote the full and effective implementation of the Decade, 2013-2022.

#### *Functions*

2. In pursuance of the objective stated in paragraph 1 above, the working group shall advise members and associate members on the following:

(a) Reviews of Decade progress, especially concerning the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Regional and subregional cooperation to advance implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy;

(c) Research on the evolving situation of persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region;

(d) Outreach to diverse disability groups at the national and local levels, and networking.

#### *Membership*

3. The working group shall be composed of representatives of ESCAP members and associate members, as well as civil society organizations operating at the regional and subregional levels in Asia and the Pacific.

4. The tenure of working group members shall be five years, with the possibility of extension for another five years.

5. All ESCAP members and associate members shall be eligible to serve on the working group.

6. The working group should be composed of 30 members, taking into account gender equality: 15 from members and associate members and 15 from civil society organizations. At least half of the seats allocated for civil society organizations

should be guaranteed for persons with disabilities and emerging civil society organizations.

7. A civil society entity that meets the following criteria shall be eligible to serve as a member of the working group: (a) operate at the regional and/or subregional levels in Asia and the Pacific; (b) be an organization or network that represents, supports and/or promotes the interests of persons with diverse disabilities; (c) has technical expertise relevant to advancing the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy.

8. The announcement of interest by individual ESCAP members and associate members and civil society organizations in serving as members of the working group shall take place at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 29 October to 2 November 2012.

9. The proposed composition of the working group shall be submitted to the Commission at the session that immediately follows the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting, for a final decision. Thus, the Commission at its sixty-ninth session, in 2013, will make the final decision on the composition of the working group for the first term, spanning the period 2013-2017. The second announcement of interest in serving on the working group shall take place at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting convened on the occasion of the midpoint of the Decade (2017). The Commission at its seventy-fourth session, in 2018, will make the final decision on the composition of the working group for the second term, spanning the period 2018-2022.

10. ESCAP members and associate members, civil society organizations, in particular, organizations of persons with disabilities, subregional intergovernmental agencies, United Nations agencies, development cooperation agencies and development banks can attend meetings of the working group as observers.

#### *Rules of procedure*

11. The working group shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

#### *Secretariat*

12. The ESCAP secretariat shall serve as the secretariat of the working group. It shall, inter alia, disseminate working group documentation in accessible formats.

### **Resolution 69/14 Implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing<sup>115</sup>**

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

*Recalling* its resolution 67/5 on the full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region, in which, inter alia, it decided to convene the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,

---

<sup>115</sup> See chap. III, paras. 149-190.



*Noting with satisfaction* the successful outcome of the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the adoption of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,<sup>116</sup>

1. *Endorses the adoption* of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, as contained in the annex to the present resolution, keeping in mind specific national conditions;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Bangkok statement;

(b) To report to the Commission at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

#### **Annex**

#### **Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing**

We, the representatives of the members and associate members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), assembled at the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, held in Bangkok from 10 to 12 September 2012,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, in which the Assembly endorsed the Political Declaration<sup>117</sup> and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,<sup>118</sup>

*Also recalling* General Assembly resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, in which the Assembly encouraged all Member States to further implement the Madrid Plan of Action as an integral part of their national development plans and poverty eradication strategies, and recommended that Member States expand the role of the regional commissions on ageing issues,

*Recognizing* the unprecedented pace of the demographic transition towards an ageing society in the Asia-Pacific region and the resultant far-reaching social, economic and political implications of ageing,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/14 of 22 July 2010 on the future implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, in which the Council decided to conduct the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2013 at the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social

---

<sup>116</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/11 (see also ST/ESCAP/2652).

<sup>117</sup> *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. 1, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

Development, and acknowledged the essential contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the implementation, review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

*Also recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/28 of 28 July 2011 on the modalities for the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, in which the Council encouraged the regional commissions to continue to facilitate the review and appraisal exercise at the regional level, and encouraged Member States and United Nations organizations, where appropriate, to provide support to regional commissions in facilitating the review and appraisal process and organizing regional conferences to review national review and appraisal results in 2012,

*Further recalling* Commission resolution 67/5 of 25 May 2011 on the full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region, in which the Commission decided to convene the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2012 to provide a regional input to the global review,

*Noting* that one in four persons in the Asia-Pacific region will be over 60 years of age by 2050,

*Also noting* the higher proportion of women among older persons,

*Noting with great concern* the vulnerability of older persons, in particular older women, to poverty, social isolation and violence,

*Welcoming* the progress achieved by members and associate members in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action since 2002, including the establishment of bodies to lead and coordinate national efforts towards the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

*Also welcoming* the holding of the Preparatory Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Beijing in November 2011,

*Further welcoming* the secretariat's overview of regional implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>119</sup> which reviews progress and identifies gaps in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

*Recalling* that in "The future we want", the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives made a commitment to promote a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly children, youth, women and the elderly and disabled,<sup>120</sup>

*Recognizing* that there are many challenges to be addressed regarding ageing, including income insecurity, inadequate social protection, limited capacity of health systems to address the range of chronic conditions facing older persons, the human resource gaps in meeting the needs for elderly care services, in particular, long-term

---

<sup>119</sup> E/ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.1/1.

<sup>120</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

care, and the provision of an age-friendly environment to encourage the active participation of older persons for the betterment of society as a whole,

*Acknowledging* that the rapid demographic transition in Asia and the Pacific presents significant challenges for the region and that Governments must play a catalysing role in preparing for and responding to an ageing future,

*Also acknowledging* that the Madrid Plan of Action provides a comprehensive and overarching framework for the preparation for and response to ageing, and the need for accelerated action in the Asia-Pacific region,

*Welcoming with appreciation* the role of civil society in supporting older persons and Governments on issues related to ageing,

1. *Recommend* that members and associate members:

- (a) Accord priority to addressing the rights of older persons in legal and policy frameworks;
- (b) Ensure coordinated multisectoral responses and the mainstreaming of ageing issues into national policies and programmes;
- (c) Increase national awareness, capacity and resources to prepare for and respond to the demographic transition;
- (d) Develop inclusive social protection systems, with particular attention given to older persons and their vulnerability to poverty and social isolation;
- (e) Accord priority to mainstreaming the gender dimension into national responses;

**A. Older persons and development**

- (f) Implement specific national policies and programmes on ageing;
- (g) Conduct regular reviews of national policies to ensure that ageing issues are mainstreamed into national development plans;
- (h) Establish or strengthen national coordination bodies or mechanisms on ageing, as appropriate, to promote and protect the rights of older persons and to coordinate resource allocation for ageing;
- (i) Encourage and promote the removal of barriers to the participation of older persons in the labour market through legislation, age-friendly and flexible employment policies, training and skills development, and financial support for entrepreneurship;
- (j) Establish comprehensive social protection systems for workers in the formal as well as informal sector, including the provision of universal old-age income security through pensions;
- (k) Address the special needs of older persons in rural and remote communities, older persons living in poverty, older women and the “oldest old” (aged 80 and above) to ensure an adequate standard of living for all older persons;
- (l) Support the formation of older persons’ associations to provide an effective community mechanism for strengthening the voices of older persons;
- (m) Enhance representation of older persons in policy formulation and implementation;

**B. Advancing health and well-being into old age**

(n) Adapt health and social systems in response to the needs of older persons through an integrated continuum of care, including preventive care, acute care, chronic disease management, long-term care and end-of-life care;

(o) Develop policies and models for promoting healthy ageing to support healthy lifestyles, active ageing and the right to health care;

(p) Develop strategies to meet the rising demand for elderly care, emphasizing especially home and community-based care and to improve the coverage and quality of care in formal and informal settings;

(q) Allocate adequate resources for the training of caregivers, including informal caregivers and service providers, to address the human resource gaps in meeting the needs of elderly care;

(r) Include geriatrics and gerontology in the training curriculum of professionals in the health- and social-care service sectors;

(s) Strengthen the primary health-care system to address the health needs of the elderly population and social support systems for long-term care, including through formal and informal capacity-building mechanisms to develop and assist health professionals and social caregivers;

(t) Encourage community-based and non-profit organizations as well as the private sector to play a major role in the provision of elderly care services and training, in cooperation with government agencies;

**C. Ensuring enabling and supportive environments**

(u) Create and promote enabling environments to support the active participation of older persons in community and society, including through increased investment in the universal design of housing, public buildings, public spaces and local infrastructure;

(v) Develop public and private partnerships on research and development of more effective products, services, medicines and technology for older persons, including assistive and adaptive technologies to enable older persons to function fully in society and have access to information and communication;

(w) Pay greater attention to the heightened vulnerability and specific needs of older persons in natural disasters and emergencies;

(x) Conduct research on the causes, nature and extent of all forms of elder abuse and violence and act upon the findings of such research;

(y) Enact laws and regulations to strengthen the protection of the rights of older persons with a view to eliminating all forms of discrimination, abuse and violence against older persons, including ageism in employment, health care and other settings;

(z) Promote a positive image of ageing and of older persons through active engagement of the mass media and the voices of older persons, including recognition of the positive contributions made by older persons to their families, communities and society;

2. *Recommend also* that more domestic and international resources be mobilized and, in order to complement national development efforts, international cooperation be enhanced to support developing countries in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

3. *Invite* United Nations funds and programmes to ensure that questions of ageing and older persons are integrated in their programmes and projects, including at the country level;
4. *Request* the Executive Secretary of ESCAP:
  - (a) To strengthen the role of the Commission in supporting members and associate members in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action;
  - (b) To increase the regional knowledge base on ageing to support members and associate members in their efforts to develop evidence-informed national policies on ageing;
  - (c) To continue to facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices on ageing;
  - (d) To raise public awareness on ageing in partnership with civil society organizations and the media;
  - (e) To support members and associate members, upon request, in formulating forward-looking policies to prepare for and adjust to the social and economic implications of ageing, as well as mainstreaming ageing into national development frameworks, plans and programmes;
  - (f) To assist members and associate members in building capacity to provide comprehensive social protection systems that support populations throughout their life course, including specific forms of support for older persons;
  - (g) To submit the outcome of the Meeting to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-first session as the Asia-Pacific input to the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, in 2013;
  - (h) To submit the report of the Meeting to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session for consideration and endorsement.

**Resolution 69/15**  
**Implementing the outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific**<sup>121</sup>

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

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>122</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>123</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>124</sup> the Declaration on the Right to Development,<sup>125</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>126</sup> and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>127</sup>

*Also recalling* its resolution 67/12 on the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific and reaffirming the importance of civil registration and vital statistics systems for safeguarding human rights, producing

---

<sup>121</sup> See chap. III, paras. 192-210.

<sup>122</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>123</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 999, No. 14668.

<sup>124</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol.993, No. 14631

<sup>125</sup> General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.

<sup>126</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>127</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/2.

critical information to support decision makers, enabling good governance, improving development outcomes, measuring aid effectiveness and monitoring progress towards achieving nationally and internationally agreed development goals,

*Affirming* that well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems are crucial for inclusive and sustainable development in the region,

*Acknowledging* the successful outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok on 10 and 11 December 2012,<sup>128</sup> which brought together senior officials of ministries of health, civil registration offices and national statistical organizations from 43 members and associate members as well as 22 international development partners to reach a consensus on the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>129</sup>

*Appreciating* the efforts made by many members and associate members to improve their civil registration and vital statistics systems, indicated by the 48 members and associate members that have conducted an assessment of their civil registration and vital statistics systems, as requested in Commission resolution 67/12, including the efforts of Pacific island countries and areas through the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan 2011-2014,<sup>130</sup>

*Alarmed* that the majority of members and associate members lack civil registration and vital statistics systems that are well functioning and meet relevant international standards and recommendations,

*Recognizing* the important role of international, regional and subregional organizations and development partners to support the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems in countries through advocacy, dissemination of information on standards, application of information and communications technology, research and facilitation of the exchange of knowledge and best practices in the region,

*Convinced* that the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems in countries relies on efforts from ministries of health, civil registration offices, national statistical organizations, local governments and other relevant government stakeholders, and that non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and the public may accelerate these efforts,

*Stressing*, therefore, that multisectoral engagement and coordination is critical for the effective civil registration and vital statistics systems,

*Expressing* deep concern that:

(a) Members and associate members continue to face major challenges in improving civil registration and vital statistics systems, such as legislative gaps, social barriers and discrimination, geographical barriers and a lack of sustained high-level political commitment for improvement,

(b) Civil registration and vital statistics systems in the region suffer from insufficient institutional capacities and financial and human resources, such as scarce investment, inadequate logistics and office equipment in remote areas, poorly trained and remunerated staff and staff retention challenges,

---

<sup>128</sup> E/ESCAP/69/26, annex.

<sup>129</sup> E/ESCAP/CST(3)/6/Add.1.

<sup>130</sup> [www.uq.edu.au/hishub/docs/VITAL-STATS-OUTLINE-FINAL.pdf](http://www.uq.edu.au/hishub/docs/VITAL-STATS-OUTLINE-FINAL.pdf).

(c) Incomplete registration coverage and poor quality vital statistics are constraining administrative, planning, health information and national statistical systems at local and national levels,

*Emphasizing* the urgency of improving civil registration and vital statistics systems in the region,

1. *Urges* that all civil registration and vital statistics improvement activities in the region include and engage all relevant government entities, particularly those responsible for health, civil registration and statistics;

2. *Supports* the decision of the Committee on Statistics made at its third session<sup>131</sup> related to the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics, including its endorsement of the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>129</sup> and the establishment of a regional knowledge-sharing platform and a regional training network to exchange expertise and experiences within and beyond the region, as stressed by the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific;

3. *Urges* that country actions and regional support activities be aligned with the eight outcomes<sup>132</sup> of the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, which are:

(a) Enhanced public awareness of the value of civil registration and vital statistics systems and actions taken to remove barriers to registration at all levels;

(b) Sustained political commitment to support the development and improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems;

(c) Sufficient and sustainable investments towards making incremental improvements in civil registration and vital statistics systems;

(d) Improved and strengthened policies, legislation and implementation of regulations for civil registration and vital statistics systems;

(e) Improved availability and quality of legal documentation for all individuals;

(f) Increased capacity of countries in Asia and the Pacific to record, compile, analyse and disseminate complete and reliable statistics on vital events;

(g) Mechanisms established for effective coordination among key stakeholders within civil registration and vital statistics systems;

(h) Increased capacity of countries in Asia and the Pacific to effectively use vital statistics;

4. *Approves* the recommendation of the Committee on Statistics made at its third session that a regional meeting of relevant ministers and development partners be held in order to attain the high-level political commitment required to support the successful implementation of the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific;<sup>133</sup>

---

<sup>131</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/13, chap. I, decision 3/4.

<sup>132</sup> See E/ESCAP/CST(3)/6/Add.1, para. 3.

<sup>133</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/13, chap. I, sect. A, recommendation 3/2.

5. *Calls upon* organizations of the United Nations system, in particular United Nations Country Teams, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration, international and regional development banks, in particular the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and other global, regional and subregional development partners and agencies, non-governmental organizations and private sector entities to increase their support to countries for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in the region;

6. *Reiterates* its encouragement to members and associate members to conduct an assessment of their civil registration and vital statistics systems and to develop a national multisectoral improvement plan;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to strengthen the capacities and coordination of relevant institutions to improve civil registration and vital statistics systems in their countries;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To convene, in 2014, an intergovernmental regional meeting of ministers of health, ministers responsible for civil registration and heads of national statistical organizations, other relevant government stakeholders and senior officials of relevant development partners to endorse the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and to foster further regional action to support the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in the region;

(b) To collaborate closely with relevant donors and development partners to establish a well-coordinated funding and advocacy campaign in consultation with Governments to support country actions and to fully develop and help fund the regional support activities of the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific;

(c) To establish a regional steering group on civil registration and vital statistics under the auspices of the Committee on Statistics comprising representatives of the health, civil registration and statistics sectors and of relevant development partners, bearing in mind the urgency of initiating further consultations on the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and initiating its implementation, as well as taking into account the confines of the existing conference structure of the Commission;

(d) To ensure that the established regional steering group is tasked with considering and proposing a more appropriate governance structure that would fully facilitate the required multisectoral engagement, which would be considered for adoption by the regional meeting of ministers;

(e) To report to the Commission at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*



**Resolution 69/16**  
**A core set of population and social statistics to guide national capacity development in Asia and the Pacific**<sup>134</sup>

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

*Acknowledging* the role of the Commission in promoting shared prosperity in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive and sustainable economic growth and social development,

*Recognizing* the increasing policy interest in population subgroups and economic and social inequalities,

*Stressing* the importance of and the need for timely, reliable and comparable population and social statistics to support evidence-based policies and decisions, measure the progress of societies and assess the achievement of national and internationally agreed development goals,

*Expressing* concern that the existing capacity of many national statistical systems in the region falls short of meeting the need for timely, reliable and comparable population and social statistics,

*Appreciating* that the Committee on Statistics at its second session resolved to address the gap in national capacity by aiming to ensure that all countries in the Asian and Pacific region have the capacity by 2020 to provide an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environment statistics,<sup>135</sup>

*Recognizing* that many government and non-governmental agencies, apart from the national statistical offices, play very important roles in the production, dissemination and use of population and social statistics, and that the strengthening of national statistical capacity regarding population and social statistics requires the commitment and concerted efforts of all relevant producers and users,

*Having considered and taken note* of the report of the Committee on Statistics on its third session,<sup>136</sup>

1. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee on Statistics to use the core set of population and social statistics<sup>137</sup> as a regional guideline for national capacity development to focus national efforts, coordinate regional cooperation and mobilize support by all relevant partners;

2. *Recommends* that members and associate members use the core set of population and social statistics, as appropriate, as a framework and guide in the development of their national statistical systems.

*Fifth plenary meeting*  
*1 May 2013*

---

<sup>134</sup> See chap. III, paras. 192-210.

<sup>135</sup> E/ESCAP/67/12.

<sup>136</sup> E/ESCAP/69/13.

<sup>137</sup> E/ESCAP/CST(3)/5/Add.1.

**Resolution 69/17**  
**Sustainable management, conservation and use of ocean resources for the development of Asia-Pacific small island developing States<sup>138</sup>**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 67/78 on oceans and the law of the sea,

*Acknowledging* the important role of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea<sup>139</sup> in governing all uses of the oceans and their resources,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 65/2 on the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in which the Assembly recognized that small island developing States continue to be heavily dependent on their coastal and marine resources, and that their development challenges include limited access to financing, technologies and equipment, global overfishing and destructive fishing practices, and barriers to increased participation in fisheries and related activities,

*Recalling also* its resolution 68/1, in which it invited members and associate members, as appropriate, to recognize the importance of oceans and the sustainable development of ocean resources to Pacific small island developing States,

*Recognizing* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>140</sup> in which, inter alia, the Conference stressed the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and seas and of their resources for sustainable development, including through their contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change,<sup>141</sup>

*Recognizing also* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development urged the identification and mainstreaming by 2014 of strategies that further assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, in developing their national capacity to conserve, sustainably manage and realize the benefits of sustainable fisheries,<sup>142</sup>

*Noting* “The Oceans Compact — Healthy Oceans for Prosperity”,<sup>143</sup> an initiative of the Secretary-General,

*Noting with appreciation* the Pacific Oceanscape Framework initiative, which focuses urgent and timely attention on the extensive threats to the health of the Pacific Ocean and those who depend upon it,

---

<sup>138</sup> See chap. III, paras. 228-232.

<sup>139</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

<sup>140</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>141</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 158.

<sup>142</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 174.

<sup>143</sup> [www.un.org/Depts/los/ocean\\_compact/oceans\\_compact.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/ocean_compact/oceans_compact.htm).

*Recognizing* the important role and mandate given to the regional commissions to support the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and regional cooperation for sustainable development,

1. *Invites* States Parties to fully implement their obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;<sup>139</sup>

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international financial institutions, other regional and subregional organizations and bilateral donors:

(a) To support capacity development in Asia-Pacific small island developing States for the sustainable management of oceans and seas in accordance with the Convention as part of their efforts to eradicate poverty and ensure food security in the context of sustainable development;

(b) To undertake analysis in order to develop the evidence base for determining how the sustainable use of oceans and seas and their resources can contribute to poverty eradication and sustained economic growth in Asia-Pacific small island developing States;

(c) To submit a report detailing the manner in which the secretariat can support member States in the sustainable management of oceans and seas for sustainable development and poverty eradication to the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries at the seventieth session of the Commission;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-first session on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

## **B. Decisions adopted by the Commission at its sixty-ninth session**

### **Decision 69/1**

#### **Reports of subsidiary bodies considered by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific<sup>144</sup>**

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific generally endorsed the following:

(a) Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/69/5);

(b) Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/69/6);

(c) Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/69/7);

(d) Report of the Committee on Transport on its third session (E/ESCAP/69/8);

(e) Report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology on its third session (E/ESCAP/69/9);

---

<sup>144</sup> See chap. III, paras. 63, 77, 102, 130, 131, 208 and 209.

(f) Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/69/10);

(g) Report of the Committee on Statistics on its third session (E/ESCAP/69/13);

(h) Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/69/14).

**Decision 69/2**

**Signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports<sup>145</sup>**

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific noted that the second session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport was scheduled to be held in Bangkok from 4 to 8 November 2013, and decided that a signing ceremony for the intergovernmental agreement on dry ports should be held during the Forum.

**Decision 69/3**

**Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012<sup>146</sup>**

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, including the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/12).

**Decision 69/4**

**Membership of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022<sup>147</sup>**

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific decided that the following 15 member States and 15 civil society organizations would serve as the first 30 members of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, for the initial term, spanning the period 2013-2017:

- (a) Member States:<sup>148</sup>
  - (i) Bangladesh;
  - (ii) Bhutan;
  - (iii) China;
  - (iv) Fiji;
  - (v) India;
  - (vi) Indonesia;
  - (vii) Japan;

---

<sup>145</sup> See chap. III, paras. 104 and 365.

<sup>146</sup> See chap. III, paras. 149-191.

<sup>147</sup> See chap. III, paras. 149-190.

<sup>148</sup> The Commission also decided that the Government of Myanmar would serve as an observer in the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, for the initial term, spanning the period 2013 to 2017.

- (viii) Kiribati and Samoa share a seat (Samoa: first 2.5 years; Kiribati: second 2.5 years)
  - (ix) Malaysia;
  - (x) Mongolia;
  - (xi) Pakistan;
  - (xii) Philippines;
  - (xiii) Republic of Korea;
  - (xiv) Russian Federation;
  - (xv) Thailand.
- (b) Civil society organizations:<sup>149</sup>
- (i) Asia and Pacific Disability Forum;
  - (ii) Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability;
  - (iii) ASEAN Disability Forum;
  - (iv) Asia-Pacific DPO United;
  - (v) Central Asia Disability Forum;
  - (vi) South Asian Disability Forum;
  - (vii) Pacific Disability Forum;
  - (viii) Disabled People's International Asia-Pacific;
  - (ix) Inclusion International Asia-Pacific Regional Forum;
  - (x) World Blind Union Asia-Pacific;
  - (xi) World Federation of the Deaf Regional Secretariat in Asia and the Pacific;
  - (xii) World Federation of the Deafblind Asia and the Pacific;
  - (xiii) World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry;
  - (xiv) Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) Consortium;
  - (xv) Rehabilitation International Asia Pacific Region.

#### **Decision 69/5**

#### **Report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing<sup>150</sup>**

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, including the Bangkok Statement on the Asia-Pacific Review of the Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (E/ESCAP/69/11).

#### **Decision 69/6**

#### **Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific<sup>151</sup>**

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific elected, in addition to the host country, Japan, the following eight countries to the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific for the period 2013 to 2016: Australia; China; India; Indonesia; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; and Thailand.

---

<sup>149</sup> The Commission also decided that the following three civil society organizations would serve as observers in the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, for the initial term, spanning the period 2013-2017: (a) ASEAN Autism Network; (b) Christian Blind Mission; and (c) Community-based Rehabilitation Asia-Pacific Network.

<sup>150</sup> See chap. III, para. 189.

<sup>151</sup> See chap. III, para. 207.

**Decision 69/7**  
**Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia**<sup>152</sup>

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific noted the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/69/15).

**Decision 69/8**  
**Programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015**<sup>153</sup>

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the draft programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 (E/ESCAP/69/16).

**Decision 69/9**  
**Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions**<sup>154</sup>

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific expressed its appreciation for the following contributions pledged by members and associate members of ESCAP for 2013:

1. *Bhutan*. The delegation of Bhutan announced that its Government would make the following contribution:

ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South West Asia	\$1 000
---	---------

2. *China*. The delegation of China announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme	\$200 000
	RMB1 500 000
NEASPEC	\$50 000
Decade of Disabled Persons	\$10 000
APCTT	\$30 000
SIAP	\$60 000
CSAM	\$20 000

3. *Fiji*. The secretariat received written notification that the Government of Fiji intended to continue to provide its normal contributions.

4. *India*. The delegation of India announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

APCICT	\$20 000
APCTT	\$200 000
SIAP	\$25 000

<sup>152</sup> See chap. III, para. 227.

<sup>153</sup> See chap. III, para. 249.

<sup>154</sup> See chap. III, paras. 252-276.

ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia	\$79 000
---	----------

In addition, the delegation indicated that a contribution from its Government to the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization was under consideration.

5. *Indonesia*. The secretariat received written notification that the Government of Indonesia would make to the following contributions:

APCTT	\$10 000
CAPSA	\$79 662
CSAM	\$30 000
SIAP	\$30 000

The delegation of Indonesia informed the Commission that its Government intended to make an in-kind contribution to APCICT equivalent to \$500,000 for 2014 and to CAPSA equivalent to \$93,000 for 2013.

6. *Iran (Islamic Republic of)*. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicated that it would notify the secretariat in written form of its contribution to ESCAP and its affiliated bodies.

7. *Japan*. The delegation of Japan announced that its Government would make the following contributions for the period April 2013 to March 2014:

Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$57 800
SIAP	\$1 640 700

The delegation indicated that its Government intended to make an in-kind contribution equivalent to \$1,280,000 to SIAP for the period April 2013 to March 2014. In addition, the delegation announced its Government's intention to provide fellowships for 92 person-months for group training courses as part of its technical cooperation programme through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, in cooperation with SIAP.

8. *Macao, China*. The secretariat received written notification that the government of Macao, China would make the following contributions:

APCICT	\$5 000
APCTT	\$5 000
CAPSA	\$3 000
SIAP	\$20 000

9. *Malaysia*. The delegation of Malaysia announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

APCTT	\$20 000
CAPSA	\$10 000
SIAP	\$20 000

10. *Mongolia*. The secretariat received written notification that the Government of Mongolia would make the following contribution:

ESCAP programme of work	\$5 000
SIAP	\$10 000

11. *Myanmar*. The secretariat received written notification that the Government of Myanmar would make the following contribution:

ESCAP programme of work	\$2 000
SIAP	\$1 000

12. *Republic of Korea*. The delegation of the Republic of Korea announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$300 000
Other extrabudgetary projects	\$274 600
APCICT	\$3 000 000
CAPSA	\$20 000
CSAM	\$10 000
SIAP	\$50 000

The delegation indicated that its Government was considering increasing the annual contribution to the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund to \$500,000.

The delegation of the Republic of Korea also announced the following contribution from Incheon Metropolitan City:

ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia	\$1 430 000
---	-------------

13. *Thailand*. The delegation of Thailand announced that its Government would make contributions as follows:

APCTT	\$15 000
CAPSA	\$10 000
CSAM	\$15 000
SIAP	\$30 000

The delegation also noted that its Government might provide in-kind support to CAPSA through best practice sharing and by sending experts to assist in the fields of production and production control.

#### **Decision 69/10**

##### **Final review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its subsidiary structure, pursuant to resolutions 64/1 and 67/15<sup>155</sup>**

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific generally endorsed the report on the final review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its subsidiary structure, pursuant to resolutions 64/1 and 67/15 (E/ESCAP/69/18).

#### **Decision 69/11**

##### **Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission<sup>156</sup>**

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted the report of the Advisory Committee of

<sup>155</sup> See chap. III, para. 287.

<sup>156</sup> See chap. III, para. 296.



Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/69/19).

**Decision 69/12**

**Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventieth session of the Commission<sup>157</sup>**

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific decided that its seventieth session would be held in Bangkok in April or May 2014. The actual dates would be determined in consultation with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission. The Commission endorsed “Regional connectivity for shared prosperity” as the theme topic for its seventieth session.

---

<sup>157</sup> See chap. III, paras. 297-299.

## Chapter II

### Work of the Commission since the sixty-eighth session

#### A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

3. During the period under review, the following intergovernmental meetings and meetings of subsidiary bodies were held:

- (a) Committees:
  - (i) Committee on Transport;
  - (ii) Committee on Information and Communications Technology;
  - (iii) Committee on Statistics;
- (b) Governing councils:
  - (i) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;
  - (ii) Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology;
  - (iii) Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;
  - (iv) Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture;
  - (v) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;
- (c) Other intergovernmental bodies:
  - (i) Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;
  - (ii) High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012;
  - (iii) Seventh session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

4. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex II. The reports of those bodies reflect the discussions held, the agreements reached and the decisions taken by them.

5. In pursuance of Commission resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission, the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries was organized as a part of the Commission session, with the status of a committee of the whole. The meeting of the Special Body was held on 25 April 2013 during the senior officials segment.

#### B. Publications

6. Lists of publications issued in the reporting period 2012/13 and pre-session documents submitted to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session are listed in annex III.

#### C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

7. The secretariat maintained close and regular liaison with United Nations Headquarters departments and with the secretariats of the other regional commissions on projects of common interest.

## Chapter III

### Sixty-ninth session of the Commission

#### A. Attendance and organization of work

8. The sixty-ninth session of the Commission was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013. The session comprised two segments: a senior officials segment from 25 to 27 April 2013; and a ministerial segment from 29 April to 1 May 2013.

9. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members:

##### *Members*

Afghanistan  
Armenia  
Australia  
Azerbaijan  
Bangladesh  
Bhutan  
Brunei Darussalam  
Cambodia  
China  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea  
Fiji  
France  
India  
Indonesia  
Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Japan  
Kazakhstan  
Kiribati  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Malaysia  
Marshall Islands  
Mongolia  
Myanmar  
Nauru  
Nepal  
Pakistan  
Papua New Guinea  
Philippines  
Republic of Korea  
Russian Federation  
Samoa  
Singapore  
Solomon Islands  
Sri Lanka  
Thailand  
Timor-Leste  
Turkey  
Turkmenistan  
Tuvalu  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
United States of America  
Uzbekistan  
Vanuatu  
Viet Nam

*Associate members*

Cook Islands  
Hong Kong, China  
Macao, China

10. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Cuba, Denmark, Germany, Israel, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates attended. Representatives of the Holy See also attended.

11. The session was attended by representatives of the following offices of the United Nations Secretariat: Economic Commission for Africa; Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; Economic Commission for Europe; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; and Regional Commissions New York Office.

12. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; and United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

13. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Finance Corporation; International Labour Organization; International Maritime Organization; International Telecommunication Union; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; Universal Postal Union; and World Health Organization.

14. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian Development Bank; Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific; Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia; Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geosciences Programmes in East and Southeast Asia; Eurasian Economic Commission; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones; and ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee.

15. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations: ASEAN Autism Network; ASEAN Disability Forum; Asia Pacific Disability Forum; Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development; Asia-Pacific DPO United; Association of Pacific Rim Universities; CBM Central East Asia Regional Office; CCLP Worldwide; Central Asian Disability Forum; Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society; Community-based Rehabilitation Asia-Pacific Network; Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) Consortium; Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era; Disabled People's International Asia-Pacific Region; International Chamber of Commerce; International Federation of Non-Government Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse; LDC Watch; National Council of Women of Thailand; Pacific Disability Forum; Rehabilitation International Asia Pacific Region; South Asian Disability Forum; Thailand Environment Institute Foundation; and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises.

16. Representatives of Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Sovereign Military Order of Malta also attended the session.

17. The list of participants is available from [www.unescap.org/commission/69/list-of-participants](http://www.unescap.org/commission/69/list-of-participants).

18. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected H.E. Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão (Timor-Leste) Chair.

19. Following its past practice, the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegations Vice-Chairs:

H.E. Mr. Shamlall Bathija (Afghanistan)  
H.E. Mr. Sergey Manassarian (Armenia)  
H.E. Mr. Gowher Rizvi (Bangladesh)  
H.E. Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned (Brunei Darussalam)  
H.E. Mr. Ly Thuch (Cambodia)  
H.E. Mr. Ma Zhaoxu (China)  
H.E. Ms. Jiko F. Luveni (Fiji)  
H.E. Ms. D. Purandeswari (India)  
H.E. Mr. Seyed Hamid Pour Mohammadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)  
H.E. Mr. Kenta Wakabayashi (Japan)  
H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith (Lao People's Democratic Republic)  
H.E. Mr. Alounkeo Kittikhoun (Lao People's Democratic Republic)  
H.E. Mr. Wunna Maung Lwin (Myanmar)  
H.E. Mr. Soe Thein (Myanmar)  
H.E. Mr. Kan Zaw (Myanmar)  
H.E. Mr. Ye Htut (Myanmar)  
H.E. Ms. Khin San Yee (Myanmar)  
H.E. Mr. Lee Si-hyung (Republic of Korea)  
H.E. Mr. James Tora Tora (Solomon Islands)  
H.E. Sarath Amunugama (Sri Lanka)  
H.E. Mr. Shantha Kumara Ananda Welgama (Sri Lanka)  
H.E. Mr. Jullapong Nonsrichai (Thailand)  
H.E. Ms. Emilia Pires (Timor-Leste)  
H.E. Mr. Bendito Freitas (Timor-Leste)  
H.E. Mr. Francisco Kabualdi Lay (Timor-Leste)  
H.E. Mr. Roberto Soares (Timor-Leste)  
H.E. Mr. Edward Nipake Natapei (Vanuatu)

20. The senior officials segment of the session met in two Committees of the Whole. The following officers were elected:

(a) *Committee of the Whole I:*

*Chair:*

Mr. Erdem Direkler (Turkey)

*Vice-Chairs:*

Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal (Nepal)

Mr. Math Sounmala (Lao People's Democratic Republic)

(b) *Committee of the Whole II:*

*Chair:*

Ms. Noumea Simi (Samoa)

*Vice-Chairs:*

H.E. Mr. Askar Tazhiyev (Kazakhstan)

H.E. Ms. Jocelyn S. Batoon-Garcia (Philippines)

21. The Commission also constituted a Working Group on Draft Resolutions, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Kazi Imtiaz Hossain (Bangladesh), to consider draft resolutions submitted during the session. H.E. Mr. Kesang Wangdi (Bhutan) was elected Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

## **B. Agenda**

22. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

### *Senior officials segment*

1. Opening of the session:
  - (a) Opening addresses;
  - (b) Election of officers;
  - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries:
  - (a) Final regional review of the Almaty Programme of Action;
  - (b) Biennial review of the Istanbul Programme of Action;
  - (c) Other matters.
3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions:
  - (a) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development;
  - (b) Trade and investment;
  - (c) Transport;
  - (d) Environment and development;
  - (e) Information and communications technology;
  - (f) Disaster risk reduction;
  - (g) Social development;
  - (h) Statistics;
  - (i) Subregional activities for development.
4. Management issues:
  - (a) Draft programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015;
  - (b) Programme changes for the biennium 2012-2013;
  - (c) Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions.
5. Final review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its subsidiary structure, pursuant to resolutions 64/1 and 67/15.
6. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
7. Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventieth session of the Commission (2014).

*Ministerial segment*

8. Policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region:
  - (a) Key challenges to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific;
  - (b) Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013.
9. Theme topic for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission (2013): “Opportunities to build resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises”.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

**C. Account of proceedings**

**Agenda item 1**

**Opening of the session**

**Senior officials segment**

23. The senior officials segment was opened by the Executive Secretary on 25 April 2013. The Executive Secretary delivered a welcoming statement.

**Ministerial segment**

24. A moment of silence was observed for all the victims of natural and man-made disasters in the Asian and Pacific region.

25. The Acting Chair of the sixty-eighth session, H.E. Mr. Sarath Amunugama (Sri Lanka), presided over the opening session of the ministerial segment of the sixty-ninth session on 29 April 2013. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations delivered the message of the Secretary-General. The Executive Secretary delivered her welcoming and policy statements.

26. Keynote addresses were made by H.E. U Thein Sein (Myanmar) and H.E. Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão (Timor-Leste). H.E. Mr. Plodprasop Suraswadi, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address on behalf of the Prime Minister of Thailand.

**Agenda item 2**

**Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries**

27. The Commission had before it a note verbale dated 11 March 2013 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic addressed to the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/1) and the summary of key outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (E/ESCAP/69/2) as background documents.

28. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Bangladesh; Bhutan; China; India; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Mongolia; and Turkey.

29. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP and the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States delivered statements.

30. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the secretariat for having convened the Euro-Asian Final Regional Review of the Almaty Programme of Action, in Vientiane, from 5 to 7 March 2013. It noted that the meeting had provided an opportunity to conduct the final regional review of the progress made by the landlocked developing countries in implementing 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.<sup>158</sup>

31. The Commission noted with satisfaction that global leaders had echoed the challenges faced by the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and had reflected those challenges in the outcome document of the recent United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",<sup>159</sup> in which the serious constraints faced by the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in achieving sustainable development were recognized.

32. The Commission expressed concern that, despite the progress that had been made on many fronts, landlocked developing countries continued to face high structural vulnerability, a situation which was exacerbated by the recent financial and economic crises and volatile energy and food prices. Those challenges affected the socioeconomic development of landlocked developing countries, as well as their achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. Many such countries were also severely affected by natural disasters and climate change.

33. The Commission noted that many landlocked developing countries were still grappling with challenges in attempting to benefit from trade. They faced compound disadvantages, such as geographical remoteness from international markets, high transport and trade transaction costs, difficult border-crossing procedures, inadequate and poor transport infrastructure, small-size economies, low productive capacity, insufficient human resources in terms of both quantity and quality, limited export diversification and lack of export competitiveness.

34. The Commission noted with satisfaction the actions taken at the national level and the progress made by landlocked developing countries in implementing the Almaty Programme of Action.

35. The Commission noted the need for building on the progress that had been made in implementing the Almaty Programme of Action by promoting a genuine partnership between the public and private sectors, and among landlocked and transit developing countries and development partners. It also noted that landlocked developing countries required more consistent and expeditious Aid for Trade, in particular in the agricultural sector, in order to ensure increased and sustained competitiveness for the products of landlocked developing countries in the global market.

36. The Commission took note of the call by the Government of Mongolia for landlocked developing countries in the region to sign and ratify the Multilateral

---

<sup>158</sup> *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28-29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.*

<sup>159</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.



Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries.<sup>160</sup>

37. The Commission noted with appreciation the adoption of the Vientiane Consensus as contained in document E/ESCAP/69/1.

38. The Commission noted that, while some least developed countries and landlocked developing countries had made steady progress in their economic and social development with the assistance of development partners, those countries continued to face daunting challenges, such as those relating to food, fuel and the impact of climate change. It also noted that those countries would continue to rely on financial resources from the international community. Increasing those resources and improving access to them were priorities identified in both the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action)<sup>161</sup> and the Almaty Programme of Action.<sup>162</sup>

39. The Commission noted with appreciation the assistance that had been furnished by some countries, such as China and India, to least developed countries. The Commission also noted that market access issues for both landlocked developing countries and least developed countries, despite some progress having been achieved, were still a concern. Proactive actions by some developing countries in offering “duty-free, quota free” preferential treatment for goods from least developed countries and in facilitating their accession to the World Trade Organization should be part of the package developed at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, which would be held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013.

40. The Commission also noted with appreciation that a special fund of \$5 million had been set up by India for least developed countries to use over the next five years as a follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which had been held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2011.

41. The Commission noted the call of the Government of Bhutan for greater synergy between the various post-2015 and related mechanisms. The importance of a single and holistic development agenda, reflecting shared priorities through a transformative development agenda, was highlighted. The Commission urged that work be carried out on a new social contract for sustainable development in line with General Assembly resolution 65/309, which had been adopted unanimously in July 2011 and had placed “happiness” on the global agenda.

42. The Commission welcomed the close collaboration that existed between ESCAP and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. It recognized that such collaboration could only serve to strengthen the interests of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing

---

<sup>160</sup> The Agreement had been endorsed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries at their ninth Annual Meeting, on 24 September 2010 (see [www.unohrrls.org/en/orphan/782](http://www.unohrrls.org/en/orphan/782)).

<sup>161</sup> *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

<sup>162</sup> *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 (Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I).*

States by providing missing links between the national, regional and international levels.

43. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer from the Government of Turkey to host the midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2015.

44. The Commission also noted with appreciation the biennial review of the Istanbul Programme of Action as contained in document E/ESCAP/69/2.

45. The Commission adopted resolutions 69/2 on the final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region and 69/3 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on the Development Agenda beyond 2015.

46. While welcoming the support that had been expressed during the session for the challenges faced by least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and recognizing that those challenges needed to be given due consideration in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, and while acknowledging that the Bangkok Declaration addressed a number of important issues regarding their development, the delegation of the United States of America stated that it believed that the Bangkok Declaration included declarative language on the priorities and structure of the development agenda beyond 2015, and that that language was out of step with the early stage of those discussions and the emphasis on broad consultation and inclusivity in crafting the agenda, which member States and the Secretary-General had called for. The delegation did not regard the language in the Bangkok Declaration as assigning primacy to any one region or issue or in any other way prejudging the outcome of full intergovernmental negotiations on the development agenda beyond 2015.

47. The United States also did not believe that the Commission was the appropriate venue in which to make commitments on ODA or trade policies; FDI was inherently private and therefore was not appropriately subject to government-established targets. For those reasons, the United States could not welcome the Bangkok Declaration and disassociated itself from the resolution.

### **Agenda item 3**

#### **Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions**

48. The Commission had before it the subprogramme overview: issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/3) and the summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolution (E/ESCAP/69/4).

#### **Sub-item (a)**

##### **Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development**

49. In addition to the common documents that were being considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it the report of the Governing Council of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/69/5).

50. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Bangladesh; China; Fiji; India; Malaysia; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan; Russian Federation; and Thailand. In addition, the representative of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era delivered a statement.

51. The Commission was briefed on the macroeconomic performance, progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and development strategies of member countries. The delegation of Myanmar informed the Commission of the recent political and economic reforms in the country, which had led to increased engagement with international donors, thereby helping Myanmar to achieve its development goals.

52. The Commission noted the challenges to growth in the region that were emanating from the prolonged uncertain global environment and were due particularly to continued pressures on growth in the developed economies. It was observed that economic growth in the region had remained subdued owing to external factors, and there was a need to create new drivers of growth through inclusive and sustainable development.

53. The Commission underlined the importance of increasing intraregional cooperation to arrive at joint solutions to reinvigorate economic growth in the region. It noted that the ESCAP secretariat played a key role in coordinating a regional response to global challenges.

54. The Commission noted the implementation of macroeconomic policies to stimulate domestic demand in the face of a sluggish global economy. Monetary policy had been relaxed in some economies through, for example, lowering policy interest rates and statutory reserve ratios. On the fiscal side, income tax rates had been reduced and foreign investment restrictions eased to stimulate consumer spending and foreign investment. The Commission also took note of efforts to maintain fiscal stability in order to strengthen national ability to cope with external demand shocks through such measures as tax reforms.

55. The Commission noted the importance of forward-looking macroeconomic policies to promote sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth. It called for a rethinking to balance the costs that had been incurred during the current generation with the benefits to be accrued to future generations. It also noted the urgent need for conservation and regeneration of ecosystems and the natural resources required for sustainable economic growth.

56. The Commission underlined the need for reorienting the development paradigm to address extreme poverty through people-centred and environment-friendly policies. It noted that several countries in the region had made tremendous progress in reducing poverty, stating that stronger social protection and improved quality of growth could alleviate extreme poverty and reduce income inequality and social marginalization. The Commission emphasized the importance of mainstreaming gender issues into development.

57. The Commission also emphasized the need to orient macroeconomic policies to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It was observed that regarding the development agenda beyond 2015 lessons should be drawn from the experience with the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission noted the key role of ESCAP in facilitating consultations to ensure integration of national and regional priorities in ongoing regional and global processes towards formulation of the development agenda beyond 2015.

58. The Commission observed that development gains in several least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the region had been undermined by internal and external shocks. It was noted that the vulnerabilities of small island developing States were exacerbated by their geographical size, location, lack of access to global markets, inability to influence global prices and heavy reliance on imported food and fuel. In particular, the Commission observed that climate change impacts had increased over time due to changing weather patterns and rising sea levels, which were adversely affecting livelihoods and economic growth. The Commission also observed that several least

developed countries in the region were preparing strategies to graduate out of their current status. Several such countries had received financial support from development partners, but additional financial support would be needed to enable them to graduate out of least developed country status by 2020, as agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action. The Commission noted with appreciation the increased international development assistance of about \$500 million that had been provided by the Russian Federation in 2011.

59. The Commission stressed the importance of participation by all members and associate members in regional meetings on the development of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

60. The Commission stressed that the agricultural sector continued to play a major role for many economies in the region, yet it faced many challenges, including a high incidence of poverty, inadequate attention to the needs of women farmers, climate change and concerns over environmental sustainability. The Commission emphasized the need for providing continued support for sustainable agriculture. It commended the work of CAPSA and expressed appreciation to the Executive Secretary for having strengthened the Centre by providing it with human resources and other support.

61. The Commission requested continued facilitation by CAPSA of South-South cooperation in the areas of research, capacity-building and sharing of best practices for sustainable agriculture to boost agricultural productivity for food and nutritional security. The delegation of Thailand announced that it would co-organize training with CAPSA on policy analysis for sustainable agriculture in 2013 and would sponsor participation by other member States.

62. One delegation expressed concern over limited and stagnant support for the Centre, which had greatly limited expansion of its work; it recommended collaboration to increase funding for the Centre. The delegation urged ESCAP to consider seriously the CAPSA Governing Council's recommendation for creating a trust fund that could supply seed money to the Centre. The same delegation also suggested that the Centre should reach out to a larger number of donors for support.

63. The Commission generally endorsed the report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its ninth session.

64. The Commission adopted resolution 69/4 on the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015.

**Sub-item (b)**  
**Trade and investment**

65. In addition to the common documents that were being considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/69/6) and the report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/69/7).

66. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Afghanistan; Bangladesh; China; India; Malaysia; Nepal; and Russian Federation. Representatives of the World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME) and the ESCAP Business Advisory Council also made statements.

67. The Commission noted that, despite a global economic slowdown, trade and investment had played an essential role in maintaining the momentum of economic growth and reducing poverty in various economies of the Asia-Pacific region. In that

regard, two delegations supported a swift conclusion, with a balanced outcome, of the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations.

68. The Commission also noted that the landlocked and least developed countries in the region continued to face problems associated with geographic isolation and remoteness, and that swift and effective implementation by all stakeholders of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Almaty Programme of Action, with a focus on improving transit, market access, productive capacity, product and market diversification, and access to technology, would benefit those countries.

69. The Commission emphasized that South-South cooperation was important in promoting intraregional trade and investment. Various countries reported on the free trade agreements that they had signed or were in the process of negotiating, and expressed their satisfaction with the progress made under APTA, in particular the contribution of APTA to trade facilitation.

70. The Commission noted with appreciation plans to establish the Eurasian Economic Union by 2015, which would further strengthen and promote integration within the bounds of the Customs Union Single Economic Space of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation and in the Commonwealth of Independent States region as a whole.

71. Upon request, the secretariat informed the Commission that it would pursue the promotion of “green” business and trade and investment in green products and services under existing regional trade agreements, undertake analytical work on inclusive trade through various issues of the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report and expand the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Business Network which had been established within the framework of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council.

72. The Commission noted the importance of trade facilitation in promoting trade. In that regard, two delegations called on the secretariat to expand its technical assistance in that area, including on helping countries gain accession to the World Trade Organization, focusing on least developed countries.

73. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the activities of APCTT and CSAM in promoting South-South cooperation and the capacity-building of small and medium-sized enterprises, and called for continued support of those regional institutions. One delegation called on member States to enhance their financial contributions to APCTT in accordance with the benchmarks specified in the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its eighth session in 2012. Another delegation emphasized that, while recognizing the important roles that regional institutions were playing, financial contributions to the regional institutions should continue to be made on a voluntary basis; that delegation called for greater involvement of the private sector in providing the regional institutions with funding.

74. The Commission noted the need for promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization for enhancing food security and achieving environmental sustainability.

75. The Commission noted a statement from the representative of WASME, in which the representative highlighted the challenges faced by small and medium-sized enterprises and called for enhanced cooperation between WASME and ESCAP to effectively address the needs of such enterprises.

76. The Commission noted a statement from a representative of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council which highlighted the contribution made by the business sector through the Council to the work of ESCAP, including the organization of the annual Asia-Pacific Business Forum.

77. The Commission generally endorsed the reports of the Governing Councils of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on their eighth sessions.

78. The Commission adopted resolution 69/5 on the statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization.

**Sub-item (c)**  
**Transport**

79. In addition to the common documents that were being considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it: the report of the Committee on Transport on its third session (E/ESCAP/69/8); the finalized draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports (E/ESCAP/69/8/Add.1); and the note verbale dated 24 December 2012 from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Thailand addressed to the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/24).

80. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Bangladesh; China; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Thailand; and Turkey.

81. The Commission stressed the important role of transport in promoting inclusive and sustainable economic and social development and in promoting regional cooperation and integration.

82. The Commission expressed its support for the draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports. In that regard, the Commission noted that some countries had initiated domestic processes for signing the agreement. It also noted with appreciation the financial support furnished by the Government of the Russian Federation in the process of drafting and negotiating the agreement.

83. The representative of Turkey declared the intention of the Government not to consider itself bound by the provisions of article 13 relating to the reconciliation of the above-mentioned agreement.

84. The Commission was informed that the development of dry ports would usefully support the work that was being undertaken by the secretariat in developing the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks and would facilitate the realization of the vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system for the region.

85. In that regard, the Commission welcomed the continued support of member States for the work of the secretariat in the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016), including development of the Asian Highway network, Trans-Asian Railway network and the Joint Project on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages. It noted the request that had been made for the secretariat to connect the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks with the Arab Mashreq transport networks by working collaboratively with ESCWA. It also noted that the Government of Turkey was expected to complete its legislative process to become a party to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network.<sup>163</sup>

---

<sup>163</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2596, No. 46171.

86. The Commission noted the request of the delegation of Pakistan to organize a regional workshop in Pakistan on enhancing regional connectivity for South and South-West Asian countries.

87. The Commission also noted the importance of the secretariat's activities on improving transport efficiency, including reduction of cross-border and transit transport costs, simplification of technical formalities and elimination of bottlenecks and non-physical barriers along international transport corridors.

88. The Commission recognized that the regional network of legal and technical experts on transport facilitation, which was being established with the financial support of the Government of the Russian Federation, could contribute significantly to the facilitation of cross-border and transit transport.

89. The Commission noted the progress that had been achieved in the formulation of an agreement on the facilitation of international road transport by the Governments of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization; it was expected that the agreement would be signed in the near future.

90. The Commission acknowledged the efforts of some ESCAP member States to provide landlocked countries with access to maritime sea ports, through bilateral and multilateral transit agreements and intercountry cooperation for connectivity.

91. In the context of the final review of the Almaty Programme of Action, the Commission noted the suggestion of one delegation to define parameters to support further regional cooperation to integrate landlocked countries within the global economy. In that respect, the Commission expressed its appreciation for the support of the secretariat in having organized the Final Regional Review of the Almaty Programme of Action, which had been held in Vientiane in March 2013. The outcome of the meeting, the "Vientiane Consensus",<sup>164</sup> was expected to provide important guidelines for the development of seamless transport in landlocked countries.

92. The Commission was apprised of major investment projects that were being envisaged to improve transport infrastructure in the region, such as in India under the that country's twelfth five-year plan, in Papua New Guinea with the construction of several new highways to provide the rural population with accessibility, in Sri Lanka where all areas of the country were being connected and in Thailand with the construction of a number of high-speed rail lines and the creation of conditions for a modal shift to rail transport.

93. In taking into account the infrastructure investment needs of the region, the Commission noted the importance of attracting private investment and financing for the development of the transport sector, including through the public-private partnership modality.

94. It also took note of the progress that had been made under Commission resolution 64/4 on the implementation of the Seoul Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.<sup>165</sup>

95. Several delegates informed the Commission of recent and future public-private partnership projects for transport infrastructure, as well as steps taken to strengthen institutional support for such projects and to establish viability gap funding mechanisms. In that regard, the Commission noted with interest the offers of the Governments of India, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea to share their knowledge

---

<sup>164</sup> E/ESCAP/69/1, annex.

<sup>165</sup> See [www.unescap.org/ttdw/ppp/SeoulDeclarationonPPPs.html](http://www.unescap.org/ttdw/ppp/SeoulDeclarationonPPPs.html).

and experience in implementing public-private partnerships and requested the secretariat to continue to support activities in areas that required regional cooperation, such as the standardization of contracts, processes and procedures.

96. The Commission also welcomed the successful outcome of the High-level Expert Group Meeting on Infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Development and the Third Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development, which was held in Teheran in November 2012. The Commission was of the view that the provisions contained in the Tehran Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific<sup>166</sup> would serve as a guide for the secretariat's future work on public-private partnerships. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for the cooperation and technical support that the secretariat had provided in the organization of those events and expressed its hope that the promotion of public-private partnerships could be continued through the organization of the next Asia-Pacific ministerial conference on public-private partnerships.

97. Several delegations acknowledged the technical assistance, support and cooperation that they had received from the secretariat for the development of their transport infrastructure, which included feasibility studies of Asian Highway sections and capacity-building training workshops on public-private partnerships for infrastructure development, investment studies and the preparation of project proposals, as well as multimodal transport and logistics activities. The activities undertaken by the secretariat had facilitated the funding of projects by development banks and bilateral and multilateral donor agencies.

98. In noting that transport was central to sustainable development, the Commission welcomed the secretariat's continued work to promote a sustainable transport strategy that would enhance efficiency in trade and mobility.

99. The Commission noted the secretariat's plan to undertake a study on best practices in sustainable transport development and organize a joint seminar with the Korea Transport Institute and Korea Maritime Institute, with financial support from the Government of the Republic of Korea.

100. In recognizing the importance of road safety, the Commission noted with appreciation the secretariat's work in assisting member countries in preparing their national road safety strategy and action plan and in monitoring progress in road safety in line with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety, 2011-2020.<sup>167</sup> The delegation of India described the efforts of the country in raising the safety awareness of road users and the various other measures that India was using to reduce road accidents and road traffic deaths.

101. The Commission recognized that good infrastructure and efficient transport connectivity were necessary for development and poverty alleviation, and that those factors contributed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It noted in particular that good accessibility was an enabler for the delivery of public social services to rural people and enabled subsistence-based village economies to increase their specialization in goods and services through wider access to markets.

102. The Commission generally endorsed the report of the Committee on Transport on its third session.

---

<sup>166</sup> See [www.unescap.org/ttdw/ppp/ppp-Iran2012/Tehran-Declaration-Final-Nov2012.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/ttdw/ppp/ppp-Iran2012/Tehran-Declaration-Final-Nov2012.pdf).

<sup>167</sup> For context, see General Assembly resolution 64/255.



103. The Commission adopted resolutions 69/6 on implementation of the Tehran Declaration to promote public-private partnerships in infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development and 69/7 on the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports.

104. The Commission decided that, as the second session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport was scheduled to be held in Bangkok from 4 to 8 November 2013, a signing ceremony for the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports should be held during that event.

**Sub-item (d)**  
**Environment and development**

105. In addition to the common documents that were being considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it two information documents: the report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (E/ESCAP/69/INF/3); and the report of the Mekong River Commission (E/ESCAP/69/INF/4).

106. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: China; India; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; and Thailand.

107. The Commission highlighted its important regional role in following up on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.<sup>159</sup> It noted that the Commission was providing the most comprehensive and inclusive regional forum in Asia and the Pacific that was promoting balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. One delegation noted that the secretariat should collaborate with relevant international agencies, such as the United Nations Environment Programme.

108. In formulating concrete responses to the outcomes of the Conference, one delegation highlighted particular challenges faced by developing countries, such as a lack of access to affordable technologies, human and institutional capacity and other resources that were needed in order to achieve sustainable development. One delegation also highlighted the particular need for assistance in bridging the global agenda and ensuring sustainable development in the region. Several delegations reaffirmed the importance of a people-centred approach, with poverty eradication and improved livelihoods as priorities. In that regard, the Commission was further reminded of the Rio Principles as set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, that had been adopted in 1992,<sup>168</sup> and in particular Principle 6 on common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as Agenda 21<sup>169</sup> and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation).<sup>170</sup> Several delegations also noted the importance of such agreements in contributing towards achieving relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

109. The delegation of the Russian Federation noted that regional commissions had an important role to play in supporting member States in the development of regional strategies and plans, as well as in their national implementation, while ensuring that the

---

<sup>168</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I. *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>169</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>170</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

regional actions were in alignment with global agreements on sustainable development goals.

110. The Commission was informed of national initiatives to promote inclusive and sustainable growth in member countries. Among them were initiatives of India, including its twelfth five-year plan in which sustainability was mainstreamed as the primary goal and the key role of investment in natural capital was highlighted, the National Clean Energy Fund, the National Action Plan on Climate Change and a programme for “greening” rural development; national programmes of Sri Lanka that were aimed at increasing forest cover, reducing carbon emissions and protecting water sheds and catchments; and the twelfth five-year plan of China.

111. The Russian Federation expressed its gratitude to member States for having entrusted it to be the host for the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, the first ministerial-level forum on energy under the auspices of the Commission. The draft outcome documents of the regional preparatory meeting had identified the great potential for regional cooperation to enhance energy security in Asia and the Pacific. Member States were urged to send high-level delegations to the Forum, which would be held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, from 27 to 30 May 2013.

112. One delegation highlighted the importance of the work of the secretariat in promoting regional cooperation in the area of sustainable urban development and expressed gratitude to the secretariat for its work related to the sustainable urban infrastructure development project in Central Asia.

113. Several areas of work were suggested by a number of delegations as priority issues to be considered by the Committee on Environment and Development at its forthcoming session. One delegation suggested the following as potential priority issues: transboundary pollution (haze, water and hazardous waste); disasters resulting from climate change (drought, flood and pandemic diseases); sustainable city management in relation to growing urbanization in the region; and the need for a tailored approach to green growth and sustainable consumption and production depending on country-specific situations and levels of development. One delegation also emphasized the importance of the water-energy-food nexus, along with land use, and stressed the need to examine the balance between land use, food, energy and water security.

114. In highlighting the impact of climate change as a key challenge, one delegation underlined the need for providing international support for national actions having transboundary benefits.

115. The Commission adopted resolutions 69/8 on enhancing knowledge-sharing and cooperation in integrated water resources management in Asia and the Pacific and 69/9 on the implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme towards voluntary follow-up to the Rio+20 outcome “The future we want”.

**Sub-item (e)**  
**Information and communications technology**

116. In addition to the common documents that were being considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology on its third session (E/ESCAP/69/9) and the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/69/10).

117. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Thailand; and Turkey.

118. The Commission expressed its support for ESCAP to serve as an intergovernmental platform of cooperation on information and communications technology (ICT), including through the work of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology.

119. In that regard, the Commission commended the ongoing activities of the secretariat towards the creation of a seamless regional information and communications space and expressed support for the secretariat's policy research work and mapping of the Asian information superhighway aimed at analysing infrastructure gaps, policy frameworks and financing for ICT connectivity. It requested all countries to support that programme and encouraged the secretariat to continue its cooperation with other agencies, including the International Telecommunication Union.

120. The Commission recognized the crucial role that ICT played in the achievement of a knowledge-based society and in promoting sustainable and inclusive development. It also took note of the essential role that ICT played in facilitating disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific, notably in the dissemination of early warning information and communications and in providing communications through satellite facilities in emergency situations.

121. The Commission recognized that, while progress was being made towards attainment of goals that had been established by the World Summit on the Information Society,<sup>171</sup> there were growing concerns that the digital divide in new and emerging technologies was widening. The Commission was of the view that strengthening ICT connectivity in the region was fundamental to bridging the digital divide and achieving ICT-driven investment.

122. It also recognized the need to collect and analyse statistical information as a means of identifying factors critical for creating an ICT-enabled society and expressed support for the work of the secretariat under partnerships on ICT, including capacity-building.

123. The Commission was informed of major national initiatives that were under implementation, which included promoting multidimensional access to ICT, particularly broadband Internet in rural and unconnected areas, the deployment of e-government and m-government which enabled online and mobile-based transactions and increased the speed, transparency and effectiveness in the delivery of public services, including in rural and underprivileged areas. The Commission also took note of the growing importance of ICT in education, health, the promotion of equal opportunities, including for people with disabilities, the policy framework developed for mobile governance, the multi-stakeholder interests of social media and guidelines developed for government agencies on the use of social media.

124. The Commission noted with appreciation the funding provided by the Russian Federation for policy analysis and the development of a map on the information superhighway in North and Central Asia in support of the secretariat's efforts on mapping the regional information superhighway.

125. The delegation of Thailand informed the Commission that the country would host the Connect Asia-Pacific Summit in Bangkok on 18 November 2013 and expressed its hope of welcoming other member countries on that occasion.

126. The Government of Turkey announced its availability to share its experiences and best practices regarding ICT within the framework of the ESCAP programme of work on ICT.

---

<sup>171</sup> See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

127. The Commission expressed strong appreciation and support for the work of APCICT. The Commission noted the Centre's participatory and collaborative approach to building the ICT capacities of government officials and policymakers, as well as youth and students, in the region. It took note of the partnership between Governments and APCICT in implementing the Centre's flagship capacity-building programmes on ICT for development (ICTD), namely the "Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders" and "Turning Today's Youth into Tomorrow's Leaders". The Commission noted that those partnerships had led to the delivery of trainings and workshops that contributed to building the ICTD skills and competencies of government officials, students and youth.

128. The Commission noted that the Academy had been customized to address the needs of chief information officers in Governments and was being used in national e-governance trainings. To meet the increasing demand from other regions, a collaborative programme between the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Inter-American Development Bank was also being developed to make the Centre's successful programmes available in Latin American countries. The Centre's knowledge-sharing initiatives and its online training platform, namely the APCICT Virtual Academy, were also noted by the Commission.

129. Several delegations recommended greater institutionalization of the Centre's programmes and development of new training modules that addressed the needs of new target groups. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the members of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and the Centre itself, and conveyed its continued support for the work of the Centre in the years ahead.

130. The Commission generally endorsed the report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology on its third session.

131. The Commission generally endorsed the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its seventh session.

132. The Commission adopted resolutions 69/10 on promoting regional information and communications technology connectivity and building knowledge-networked societies in Asia and the Pacific and 69/11 on implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017.

**Sub-item (f)**  
**Disaster risk reduction**

133. In addition to the common documents that were being considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it two information documents: the report of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/69/INF/5) and the report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/69/INF/6).

134. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Malaysia; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; and Thailand. The representative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) also delivered a statement.

135. The Commission noted with concern that the Asia-Pacific region continued to be the most disaster-prone region in the world. It observed that disasters seriously undermined inclusive and sustainable development, especially in least developed countries. The Commission recommended that building resilience to disasters needed to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of sustainable

development and poverty eradication and should be integrated into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels of government.

136. The Commission also emphasized the important role of regional cooperation in addressing disaster risks. One delegation emphasized that activities of the secretariat should also focus on setting up a regional platform for disaster risk reduction, as well as complementing global efforts undertaken by UNISDR.

137. The Commission expressed appreciation for the role played by the secretariat in the area of disaster risk reduction and the assistance it provided to the national efforts of member States in disaster risk reduction and in implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.<sup>172</sup>

138. The Commission emphasized the important role of ICT and space technology applications for disaster risk management and commended the efforts of the secretariat in providing countries affected by disasters with satellite information. The Commission also expressed its appreciation for the secretariat's work on developing a compendium of regional space capacity to better understand capacity gaps and needs. It highlighted the importance of regional cooperation initiatives, such as the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific and Sentinel Asia, and called for further strengthening of regional collaboration and capacity in the use of space applications for disaster risk reduction, management and sustainable development.

139. The Commission expressed support for the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Years of Action for Applications of Space Technology and the Geographic Information System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017.

140. The Commission recognized the need for creating a culture of risk assessment, promoting risk awareness and education for prevention and mitigation and designing compensation strategies before the occurrence of a major disaster. It noted the role of the private sector in disaster risk reduction and the potential for public-private partnerships in that area, along with other potential innovative risk reduction financing mechanisms. One delegation noted the importance of integrated river basin management for disaster prevention and preparedness and proposed that a regional disaster emergency response team be established for providing emergency aid and relief.

141. The Commission underlined the importance of enhancing the implementation of disaster risk reduction at the local level as part of the strategy for building resilience, as had been agreed in the Yogyakarta Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and Pacific 2012,<sup>173</sup> which had been adopted at the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from 22 to 25 October 2012. The Commission requested that the recommendations of the Declaration be incorporated into policies, strategies and action plans.

142. Several delegations informed the Commission of national initiatives, such as the development of strategies and policies to address disaster risk reduction in a holistic manner, the establishment of appropriate institutions, the promotion of local action and stakeholder participation, risk reduction financing and investment for disaster risk reduction, the establishment of specific standards and building codes and the utilization of ICT for disaster risk management.

---

<sup>172</sup> A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

<sup>173</sup> See <http://5thamcdrr-indonesia.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/00-Yogyakarta-Declaration.pdf>.

143. The representative of Cambodia informed the Commission that the country had hosted the Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Forum in February 2013 to discuss inputs for the post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction and thanked the secretariat for the technical assistance it had furnished to the National Committee for Disaster Management. The delegation of Cambodia also requested further technical assistance from the secretariat for improving disaster risk reduction, particularly as it related to early warning systems and the transfer of technology for disaster risk reduction.

144. The delegation of Japan informed the Commission that the country had hosted the World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku, Japan, on 3 and 4 July 2012 and would host the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015. In that regard, Japan requested support for the forthcoming conference from other member States.

145. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed appreciation to the secretariat for its support, guidance and advisory services in implementing Commission resolution 67/4 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management. The delegation also reported that the Government had already allocated the budget necessary and put into place the necessary administrative set up for establishing the centre.

146. The representative of Bangladesh informed the Commission that the country was in the process of establishing units for damage, loss and needs assessment and for multi-hazard risk and vulnerability assessment, and requested technical support for producing exchangeable data and information on disaster impacts, losses and needs for recovery and reconstruction.

147. The representative of UNISDR informed the Commission on progress of consultations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction on disaster and development. The work that had been undertaken in collaboration with the secretariat pertaining to the preparation of the Asia-Pacific Disaster Report and the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was recognized. The Commission was also informed of future plans, such as for the next Asian ministerial conference on disaster risk reduction to be held in Thailand in 2014, and UNISDR expressed its commitment to consult with Governments and other stakeholders on the post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework.

148. The Commission adopted resolution 69/12 on enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific.

**Sub-item (g)**  
**Social development**

149. In addition to the common documents that were being considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it the report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (E/ESCAP/69/11) and the report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012 (E/ESCAP/69/12).

150. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: China; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kiribati; Mongolia; Nepal; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; and Thailand.

151. Regarding the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, the representative of Kiribati delivered a joint statement on behalf of itself, as well as the Governments of Fiji and Samoa. Similarly, the representative of Thailand delivered a joint statement on behalf of itself, as well as the

Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and the Philippines. On the same matter, the representative of the Central Asian Disability Forum delivered a joint statement on behalf of 18 civil society organizations.

152. The Commission reaffirmed the importance of the social development subprogramme, particularly in regional efforts to reduce poverty and promote inclusive and sustainable development.

153. The Commission commended the secretariat for its successful implementation of the social development subprogramme, which had enhanced the importance of social development in the Commission's work to be on par with that of economic development.

154. The Commission welcomed the progress that had been achieved by members and associate members in implementing a range of social development policies and programmes. Those included programmes to address issues concerning ageing, disability, gender, youth, education, employment creation, social protection and poverty reduction.

155. The Commission noted that the above-mentioned efforts had contributed to supporting achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The Commission stressed the centrality of social development in the development agenda beyond 2015 for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development.

156. The Commission noted the importance of building an inclusive society by closely linking social development issues with measures that stimulated and expanded employment, in particular for women and youth, through sound macroeconomic policies. Several delegations also stressed the importance of revitalizing economic growth by strengthening the workforce through health, education and capacity-building measures, including the establishment of employment-related legislation and regulations.

157. The Commission noted the successful completion of the second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, and the successful implementation by members and associate members 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>174</sup> and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific<sup>175</sup> during that decade.

158. The Commission welcomed the successful convening of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, which had been hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea, in Incheon, from 29 October to 2 November 2012. The Commission noted that the substantive outcome of the High-level Meeting, namely the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022,<sup>176</sup> and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, would give new impetus to regional cooperation concerning the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>177</sup>

---

<sup>174</sup> E/ESCAP/APDDP/4/Rev.1 (see also Commission resolution 59/3).

<sup>175</sup> E/ESCAP/APDDP(2)/2 (see also Commission resolution 64/8).

<sup>176</sup> See ST/ESCAP/2648.

<sup>177</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

and consideration be given to the incorporation of disability concerns into the development agenda beyond 2015. It also noted that the Incheon Strategy, with its 10 goals, 27 targets and 62 indicators, provided the Asian and Pacific region and the world with the first set of regionally agreed disability-inclusive development goals. For the first time, the Asian and Pacific region would be in a position to track progress towards improving the quality of life and the fulfilment of the rights of the region's 650 million persons with disabilities.

159. The Government of the Republic of Korea expressed its deep appreciation for the active and high-level participation of Governments of the ESCAP membership in the 2012 Incheon High-level Intergovernmental Meeting.

160. The Government of the Republic of Korea informed the Commission that it would be sponsoring a resolution on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy.

161. The Government of Japan pledged to continue supporting the secretariat's work on disability through the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund.

162. The Commission welcomed the commitment expressed by Governments and civil society organizations that would serve in the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, for the effective implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy.

163. Many delegations expressed their appreciation to the secretariat for its instrumental role on disability issues over the past two decades and its successful organization of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting at Incheon in 2012.

164. The Commission also noted the strong appreciation expressed by 18 civil society organizations for the secretariat's effective facilitation of an inclusive, multi-year consultation process in the lead-up to the 2012 Incheon High-level Intergovernmental Meeting, including the preparation of the Incheon Strategy.

165. Several delegations called upon all ESCAP members and associate members to work towards achieving disability-inclusive development, with emphasis on promoting the participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making. Some delegations reported on their new policies and programmes to further promote disability-inclusive development and the realization of disability rights. Those included the harmonization of national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, formulation of plans and policies in line with a national plan on the empowerment of persons with disabilities, the establishment of a national sign language and training centre and issuance of guidelines on making all government websites accessible.

166. The Government of Thailand informed the Commission that it would organize, in collaboration with the Government of Australia, ESCAP and the World Bank, a regional consultation, entitled "The Way Forward: Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on a Disability-Inclusive Development Agenda towards 2015 and Beyond", to be held in Bangkok on 15 and 16 May 2013. The outcome of the regional consultation and the Incheon Strategy would be the ESCAP region's contribution to the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and Other Internationally Agreed Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities, which would be held in New York on 23 September 2013. The outcome of the September 2013 High-level Meeting would serve as a critical input on disability-inclusive development to the global process in shaping the development agenda beyond 2015.

167. The Commission emphasized the importance of timely policy responses to the unprecedented pace of the demographic transition towards an ageing society and its socioeconomic implications in much of the Asian and Pacific region.



168. Several delegations informed the Commission of the progress that had been made in addressing the rights of older persons through the establishment of legislative frameworks and the implementation of a range of policies and programmes. Among those were fiscal schemes to support older persons, including microcredit, national savings and community-based funds, special subsidies and tax-based schemes; social protection systems, including universal pension schemes and health-care services for older persons; national plans and policies for older persons; integration of issues related to older persons, particularly older women, into national development planning; and involvement of local governments, communities and civil society organizations in the provision of care services for older persons.

169. The Commission noted that, despite the progress that had been made, many challenges remained in addressing the concerns of older persons, including the need to strengthen social protection systems and pension coverage in many parts of the region. Some delegations stressed the need for strengthened health-care services and social protection schemes to protect the rights of older persons.

170. The delegation of Mongolia expressed interest in increasing cooperation with ESCAP on population ageing and disability issues, including through projects on the impact of ageing, as well as strengthening the availability and quality of social services and continuing education for older persons.

171. The Commission welcomed the successful convening of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Bangkok from 10 to 12 September 2012.

172. In noting that more than 60 per cent of the world's youth lived in Asia and the Pacific, the Commission recognized the importance of fully integrating youth perspectives into national development, strengthening investments in youth and enhancing their participation in economic, social and political processes. Several delegations emphasized that youth had the potential to boost sustainable economic development, including by contributing to labour force growth and entrepreneurship. To reap those benefits, however, the right combination of education, employment and health policies would be required.

173. The Commission highlighted the central role of education in shaping a competitive and productive workforce. One delegation reported on its achievements in meeting the goal of universal primary education. Some delegations reported on their efforts to improve the quality of their education systems. Those delegations stressed that education systems needed a balanced focus on academic pursuits and sports, as well as cultural and spiritual development.

174. The Commission noted the specific efforts of some ESCAP members to facilitate young people's school-to-work transition and reduce their unemployment. Some delegations indicated that they had increased their technical skills training and stepped up efforts to build their human resources base and had introduced loan programmes for unemployed youth.

175. The Commission recognized that healthy lifestyles set the foundation for an active and productive life. One delegation highlighted the role of health education in reducing high-risk behaviour among youth, such as the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and drugs. Another delegation emphasized that policies to address youth health concerns should be based on solid evidence, including data disaggregated by the groups affected. The Commission also noted the importance of protecting the reproductive health rights of youth and removing legal and social barriers that discriminated against pregnant adolescents and prevented their access to education and to essential services.

176. In noting the complex challenges that youth in the region faced, the Commission requested the secretariat to intensify its work on youth and to accord higher priority to youth development in its programme of work.

177. The Commission emphasized the significance of gender equality and women's empowerment for social development across a range of critical issues, including poverty reduction, employment creation, social protection, health and education. Several delegations reported on national policies and country programmes to address the gender-differentiated impact of emerging social and economic challenges in the Asian and Pacific region.

178. The Commission accorded priority to advancing women's economic empowerment, particularly through entrepreneurship. In commending the secretariat's efforts to promote women's economic participation, the delegation of China informed the Commission of its support in hosting the ESCAP Regional Forum on Creating an Enabling Environment for Women's Economic Empowerment through Entrepreneurship in Asia and the Pacific, which had been held in Beijing on 17 and 18 April 2013.

179. The Commission noted the importance of mainstreaming gender perspectives into all development policies and programmes, and the good practice of conducting gender budgeting training for government officials at national and local levels. One delegation highlighted the secretariat's efforts in preventing violence against women and, in that regard, commended the secretariat for its support of member States.

180. The Commission emphasized the importance of strengthening social protection as a core strategy for building sustainable, inclusive and resilient societies. It emphasized the need to extend coverage to women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and other groups. Several delegations expressed their commitment to establishing legislative frameworks and provisions for social protection, as well as to poverty reduction, by extending pension coverage to those living in rural areas. Some delegations reported on progress in enhancing social protection systems, including income support, social pensions, tax breaks, food security schemes and the provision of health care, particularly for women and youth.

181. The Commission noted the importance of ensuring access to affordable and high-quality health-care services, in both rural and urban areas, for all population groups.

182. The delegation of Thailand informed the Commission of its experience in promoting universal health-care coverage as a means of reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

183. The delegation of Thailand proposed the development and implementation of a regional strategy for achieving universal health-care coverage in the Asian and Pacific region. Such a strategy should take into consideration the following five major concerns: (a) long-term financial sustainability; (b) a comprehensive benefit package consisting of health promotion, disease prevention and rehabilitation, with minimum co-payment; (c) a sound governance structure involving all partners, including patient groups, providers, relevant ministries and academia; (d) the availability of good-quality health service infrastructure and human resources; and (e) timely and accurate health information for monitoring progress.

184. In recalling the proclamation by the General Assembly of 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives,<sup>178</sup> the delegation of Mongolia informed the

---

<sup>178</sup> See General Assembly resolution 64/136.

Commission of its active role in promoting cooperatives and its interest in collaborating with other member States and with international organizations to support the cooperative movement.

185. The representative of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS informed the Commission of progress that had been made in relation to commitments arising from ESCAP resolutions 66/10 and 67/9 and the 2012 Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Assessment of Progress against Commitments in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals. The representative informed the Commission that a consultation on creating conducive policy and legal environments for achieving universal access to HIV treatment, care and support covering seven Pacific island countries had been held in Fiji in April 2013, and that a further eight national consultations covering countries in Asia were planned. The integration of HIV and AIDS into the development agenda beyond 2015 could be achieved by highlighting the importance of access to good-quality and affordable health services and essential medicines; eliminating discrimination; ensuring greater accountability and transparency; and formulating time-bound and measurable objectives.

186. The Commission noted with appreciation the generous financial support of the Governments of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, as well as Macao, China, for the work of the secretariat in the field of social development.

187. The Commission endorsed the report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012,<sup>179</sup> which had been held at Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 29 October to 2 November 2012, including the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

188. The Commission decided that the following 15 member States and 15 civil society organizations would serve as the first 30 members of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, for the initial term, spanning the period 2013 to 2017:

- (a) Member States:<sup>180</sup>
  - (i) Bangladesh;
  - (ii) Bhutan;
  - (iii) China;
  - (iv) Fiji;
  - (v) India;
  - (vi) Indonesia;
  - (vii) Japan;
  - (viii) Kiribati and Samoa share a seat (Samoa: first 2.5 years; Kiribati: second 2.5 years);
  - (ix) Malaysia;
  - (x) Mongolia;
  - (xi) Pakistan;
  - (xii) Philippines;
  - (xiii) Republic of Korea;
  - (xiv) Russian Federation;

---

<sup>179</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/12.

<sup>180</sup> The Commission also decided that the Government of Myanmar would serve as an observer in the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, for the initial term, spanning the period 2013-2017.

- (xv) Thailand.
- (b) Civil society organizations:<sup>181</sup>
  - (i) Asia and Pacific Disability Forum;
  - (ii) Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability;
  - (iii) ASEAN Disability Forum;
  - (iv) Asia-Pacific DPO United;
  - (v) Central Asia Disability Forum;
  - (vi) South Asian Disability Forum;
  - (vii) Pacific Disability Forum;
  - (viii) Disabled People's International Asia-Pacific;
  - (ix) Inclusion International Asia-Pacific Regional Forum;
  - (x) World Blind Union Asia-Pacific;
  - (xi) World Federation of the Deaf Regional Secretariat in Asia and the Pacific;
  - (xii) World Federation of the Deafblind Asia and the Pacific;
  - (xiii) World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry;
  - (xiv) Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) Consortium;
  - (xv) Rehabilitation International Asia-Pacific Region.

189. The Commission endorsed the report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, including the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific Review of the Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

190. The Commission adopted resolutions 69/13 on implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific and 69/14 on implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

191. The delegation of the United States welcomed efforts by member States to advance the well-being of older persons in the Asia-Pacific region. The delegation recognized that the Bangkok statement addressed a number of important issues regarding ageing and broadly supported many of the proposed actions outlined in it. However, the delegation felt that the Bangkok statement would have benefited from taking into account the different situations and needs of various States. Although the United States had not signed the Bangkok statement and could not endorse it in its entirety, it welcomed efforts of member States in supporting ongoing initiatives to address the genuine needs of older persons in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Sub-item (h)**  
**Statistics**

192. In addition to the common documents that were being considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it three documents: the report of the Committee on Statistics on its third session (E/ESCAP/69/13); the report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/14); and the outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/69/26).

---

<sup>181</sup> The Commission also decided that the following three civil society organizations would serve as observers in the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, for the initial term, spanning the period 2013-2017: (a) ASEAN Autism Network; (b) Christian Blind Mission; and (c) Community-based Rehabilitation Asia-Pacific Network.

193. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Australia; India; Japan; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Thailand; and Turkey.

194. The Commission emphasized the critical importance of statistics in laying the foundation for effective public policy and planning that underpinned the provision of many essential services. Furthermore, the Commission stressed the importance of statistical capacity-building and the potential of strong regional cooperation and urged member States to give priority to statistics development.

195. The Commission, while having expressed its support for the report of the Committee on Statistics on its third session (E/ESCAP/69/13), emphasized the importance of effective implementation of its decisions and recommendations.

196. The Commission, in referring to the two strategic goals for statistics development for Asia and the Pacific, expressed its full support for regional initiatives in improving the following: population and social statistics; economic statistics; agricultural and rural statistics; environment statistics; civil registration and vital statistics; the modernization of official statistics; and regional coordination of statistical training.

197. Several delegations noted the active roles that they had played in the advisory, steering and technical groups that oversaw and led the various regional initiatives of the Committee.

198. The Commission recognized the challenges that were faced by less developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in providing the high levels of investment required for statistical development and called upon the international community to support such efforts.

199. The Commission noted that the secretariat had been particularly productive and successful in promoting statistics development in the region, and that the analyses contained in the *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2012*<sup>182</sup> and the *Asia-Pacific MDG Report 2011/12*<sup>183</sup> were very relevant and of high quality.

200. The Commission emphasized that well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems were a prerequisite for exercising good governance, safeguarding the rights of citizens and developing and implementing health programmes. As such, civil registration and statistical systems were among the fundamental building blocks for achieving inclusive and sustainable development.

201. The Commission complimented the innovative approach taken by the Committee on Statistics in developing a core set of population and social statistics and emphasized its role as a guide for capacity-building in Asia and the Pacific.

202. The Commission emphasized the importance of further work to develop national capacities for the production and dissemination of environment statistics. One delegation noted the need to link such efforts to the international dialogue on sustainable development, and the importance of aligning related terminology with internationally agreed language, as reflected in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.<sup>159</sup>

---

<sup>182</sup> ST/ESCAP/2647.

<sup>183</sup> *Asia-Pacific Regional MDG Report 2011/12: Accelerating Equitable Achievement of the MDGs – Closing gaps in health and nutrition outcomes*. Available from [www.unescap.org/pdd/calendar/CSN-MDG-NewDelhi-Nov-2011/MDG-Report2011-12.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/pdd/calendar/CSN-MDG-NewDelhi-Nov-2011/MDG-Report2011-12.pdf).

203. The Commission noted with appreciation the support of the Russian Federation in implementing the regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics through the provision of funding for related technical cooperation activities in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

204. The Commission acknowledged the importance and effectiveness of the training provided by SIAP in increasing statistical capacity in the region and pledged continued support for the Institute. In that regard the Commission stressed the importance and benefits of cooperation between statistical training institutes and expansion of Internet-based learning courses, as recommended by the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific during its eighth session.

205. The Commission stressed the importance of increasing cash and in-kind contributions to the Institute and welcomed the intention of Thailand to increase its annual cash contribution from \$20,000 to \$30,000 and the intention expressed by Mongolia to host the Institute's management seminar in 2014. The representative of the Republic of Korea informed the Commission of the country's ongoing collaboration with the Institute in co-hosting regional training courses.

206. The Commission noted with appreciation that Japan, the host Government of the Institute, had maintained its cash contribution for fiscal year 2013 at the same level as in the previous fiscal year despite its serious financial condition, and that its in-kind contributions had maintained the high quality of the Institute's training facilities.

207. Several delegations informed the Commission of their intention to seek election to the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and sought the Commission's support in that regard. In addition to the host country, Japan, the following eight countries were elected to the Governing Council for the period 2013-2016: Australia; China; India; Indonesia; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; and Thailand.

208. The Commission generally endorsed the report of the Committee on Statistics on its third session.

209. The Commission also generally endorsed the report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its eighth session.

210. The Commission adopted resolutions 69/15 on implementing the outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and 69/16 on a core set of population and social statistics to guide national capacity development in Asia and the Pacific.

**Sub-item (i)**  
**Subregional activities for development**

211. In addition to the common documents that were being considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/69/15).

**East and North-East Asia**

212. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: China; Japan; Kazakhstan; Republic of Korea; and Russian Federation.

213. The Commission noted the contribution of the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia through its activities in support of inclusive and sustainable development and subregional integration. It also noted the role of the Office in facilitating the 17th Senior Officials Meeting of the North-East Asian Subregional

Programme for Environmental Cooperation, which was held in Chengdu, China, on 21 and 22 December 2012, during which tangible results had been achieved.

214. The Commission was briefed on the Office's plans to organize the second Youth Forum in August 2013 in Vladivostok, Russian Federation. In that regard, the delegation of the Russian Federation confirmed its support for holding the Forum.

215. In noting the planned final review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its subsidiary structure, pursuant to its resolutions 64/1 and 67/15, the Commission recognized the need to further strengthen coordination between the subregional offices and the substantive divisions of the secretariat. The Commission also noted a request to continue close and regular communication through established procedures.

216. The Commission noted the importance of promoting green initiatives and trade facilitation and requested the Office to continue to play an important role in deepening subregional cooperation in those areas through capacity-building programmes and other activities.

217. The delegation of Japan expressed its support for the activities of the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia and stated that it would continue to cooperate and collaborate with the Office.

#### **North and Central Asia**

218. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Kazakhstan; and Russian Federation.

219. The Commission noted that the activities of the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia should be aligned with the outcomes of United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to better address the needs of member States in accordance with the mandate of the secretariat.

220. The Commission noted that the Office had successfully implemented a number of projects as well as carried out various activities related to subregion-specific development priorities. It also noted that the Office had built two-way linkages between ESCAP headquarters and member States, established working relations with sectoral ministries and governmental organizations and forged partnerships with financial institutions and intergovernmental organizations based in North and Central Asia.

221. The delegation of the Russian Federation requested the Office to increase its efforts to establish closer cooperation and collaboration with the Eurasian Economic Commission and expressed its readiness to facilitate the efforts of the Office in that endeavour.

222. The delegation of Kazakhstan expressed its deep appreciation to the Executive Secretary for accepting the invitation to participate in the sixth Astana Economic Forum, which would be held in Astana from 22 to 24 May 2013, and for organizing the secretariat's session during that event.

223. The Commission noted that the Office had implemented the first phase of the project on the economic and social recovery of Afghanistan, which had been focused on the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and creation of additional jobs. The Commission also noted that two specific projects related to the safety assessment of small hydro technical installations and the strengthening of cooperation for disaster risk reduction in Central Asia were planned for implementation in 2013 with financial support from the Russian Federation.

224. The Commission noted that the Office had coordinated the activities of SPECA, which was supported by ESCAP and the Economic Commission for Europe and covered five Central Asian economies, as well as Afghanistan and Azerbaijan.

225. The delegation of Kazakhstan highlighted priority areas for potential close cooperation to implement regional dimensions of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, including the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, South-South and triangular cooperation activities financed by the newly established national agency for official development assistance, KazAID, as well as regional and subregional cooperation on the water-energy-land nexus.

226. The Commission expressed appreciation for the Office's initiative to regularly publish the electronic newsletter *North and Central Asian Observer*.

227. The Commission noted the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its seventh session.

### **The Pacific**

228. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Fiji; and Marshall Islands.

229. The Commission was informed of the activities of the secretariat in the Pacific, through the ESCAP Pacific Office, in support of the Executive Secretary's call for a new narrative and mindset and the Secretary-General's Oceans Compact to acknowledge and manage the Pacific Ocean as a great regional and global commons. The secretariat's work in support of Pacific island member States included identifying opportunities for possible application of the green economy approach, assessment of the value of social assets, such as gender equality, and support for energy security and migration with dignity in response to climate change.

230. The Commission was informed that global warming, extreme weather events and rising sea level were problems of global proportions that were leading to the potential for the total demise of economies, cultures and nations in the Pacific. In that connection, the Commission noted with appreciation the work of the secretariat in co-organizing the forthcoming Pacific preparatory meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which would be held in July 2013. The conference itself, which would be held in Apia in 2014, included as one of its objectives the development of input from small island developing States for the development agenda beyond 2015.

231. The delegation of the Marshall Islands expressed its concern over the unique needs of Pacific small island developing States being lost in the wider context of the Asia-Pacific region. The delegation also noted that the decisions made by the General Assembly and United Nations system in New York often did not adequately reach the subregional and national levels in the Pacific. The delegation urged the United Nations system in the Pacific to continue to strengthen system-wide approaches and partnerships as well as the United Nations in-country presence. In that connection, the 2012 joint statement of the Secretary-General and Pacific Islands Forum Leaders<sup>184</sup> provided valuable outlines and roles for cooperation in the Pacific. The delegation also expressed support for the identification and mainstreaming of strategies to assist small island developing States in developing their national capacity to conserve, sustainably manage and realize the benefits of sustainable fisheries as called for in the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

---

<sup>184</sup> See [www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/sg2191.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/sg2191.doc.htm).



232. The Commission adopted resolution 69/17 on sustainable management, conservation and use of ocean resources for the development of Asia-Pacific small island developing States.

#### **South and South-West Asia**

233. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Afghanistan; Bangladesh; India; Nepal; and Pakistan.

234. The Commission noted that the work of the Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia covered analytical undertakings, policy advocacy, technical assistance and capacity-building activities pertaining to inclusive growth and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, connectivity and regional economic integration, regional cooperation for food and energy security and disaster risk reduction, and implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Almaty Programme of Action for the subregion's least developed and landlocked developing countries.

235. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the work of the Office, and its many activities, including the two capacity-building workshops organized to assist Afghanistan in its bid for accession to the World Trade Organization, high-level policy dialogues on regional economic cooperation and integration, and important consultations on the following: regional cooperation for energy security; women's entrepreneurship; regional value chains for inclusive development of South Asia; and the development agenda beyond 2015.

236. The Commission also noted the importance of managing and advancing the subregional process in a comprehensive, balanced and all-encompassing manner. A wider scope and level of participation across the entire subregion was indispensable for achieving required outcomes as well as equitable gains.

237. The Commission noted the importance of the Office's report, *Regional Cooperation for Inclusive and Sustainable Development: South and South-West Asia Development Report 2012-13*,<sup>185</sup> which made a strong case for improved subregional cooperation to ensure inclusive growth, food and energy security, regional connectivity and the improved productive capacity of the subregion's least developed countries and landlocked developing countries.

238. The delegation of Nepal requested the Office to assist the planning bodies of South Asian countries in developing a macroeconomic modelling framework that would be consistent with the Millennium Development Goals through the exchange of experiences between those bodies in collaboration with the National Planning Commission of Nepal.

239. The Commission called on the Office to continue its capacity-building activities with a wider level of participation from all member States in the subregion, in particular the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries, and to pay greater attention in future work to strengthening regional connectivity, regional economic integration and trade and transit facilitation, as well as inclusive growth in the subregion. The secretariat was invited to organize a workshop in Pakistan on regional connectivity in South and South-West Asia.

240. The delegation of India expressed satisfaction that the Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, which was located in New Delhi, had quickly become active and had already begun capacity-building activities in its first complete year of operation.

---

<sup>185</sup> ST/ESCAP/2644.

**Agenda item 4**  
**Management issues**

**Sub-item (a)**

**Draft programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015**

241. The Commission had before it the draft programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 and corrigendum (E/ESCAP/69/16 and Corr.1), as well as the note by the secretariat containing a summary of progress in implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/69/4), in particular the progress made in the implementation of resolution 68/8 on enhancing coordination within the United Nations system and cooperation with regional organizations for promoting regional development.

242. In her introductory statement on management issues, the Executive Secretary stated that results, partnerships and building ESCAP as a learning organization were the key drivers underpinning the Commission's work to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of people in Asia and the Pacific. In recognizing the power of partnerships, ESCAP worked with a number of different partners and sought different types of partnerships in terms of skills, ideas, local knowledge, technologies, dynamism and networks. Learning from experience, including through effective monitoring and evaluation systems, was an essential part of strengthening ESCAP as a learning organization.

243. In introducing the draft programme of work, the Executive Secretary indicated that during the biennium 2014-2015, ESCAP would continue to unlock its value as the most comprehensive multilateral platform for promoting cooperation among member States to achieve inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. In preparing the programme of work, the secretariat had drawn on the Commission's mandates, expertise and comparative advantages as a regional platform with significant convening power and had striven to make optimum use of a multidisciplinary approach and South-South cooperation, in responding to the many interlinked opportunities and challenges. In the programme of work emphasis would be placed on mainstreaming gender perspectives and the priorities of countries with special needs. Those efforts were aimed at achieving three shared development results: (a) Governments of member States would have more effective, inclusive and sustainable development policies for addressing development from a multidisciplinary perspective in order to narrow development gaps and build resiliency; (b) global processes would be shaped by a stronger, coordinated regional voice and countries would be supported in implementing international commitments; and (c) regional cooperation mechanisms and institutional frameworks would be in place to promote regional integration and inclusive development.

244. The Executive Secretary outlined the review process that had taken place prior to the submission of the draft programme of work to the Commission, as well as subsequent steps that would be taken, including a review by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. In noting that ESCAP had been requested to reduce its programme support by nearly \$1.4 million and the budget for implementing its programme of work and the regular programme of technical cooperation by \$2.5 million during the biennium 2014-2015, the Executive Secretary pointed out that those reductions could have an impact on the proposed programme of work, and requested member States to convey their support through their representatives in New York who might be instrumental in gaining approval for the programme budget.

245. The delegation of Malaysia expressed its appreciation for the draft programme of work, noting that the document would serve as an invaluable guide for members and associate members by providing a practical plan of action for the achievement of maximum benefits from the work of ESCAP. The delegation looked forward to further deliberations in each of the relevant committees.

246. The Executive Secretary expressed appreciation for the extensive support shown by members through the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission during the preparation of the draft programme of work and looked forward to their ongoing support in the next phase of the process of finalization and approval in New York.

247. In the introduction of the summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 68/8 on enhancing coordination within the United Nations system and cooperation with regional organizations for promoting regional development (E/ESCAP/69/4), the Executive Secretary highlighted that the Regional Coordination Mechanism convened by ESCAP was key to enhancing coordination of the United Nations system at the regional level, including the articulation of Asia-Pacific perspectives on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 and implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

248. ESCAP initiatives to strengthen collaboration with regional and subregional organizations included the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to enhance cooperation in trade, energy, transport, environment, information and communications technologies, and social development, as well as stepped-up work with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in connectivity and energy. Other collaborative initiatives were taken together with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Group of Seven plus fragile and conflict-affected States. Enhanced joint work on the Millennium Development Goals, water, environment, statistics, social development and connectivity were agreed with the Asian Development Bank.

249. The Commission expressed support for the work of the secretariat and endorsed the draft programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015.

**Sub-item (b)**  
**Programme changes for the biennium 2012-2013**

250. In the introduction of agenda item 4(b) on programme changes for the biennium 2012-2013, the Executive Secretary noted that the consultation on the development agenda beyond 2015, entitled “Development for all: stop conflicts, develop States and eradicate poverty”, which was held in Dili from 25 to 28 February 2013, in partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste and the Group of Seven plus fragile and conflict-affected States, was an accomplishment that had not been foreseen at the time the current programme of work was adopted. That meeting, which was funded through additional resources approved by the General Assembly for the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, ensured that the voices and priorities of fragile States were heard at the Fourth Meeting of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which was held in Bali, Indonesia, from 25 to 28 March 2013, and reflected in the report of the panel to the Secretary-General. Those resources also enabled a higher level of participation from the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States at the Asian and Pacific Regional Implementation Meeting on Rio+20 Outcomes, which was held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 April 2013.

251. The Commission noted that no programme changes had been identified for the biennium 2012-2013 subsequent to the latest revision of the programme of work approved by the Commission at its sixty-eighth session.<sup>186</sup>

**Sub-item (c)**

**Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions**

252. The Commission had before it the overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions (E/ESCAP/69/17).

253. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Bhutan; China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Republic of Korea; and Thailand.

254. In the introductory remarks, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission about the key steps taken by the secretariat to strengthen the results of its technical cooperation work over the past year. The Executive Secretary highlighted measures and actions of the secretariat, through its Programme Planning and Partnerships Division, in stepping up relations with development partners, including the first annual multi-agency consultation meeting with partner agencies of the Republic of Korea, the largest donor country of ESCAP, as well as discussions with numerous other existing and potential donors. In underscoring the growing importance of the private sector as a key partner of the secretariat in delivering capacity development, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission about a task force on private sector partnerships and resource mobilization established by the secretariat that was working towards completing a strategy on collaborating with the private sector.

255. The Commission noted that total contributions received by the secretariat for technical cooperation activities in 2012 from the regular budget of the United Nations as well as voluntary sources amounted to approximately \$17.9 million, with the total volume of technical cooperation delivery in 2012 being approximately \$16.3 million.

256. The Commission expressed its appreciation and support for the technical cooperation work of the secretariat, including the activities of the five ESCAP regional institutions.

257. The delegation of Indonesia reported that its Government had supported APCICT by providing the Centre with in-kind contributions equivalent to \$500,000 in 2011, \$350,000 in 2012 and \$500,000 in 2013 for the implementation of training programmes. The delegation encouraged other member States to also extend support to the Centre's programmes and activities. The delegation also highlighted the strong support extended by the Government of Indonesia as host to CAPSA, and invited other member States to raise their financial contributions to the Centre. In highlighting the increasing relevance and importance of the mandate of CAPSA to alleviate poverty through secondary crops development for rural areas of Asia and the Pacific, the delegation noted its expectation that the Centre would play an increasingly important role in poverty reduction in the region. The delegation also encouraged further mainstreaming of the Centre's programme and activities into the programme of work of ESCAP.

258. The delegation of China expressed appreciation for the efforts of the secretariat to strengthen coordination and cooperation with other United Nations agencies and international organizations, including ADB, as well as the efforts to expand resources for technical cooperation projects. The delegation noted that capacity

---

<sup>186</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 19 (E/2012/39-E/ESCAP/68/24)*, paras. 246-249.

development and other forms of project cooperation differentiated ESCAP from other United Nations agencies. The delegation pointed out that the Government of China over the past year had worked with ESCAP in areas such as transport, rural renewable energy, trade facilitation and health. The delegation noted that its Government would continue to work with ESCAP under the framework of the China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme, and that it would enhance its cooperation and consultations with the Programme Planning and Partnerships Division and substantive divisions to delineate areas of common interest.

259. The delegation of Bhutan commended the secretariat for strengthening its technical cooperation work over the past year, engaging with a large number of stakeholders in order to enhance the capacity of member States. The delegation noted the particular focus accorded to countries with special needs, such as Bhutan. The delegation announced a new annual contribution effective 2013 in support of the ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia.

260. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the following contributions pledged by members and associate members of ESCAP for 2013.

261. *Bhutan.* The delegation of Bhutan announced that its Government would make the following contribution:

ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South West Asia	\$1 000
---	---------

262. *China.* The delegation of China announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme	\$200 000
	RMB 1 500 000
NEASPEC	\$50 000
Decade of Disabled Persons	\$10 000
APCTT	\$30 000
SIAP	\$60 000
CSAM	\$20 000

263. *Fiji.* The secretariat received written notification that the Government of Fiji intended to continue to provide its normal contributions.

264. *India.* The delegation of India announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

APCICT	\$20 000
APCTT	\$200 000
SIAP	\$25 000
ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia	\$79 000

In addition, the delegation indicated that a contribution from its Government to CSAM was under consideration.

265. *Indonesia.* The secretariat received written notification that the Government of Indonesia would make to the following contributions:

APCTT	\$10 000
CAPSA	\$79 662
CSAM	\$30 000
SIAP	\$30 000

266. The delegation of Indonesia informed the Commission that its Government intended to make an in-kind contribution to APCICT equivalent to \$500,000 for 2014 and to CAPSA equivalent to \$93,000 for 2013.

267. *Iran (Islamic Republic of)*. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran would communicate its Government's contribution to ESCAP and its affiliated bodies to the secretariat in written form.

268. *Japan*. The delegation of Japan announced that its Government would make the following contributions for the period April 2013 to March 2014:

Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$57 800
SIAP	\$1 640 700

269. The delegation indicated that its Government intended to make an in-kind contribution equivalent to \$1,280,000 to SIAP for the period April 2013 to March 2014. In addition, the delegation announced its Government's intention to offer fellowships, in cooperation with SIAP through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, for 92 person-months for group training courses as part of its technical cooperation programme through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, in cooperation with SIAP.

270. *Macao, China*. The secretariat received written notification that the government of Macao, China would make the following contributions:

APCICT	\$5 000
APCTT	\$5 000
CAPSA	\$3 000
SIAP	\$20 000

271. *Malaysia*. The delegation of Malaysia announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

APCTT	\$20 000
CAPSA	\$10 000
SIAP	\$20 000

272. *Mongolia*. The secretariat received written notification that the Government of Mongolia would make the following contribution:

ESCAP programme of work	\$5 000
SIAP	\$10 000

273. *Myanmar*. The secretariat received written notification that the Government of Myanmar would make the following contribution:

ESCAP programme of work	\$2,000
SIAP	\$1,000

274. *Republic of Korea*. The delegation of the Republic of Korea announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$300 000
Other extrabudgetary projects	\$274 600
APCICT	\$3 000 000
CAPSA	\$20 000
CSAM	\$10 000
SIAP	\$50 000

The delegation of the Republic of Korea indicated that its Government was considering increasing the annual contribution to the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund to \$500,000.

The delegation of the Republic of Korea also announced the following contribution from the Incheon Metropolitan City:

ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia	\$1 430 000
--	-------------

275. *Thailand.* The delegation of Thailand announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

APCTT	\$15 000
CAPSA	\$10 000
CSAM	\$15 000
SIAP	\$30 000

The delegation also noted that its Government might provide in-kind support to CAPSA through best practice sharing and by sending experts to assist in the fields of production and production control.

276. In concluding, the Executive Secretary thanked the Commission for its support of the secretariat's technical cooperation programme. She expressed appreciation to members and associate members that had pledged financial support for 2013 for their generosity and assured the Commission that the secretariat would use the financial resources available to it efficiently and effectively to achieve results that would enhance the lives and prospects of people across the region.

#### **Agenda item 5**

##### **Final review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its subsidiary structure, pursuant to resolutions 64/1 and 67/15**

277. The Commission had before it the report on the final review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its subsidiary structure, pursuant to resolutions 64/1 and 67/15 (E/ESCAP/69/18) and the information note on the evaluation of the conference structure of the Commission (E/ESCAP/69/INF/9).

278. In introducing the agenda item, the Executive Secretary referred to the proposed road map to guide a phased implementation strategy for the recommendations of the independent evaluation of the conference structure. The Executive Secretary expressed her appreciation for the valuable feedback from the member States and other key ESCAP stakeholders involved in the exercise.

279. The Executive Secretary stated that the majority of the recommendations contained in the evaluation team's report called for strengthening current practices, and that those recommendations which the secretariat believed could be implemented immediately would comprise phase one. Recommendations to be implemented in phases two and three would require more discussions and consultation with member States, as well as with the United Nations Headquarters, due to budgetary and other administrative implications.

280. The Executive Secretary expressed her appreciation to the working group under the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission for holding informal consultations on the report, which had led to the preparation of a draft resolution for consideration by the Working Group on Draft Resolutions. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary invited the Commission to provide the Working Group on Draft Resolutions with further guidance on that subject matter.

281. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Japan; India; Pakistan; and Russian Federation.

282. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the Executive Secretary and the secretariat to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the conference structure of the Commission, and for the work of the evaluation team. The delegations noted with satisfaction that the views of member States were reflected in the evaluation team's report, and commended the phased approach for implementing the recommendations as had been suggested by the Executive Secretary. The delegations also expressed their support for the work undertaken by member States through the Working Group on Draft Resolutions to agree on a draft resolution on that subject for consideration by the Commission.

283. The delegation of the Russian Federation expressed satisfaction at the ongoing informal consultations with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission on the Executive Secretary's report, which clarified many issues pertaining to the implementation of the recommendations. The delegation expressed confidence that the phased implementation would allow for effective implementation of the recommendations. The delegation also recognized that further work would still be required on certain issues, for instance the duration and structure of the Commission session. In that context, the delegation underlined the need for the secretariat to assess the legal implications of the recommendations to be implemented under phase one.

284. The delegation of Japan referred to paragraph 40 of the report of the Executive Secretary (E/ESCAP/69/18), concerning the recommendation that the governing councils and technical committees of the regional institutions be merged into one steering committee to be chaired by the host country, which would then report to the relevant committees. The delegation emphasized that any discussions and decisions on governance and reporting arrangements of the regional institutes should take into account the views of the respective governing councils and the secretariat committees concerned. The delegation noted the recommendations on the reporting arrangements for the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, which were contained in the reports of that Governing Council and the Committee on Statistics. Both reports had been endorsed by the Commission on the previous day. The delegation reiterated that those recommendations suggested that the reporting arrangements be maintained — for example, that the Governing Council would continue to report directly to the Commission and not only to the Committee on Statistics. Finally, concerning paragraph 44 of the report of the Executive Secretary, the delegation stressed the need to ensure that the proposed further integration of the regional institutions into the subprogramme would not additionally burden the regional institutions financially or have an impact on the efficiency of their operations. The delegation of the Republic of Korea sympathized with the delegation of Japan regarding the concerns to which it had referred.

285. In describing the work of the secretariat, the delegation of Pakistan highlighted two important ESCAP publications as valuable guiding tools for policymakers and research in the Asian and Pacific region, namely *Building Resilience to Natural Disasters and Major Economic Crises*<sup>187</sup> and the *Economic and Social Survey of the Asia and Pacific 2013*.<sup>188</sup> The delegation recognized the efforts of the Executive Secretary in making ESCAP a vibrant body which was truly representative of the region.

---

<sup>187</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.II.F.3.

<sup>188</sup> *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013: Forward-looking Macroeconomic Policies for Inclusive and Sustainable Development* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.II.F.2).



286. The Executive Secretary expressed her appreciation for the wisdom, guidance and support received from the member States and assured the Commission that, in its efforts to continuously strengthen the effectiveness, relevance and excellence of its work, the secretariat would take into account all views and recommendations expressed.

287. The Commission generally endorsed the report on the final review of the conference structure of the Commission.

288. The Commission adopted resolution 69/1 on a conference structure of the Commission for the inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific.

#### **Agenda item 6**

#### **Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission**

289. The Commission had before it the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/69/19). In his capacity as Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to ESCAP presented the highlights of the activities of the Committee during the preceding year.

290. Statements were made by representatives of the following countries: Russian Federation; and Thailand.

291. Since the sixty-eighth session of the Commission, the Advisory Committee had held six regular sessions and two informal sessions: one to hear a briefing by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the other to hear a briefing on preparations for the Asian and Pacific Regional Implementation Meeting on Rio+20 Outcomes. Its Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions had convened six meetings to undertake an initial review of draft resolutions.

292. As part of its review and assessment of the sixty-eighth session of the Commission, the Advisory Committee had provided the secretariat with guidance on the implementation of the 11 resolutions that had been adopted during that session. The Advisory Committee also had furnished comments and suggestions regarding the draft programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015.

293. The Advisory Committee had provided advice and views on a variety of issues, including the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. While member States expressed a range of views about how the region and its member States might wish to approach sustainable development, there was agreement that Asia and the Pacific had played an active and constructive role in those very important discussions, and that there was a desire to carry that momentum forward as the discussions advanced further on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

294. Another key activity of the Advisory Committee had been its participation in the final review of the conference structure of the Commission. Members of the Advisory Committee had engaged with the evaluation team at two of its sessions, provided input through survey questionnaires and small group and individual interviews, and during informal sessions, further examined the recommendations contained in the Executive Secretary's report to the Commission.

295. The Commission noted the role of the Advisory Committee as an important channel for member States to cooperate with each other and with the secretariat, and expressed its support for the role of the Advisory Committee during the period between Commission sessions.

296. The Commission adopted the report of the Advisory Committee.

### **Agenda item 7**

#### **Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventieth session of the Commission (2014)**

297. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/69/20, entitled “Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventieth session of the Commission (2014)”.

298. The Commission decided to hold its seventieth session in Bangkok in April/May 2014. The exact dates would be determined in consultation with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.

299. The Commission endorsed “Regional connectivity for shared prosperity” as the theme topic for its seventieth session.

### **Agenda item 8**

#### **Policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region**

##### **Sub-item (a)**

#### **Key challenges to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific**

##### **Policy statement by the Executive Secretary**

300. The Executive Secretary commenced her statement by reminding the Commission how Asia and the Pacific had transformed itself, leaving well behind its past of poverty and violence, which had devastated large parts of the region, and disproving a world that had once been pessimistic about the region’s prospects. Rapid economic growth and social development had made a real difference in the lives of people in the region, which was home to more than 60 per cent of the world’s population. Four decades since the prediction of an Asian future of poverty and deprivation in Nobel Laureate Gunnar Myrdal’s famous book, *Asian Drama*, the Asia-Pacific region stood firm as the engine not only of regional but also of global economic recovery, having created a growing middle class and having eliminated half of the world’s absolute poverty. The Asian development drama had been transformed from a potential tragedy into inspirational progress owing to the strong commitment of leaders to “meet together, hold together and to advance together” in the words of the former Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, at the first Asian Relations Conference, in 1947.

301. The Executive Secretary noted that the continued success of the region would demand a new pattern of growth, cooperation and partnership, instead of doing more of the same, in order to address the multiple risks and challenges it currently faced: increasing inequality within and between countries, which could undermine social cohesion and stability; intense competition for natural resources; climate change affecting weather patterns, threatening agricultural production, oceans and communities; weak governance and institutions, as well as daunting poverty; and lack of human security as a result of criminal, communal, ethnic, religious and gender-based violence.

302. The Executive Secretary emphasized that the region should rethink and reinvest in itself by addressing serious interlinked challenges and seizing emerging opportunities and turning stumbling blocks, where possible, into new building blocks. The region needed to look for new drivers of growth in the struggle to close infrastructure and development gaps, to address jobless growth and unemployment, especially among youth, and to build stronger, more accountable institutions. The region also needed to strive to make its cities safer and more sustainable and to rebalance economies towards better-quality inclusive growth. Furthermore, the countries in Asia and the Pacific would need to improve energy and water efficiency, as well as governance of natural resources. They would also have to spend more on

health, education and social protection in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

303. The Executive Secretary observed that the region's transformational change towards inclusive and sustainable development would demand even greater collective leadership. She added that success would depend on enlightened policy choices, deeper regional cooperation, global partnerships, strong institutions, democratic governance and the rule of law in order to address existing challenges and shared vulnerabilities. A way forward to maximize opportunities could be to shape a more resilient Asia-Pacific region, rooted in shared prosperity, social equity and sustainability, empowered by the creativity of people and valuing the gifts of the Earth.

304. The Executive Secretary underscored that ESCAP was already helping member States advance that critical agenda by furnishing research and analysis, policy options, technical assistance and innovative solutions to improve the lives of people. That was why inclusive and sustainable development had driven annual Commission sessions and their resolutions since 2008, including the current year's theme on building resilience to multiple shocks and supporting the development needs of the Pacific island developing countries, the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries.

305. In consultations on the development agenda beyond 2015, it had become clear that the region was seeking a new social contract between States and their people and between States and markets. That social contract had to promote people's engagement, translating growth into productive employment for all. It also meant adopting policies that facilitated fairer distribution of wealth, economic assets and opportunities, better resource management and better financial governance, including at the global level. These policies should promote greater accountability of both the public and private sectors and provide better human security and high-quality services so that all people could live in dignity and freedom from want, from fear and from discrimination.

306. The Executive Secretary called for a new model of development, to be based on structural changes for equality, inclusiveness, resilience and sustainable development in shaping the development agenda beyond 2015. The means of implementation should address how to mobilize and harness partnerships for global public goods, including through fair trade, access to technologies for a greener future and a stable international financial system that served the needs of the real economy.

307. The Executive Secretary emphasized that the task of the Commission was to reset conventional thinking and create new policy frameworks and institutions as well as global partnerships to build together "The future we want".

308. The Executive Secretary concluded by saying that countries gathered at the Commission as a community of the United Nations must continue to be guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and by shared responsibility to the people of the region, to common humanity and to generations still to come.

#### **Summary of messages from the Ministerial Panel on Sustainable Development and the Development Agenda beyond 2015**

309. The Ministerial Panel on Sustainable Development and the Development Agenda beyond 2015 discussed the contributions and limitations of the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, as well as the region's critical and emerging development challenges beyond 2015. The panellists were:

- (a) Mr. Gordon Darcy Lilo, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands;
- (b) Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic;
- (c) Ms. Emilia Pires, Minister of Finance of Timor-Leste;

(d) Ms. Jiko F. Luveni, Minister of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation of Fiji;

(e) Ms. Daggubati Purandeswari, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry of India.

310. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations served as moderator of the panel. In his introductory remarks, he highlighted the progress that had been made under the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the Asia-Pacific region's contribution to reducing extreme poverty and increasing primary school enrolment. However, he noted that the growing and evident level of inequality in the region was a key issue. The region was also lagging behind on the maternal health targets and the water and sanitation-related target of the Millennium Development Goals, which according to some estimates could be achieved only by 2035 unless urgent measures were taken to accelerate progress. Targets related to education, water and sanitation were particularly important because they had multiplying effects on many other sectors, including on gender equality, health and child mortality. Emerging challenges, such as massive migration, urbanization, rapid technology change and risk of financial crisis, had led to the conclusion that the global economy faced a new normal and that the Asia-Pacific region had a key role to play in ensuring equitable and sustainable development. In formulating sustainable development goals and the development agenda beyond 2015, priority should be given to investing in institutions, infrastructure and people. The key to the economic development of Sweden, which had risen from having been the third poorest country in Europe to one of the wealthiest in that region in a 30-year period, was due to its strategy to build strong institutions and invest in infrastructure and education. In addition, a rights-based perspective and the rule of law could be effective vehicles for change.

311. Mr. Lilo outlined the key recommendations on the development agenda beyond 2015 emanating from the Round Table Consultation on Pacific Issues, which had been held in Dili in February 2013.<sup>189</sup> The recommendations included the following: (a) the development agenda beyond 2015 must be built on the Millennium Development Goals as well as on sustainable development goals; (b) sustainable growth was necessary to support social indicators; (c) the green growth sustainable model was essential for developing and fragile States; (d) there was a need for effective governance systems; (e) peace and development must be accommodated in the development agenda beyond 2015; and (f) the service delivery model for development goals beyond 2015 must be effective and sustainable. In that regard, he emphasized the need to take a more holistic approach to development and foster more equitable participation in discussions on the development agenda beyond 2015. He noted the importance of effective institutions and governance, ranging from those of States to communities and rural areas, if real development was to take place. With regard to Pacific island States, he highlighted the importance of an equitable and fair approach to utilizing marine resources, on which ocean States depended for sustainable economic growth.

312. Mr. Sisoulith highlighted key recommendations from the Euro-Asian Final Regional Review of the Almaty Programme of Action, which had been held in Vientiane in March 2013. The outcome of the meeting, which had been adopted as the Vientiane Consensus,<sup>164</sup> was of great importance and relevance to the ongoing discussion on the development agenda beyond 2015 and on sustainable development from the perspective of landlocked developing countries. In particular, in the Vientiane Consensus, there was a call for comprehensive transit policies in landlocked and transit developing countries by:

---

<sup>189</sup> See [www.regionalcommissions.org/pacificoutcome.pdf](http://www.regionalcommissions.org/pacificoutcome.pdf).

- (a) Developing sustainable transport as a priority area of action to exploit cross-border trade and investment opportunities;
- (b) Establishing efficient transit transport systems between landlocked and transit developing countries by enhancing public-private partnerships;
- (c) Deepening regional economic integration in order to harmonize, simplify and standardize procedures for international transit transport;
- (d) Enabling landlocked developing countries to expand their range of products and services and diversify their export base;
- (e) Promoting trade capacity and enhancing trade facilitation by building productive capacities and diversifying their product base.

313. Realization of those recommendations would help landlocked developing countries to address special challenges and major development obstacles, which included limited access to global markets, limited infrastructure, weak institutional and productive capacities, small domestic markets, high levels of vulnerability to external shocks, minimal participation in the multilateral trading system, an undiversified and narrow range of export products and low competitiveness.

314. Ms. Pires elaborated on the statement contained in the Dili Consensus,<sup>190</sup> in which it was recommended that partnerships be based on mutual trust rather than conditionalities. Fragile and conflict-affected States faced unpredictable challenges that prevented plans from being made that were based on presumptions of stability and consistency in the near future. Frequent changes and reshuffling, challenges of limited capacity and support, and high vulnerability to global challenges required post-conflict States to continually reassess priorities; hence, conditionality, which required stability and unchanging priorities, did not work, whereas mutual trust, which would be more tolerant of certain levels of deviation and slower progress, could create an environment more conducive to bringing about the desired change.

315. Ms. Luveni, who spoke in the capacity of her country's position as Chair of the Group of 77 and China alliance, outlined the discussions of the Group of 77 and China on the development agenda beyond 2015 and noted the importance of developing implementation mechanisms that were vibrant and nationally owned. In that regard, she explained that national Governments were not directly involved in the design process for the agenda while most of the members of the Group of 77 and China had participated in many thematic debates which had been centred on General Assembly resolution 65/1. In considering the approach of the Group of 77 and China to genuine dialogue and mutual respect for the sovereignty of Member States, she highlighted the importance of launching an intergovernmental process for designing the agenda owned and shaped by Member States themselves, including through the adoption of an intergovernmental document agreed at the special event that would be held on the margins of the high-level segment of the General Assembly, in September 2013. With regard to the substantive elements of the agenda, she emphasized a set of goals that was commensurate with a broad view of social justice and solidarity, paying particular attention to the well-being of developing countries and environmental limits. With regard to the importance of the agenda to be built on assessment of the contributions of the Millennium Development Goals and their limitations, she shared the findings of her country's report on the Millennium Development Goals, five of which (2, 4, 5, 7 and 8) were on track. She concluded her statement by highlighting the need to shoulder collective responsibility for sustaining the planet for posterity despite the diversity among countries in terms of status, culture, geography and developmental stage.

---

<sup>190</sup> See [www.pacificpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Dili-Consensus-English-Final.pdf](http://www.pacificpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Dili-Consensus-English-Final.pdf).

316. Ms. Purandeswari emphasized that the development agenda beyond 2015 should be formulated in such a way as to preserve national policy space and priorities for developing countries and to have a focus on poverty eradication. In that regard, she pointed out that the question “How had the world not changed?” should be asked instead of “How had the world changed?”, because developing countries still faced persistent challenges, including poverty, deprivation, hunger and poor sanitation. Thus, the Rio Principles,<sup>168</sup> in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, should be the bedrock of the new development agenda. In taking into account the strengths and weaknesses of the Millennium Development Goals, she reminded the Commission that the development agenda beyond 2015 must be simple, practical and capable of being implemented, and provide goals for both developing and developed countries. She stated that the post-2015 framework should apply both to developed countries and developing countries so as to create a more equitable set of responsibilities and obligations. Similar to developing countries, developed countries should also have goals. The Millennium Development Goals, while purportedly constituting a “global” agenda, were, in effect, applicable only to developing countries. The only Goal that applied to developed countries, namely Goal 8 on global partnerships, did not have any monitorable targets or indicators. The development agenda beyond 2015 must equally focus on the means for developing countries to implement the agenda. Availability of additional resources and technological and capacity-building assistance was a key component of any international compact for development cooperation. The Global Partnership for the development agenda beyond 2015 agenda must build on Millennium Development Goal 8, in particular on ODA commitments, technology transfer and capacity-building.

317. She advised caution about an overemphasis on the role of South-South cooperation, which, in her view, should supplement North-South cooperation and not supplant North-South flows. The rising contribution of the South must not be a premise for the North to withdraw from its obligations and commitments, especially ODA flows. She emphasized that the post-2015 agenda must be simple, practical and implementable.

318. After the first round of discussions, questions were asked and statements made by participants joining a live webcast through Twitter, which involved national delegations, including those from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Nepal. Questions asked through Twitter included those on the roles of young people in the development agenda beyond 2015, security issues and development in Afghanistan and the roles of regional cooperation. Comments and questions from national delegations touched in particular upon the importance of distinguishing the roles and responsibilities between North-South cooperation (as a key source of resources) and South-South cooperation (as a means of knowledge-sharing), and making the Rio Principle on common but differentiated responsibilities a key element of the agenda. Delegations also noted the importance of taking a holistic approach to development, including the national happiness approach, and inclusiveness and justice for all countries in implementing the agenda.

319. In a comment, the representative of Nepal, Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal, in his capacity as Rapporteur of the Asian and Pacific Regional Implementation Meeting on Rio+20 Outcomes, which had been held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 April 2013, highlighted key outcomes of the meeting.<sup>191</sup> One outcome included strong emphasis on commitment to regional cooperation for sustainable development. Others were focused on the Rio Principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as the following: (a) regional cooperation and global partnerships; (b) a sustainable and equitable development agenda and urgent attention to poverty reduction; (c) a unified development agenda, with a development agenda

---

<sup>191</sup> Available from [www.iisd.ca/vol05/enb05308e.html](http://www.iisd.ca/vol05/enb05308e.html).

beyond 2015 that had sustainable development at its core; and (d) the role of ESCAP as a regional platform for promoting sustainable development.

320. The panel echoed some of the views of questioners by emphasizing the need to strengthen partnerships with youth; to promote more effective partnerships for developing countries, in particular the smallest countries; to view South-South cooperation as supplementary to North-South cooperation; and to take into account country-specific plans of action for the development agenda beyond 2015. The moderator concluded the ministerial panel discussion by drawing attention to the significance of development for all as well as by all, in that connection drawing attention to the need for investment in institutions, infrastructure and people.

#### **Summary of messages from the High-level Panel on the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013**

321. The High-level Panel on the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013 focused on policy challenges for the region as countries faced a global economic environment of deepening uncertainty and crisis in the euro zone and the United States. The panellists were:

- (a) Mr. Timur Suleimenov, Member of the Board, Minister of Economy and Financial Policy, the Eurasian Economic Commission;
- (b) Mr. Hafiz Pasha, former Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs of Pakistan, Dean of the Beaconhouse National University;
- (c) Mr. Yuba Raj Khatriwada, Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank;
- (d) Mr. Shamlal Bhatija, Minister and Senior Economic Adviser to the President of Afghanistan;
- (e) Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

322. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC served as the moderator of the panel. In her introductory remarks, she highlighted the key messages of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013*. The *Survey* projected subdued economic growth for developing Asia-Pacific countries compared with the pre-global financial crisis period and warned that that could become the “new normal” for many economies in the region if current economic trends continued and structural impediments were not addressed. Despite being the most dynamic region, Asia and the Pacific was still home to more than 800 million people living in extreme poverty, 563 million undernourished people and more than 1 billion workers in vulnerable employment. The *Survey* highlighted the importance of a paradigm shift in macroeconomic policies to achieve inclusive and sustainable development, arguing for more balance between its stabilization and developmental roles. She observed that the two regional powerhouses, China and India, were undergoing major structural transformation centred on promoting domestic demand. The *Survey* cited the rebalancing of the economy of China away from investment and towards consumption-led growth, which could also spur Asia-Pacific exports to China. It also cited examples of minimum wage policies that were not only capable of boosting worker productivity and income, but also improving long-term job prospects without adversely affecting businesses. In a first-time assessment, the *Survey* estimated the public investment needs of an illustrative package of policies comprising a universal job guarantee, a universal pension scheme, disability benefits, increased public health spending, universal school enrolment and universal access to modern energy and found them affordable for most countries.

323. Mr. Suleimenov noted the argument in the *Survey* that inclusive and sustainable development could contribute to supporting broad-based economic growth

in the Asia-Pacific region by stimulating domestic sources of aggregate demand, which could have beneficial spillover effects through intraregional trade. He pointed out that the rich natural resources of Kazakhstan had underpinned the country's rapid economic growth, along with increasing gas production driven by FDI. Further diversification was a challenge, however, owing to the incentives for continued specialization in extractive sectors created by the high prices of commodities. Moreover, as with other resource-rich countries, the reliance of Kazakhstan on commodity exports rendered it highly vulnerable to the external economic environment, as had happened in 2008, when the drop in the price of oil had triggered a banking crisis in the country. The Government had adopted a national programme for accelerated industrial and innovation-driven development to address those issues and guarantee stable and well-balanced economic growth through diversification and improved competitiveness. Financed by public and private investments in areas such as infrastructure and trade, the programme had helped increase national GDP by more than one percentage point in 2011 and in 2012. In noting that Kazakhstan had a large territory but a small population and a limited domestic market for new industries, he informed the Panel that the operationalization and development of the Customs Union and Common Economic Space between Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation under the Eurasian Economic Commission was expected to create a larger market and a more diversified economy for Kazakhstan. Owing to its landlocked status, trade and transit issues were highly relevant for Kazakhstan, and transport infrastructure development was a priority.

324. Mr. Pasha expressed appreciation for the message in the *Survey* that the quality of growth was as important as the quantity, as rapid growth in Asia and the Pacific had been accompanied by increasing inequalities. No longer could countries rely on a strategy of growing first and distributing later. Increased inequality in the initial phase of growth was very difficult to reduce later and it was therefore vital to promote inclusive growth and provide the vulnerable with social protection. He listed four key elements of inclusive growth: (a) it should be in sectors in which the poor worked, particularly in agriculture; (b) it should be promoted in rural areas where the poor lived; (c) it should make use of the endowments of the poor and should therefore be driven by labour-intensive activities; and (d) it should produce more of the goods and services consumed by the poor. Inclusive growth should be supported by trade, fiscal, financial and monetary policies with emphasis on: (a) redistributive fiscal policies; (b) inclusive finance; and (c) proper sequencing of trade liberalization. He stressed the critical message of the *Survey* that inclusive growth would stimulate further growth and that there should be more balance between the stabilization and developmental roles of macroeconomic policies. Governments could pursue inclusive and sustainable development while also maintaining fiscal sustainability and price stability, and there was not necessarily a trade-off between economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability. He noted that, according to the *Survey*, the overall investment in a people-centred policy package was affordable and would not lead to runaway inflation or public debt crises. He emphasized the potential for mobilizing domestic resources by broadening the tax base and making it more progressive. He suggested that future issues of the *Survey* could be focused on inequalities across countries, with policy options on how least developed countries could benefit from more dynamic economies in the region. ESCAP should also continue to facilitate efforts to promote regional integration, including by providing leadership for the creation of an Asian monetary fund.

325. Mr. Khatiwada stated that the new development challenges called for unconventional policies. In particular, macroeconomic policies could be oriented to promote equity, inclusion and economic transformation, with enhanced attention to agricultural investment, small and medium-sized enterprise development, wages and productivity growth, as well as financial inclusion. Governments could reprioritize public expenditure towards productive sectors and assess its impact on poverty reduction, social progress and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Central banks could also broaden their focus beyond the issues related to monetary



easing or tightening to include such issues as quality of credit and equitable access to financial resources. Given market emphasis on profits and efficiency, the State should play a greater role in job creation, provision of employment guarantees and safety nets. He noted that cooperatives and community organizations could be an important third actor, in addition to the State and the market, in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth. That was particularly true in boosting investment in the agricultural sector and raising rural wages and productivity. He emphasized the key role of progressive tax policies and a redistributive fiscal policy for inclusive and sustainable development, suggesting that ESCAP could conduct further research and analysis in that area.

326. Mr. Bhatija explained how rich natural resource endowments could be leveraged for the benefit of the majority of the people. To ensure proper utilization of its natural resources, the Government of Afghanistan had put in place such measures as a clear system of contracts. He also cited the country's long-term economic development plans, which were strongly supported by the international community. Over the years, the country had made significant progress in infrastructure development and improvement in per capita incomes. Afghanistan also aspired to become a regional hub and crossroads for South Asia, as well as Central and West Asia. However, more needed to be done on the social front, including addressing the needs of returning refugees and internally displaced persons. The agricultural sector also required greater attention, especially larger incentives not only for the Government but also for farmers themselves to invest more in agricultural development. He emphasized the importance of the rule of law to ensure equitable growth in his country, along with institution building. He suggested that ESCAP promote the sharing of experiences among member States and engage in further analysis and capacity-building in those areas.

327. Mr. Acharya stated that the *Survey* furnished cost estimates for social investment in six key areas, the first such illustrative exercise in the United Nations system. He described poverty, hunger and poor access to social services as major challenges for countries with special needs, which needed improved social investment in order to help build productive capacities and create employment opportunities. As those countries often had low economic growth, low savings and inadequate tax revenues, there was a need for greater international assistance to promote their development. That was also highlighted in the *Survey*, which had found that such countries as Bangladesh and Fiji required significant investment to implement the illustrative package of social policies. Given the global economic uncertainties, the declining trend in official ODA had become a major concern. However, short-term austerity measures in developed countries should not be an excuse for scaling back ODA. At the same time, the stalled global trade negotiations and skewed emphasis on FDI were barriers to long-term development in that group of countries. The aspirations of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States should figure prominently in the development agenda beyond 2015 to build a safer, more equitable and sustainable future.

328. The Panel also fielded three queries posted online via Twitter and based on its live webcast. The questions focused on governance and institutions, public investment in agriculture and rising inequalities and their relation to the new development paradigm. In response, Mr. Pasha highlighted the importance of good governance, institution building, in particular promoting accountability, and equal access to information. Mr. Khatiwada stressed that job creation and investment in agriculture were crucial to addressing growing inequalities.

329. In summing up the discussions, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC commended the position taken in the *Survey* on the estimation of the public investment needed for an illustrative package of policies to promote inclusive and sustainable development as a model for other regions. She highlighted four key messages emerging from the High-level Panel: the importance of fiscal policies; financing for development; governance and institution building; and South-South cooperation.

**Sub-item (b)**  
**Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013**

330. The Commission had before it the summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013 (E/ESCAP/69/22) and the summary of the theme study for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission, entitled “Opportunities to build resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises” (E/ESCAP/69/23).

331. Statements were made by representatives of the following members and associate members: Armenia; Afghanistan; Australia; Bangladesh; Brunei Darussalam; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Vanuatu; Viet Nam; and Hong Kong, China.

332. The Commission noted that the region, as analysed in the *Survey*, had remained adversely affected by the slow recovery in the developed world and associated policy uncertainties.

333. The Commission also noted that the external economic challenges had destabilized growth performance in the region and achievement of key development goals, with a number of people having been forced into vulnerable employment and with women and youth having been affected the most. Economic recovery was too slow to create adequate jobs. There was a need for economic transformation by strengthening macroeconomic policy coordination, adjusting economic structures and improving the quality and efficiency of development. There was also a need to maintain fiscal space. The Commission noted that various macroeconomic policies had been implemented to mitigate the impact of the global economic slowdown, including enhancing the role of domestic demand as an alternative source of economic growth. Sound macroeconomic fundamentals remained critical in achieving inclusive and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

334. The Commission called for stronger regional cooperation and integration in building resilience to economic uncertainty and shocks and expressed appreciation for the support of the secretariat in promoting regional cooperation for that purpose. The Commission noted the need for a financial safety net and encouraged the secretariat to explore financial cooperation to leverage resources through development partnerships. The Commission recognized the importance of enhanced global governance and institutions for sustainable development. It noted the need for a greater voice for developing countries in the Group of 20, noting that it was important that G20 members remained committed to consulting non-G20 members. The Commission welcomed the fourth consultation on the G20 agenda.

335. The Commission expressed concern over the growing incidence of overlapping natural disasters and economic shocks in the Asian and Pacific region. It noted that each shock reduced the coping capacity of countries and communities to respond. It also noted that poor governance, weak institutions, lack of resources, lack of leadership and environmental degradation were some of the underlying factors that exacerbated that vulnerability; therefore, policy responses were needed to build resilience into development strategies. The Commission expressed concern over the increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters.

336. The Commission noted with concern that vulnerable groups, such as the poor, women and children, were usually the first to suffer the brunt of disasters and economic crises, yet adequate attention had not been paid to addressing their vulnerability. It highlighted the importance of building community resilience to multiple shocks by enhancing social inclusion, strengthening social safety nets and

involving communities in decision-making. One delegation underscored risk reduction for persons with disabilities as an important area for cooperation with ESCAP.

337. In recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>159</sup> the Commission noted the need for addressing disaster risk reduction and building resilience with a sense of urgency. In that regard, several member States shared their progress in developing policy frameworks and institutions that were integrated into development planning. Several delegations recommended that disaster risk reduction be reflected in the development agenda beyond 2015 and in sustainable development goals.

338. The Commission recognized the importance of early warning systems and several countries shared their activities in developing such systems. In that regard, the Commission expressed its appreciation for the role that ESCAP had played in promoting regional coordination through the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries. The Commission also noted the advances that had been made in improving early warning systems. Several countries expressed the hope that ESCAP would continue to promote the Trust Fund as a tool for further strengthening regional early warning capacity.

339. One country noted the activities of APCICT and the Centre’s efforts in bridging information and communications technology gaps in the Asia-Pacific region. It expressed the hope that the Centre would continue to provide support for the development needs of the region. Some countries also noted that such technology was a valuable resource available to policymakers for building resilience and was vital for ensuring the smooth, secure and timely flow of information and communications during natural disasters or periods of major economic shocks. In that regard, the Commission requested that there should be greater cooperation with ESCAP member States in coping with natural disasters through an early warning system based on information and communications technology.

340. The Commission acknowledged the unique and important role that ESCAP had played in promoting regional cooperation. It noted that regional cooperation for addressing disaster risks and increasing resilience to economic and other shocks was essential. In that regard, the Commission expressed appreciation for the support that had been furnished by the secretariat in the area of space technology applications for disaster risk reduction, including the provision of timely access to near-real-time satellite images through the secretariat’s regional cooperation platforms. Moreover, the Commission also expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for technical assistance and capacity-building in disaster risk reduction, including mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development plans.

341. One delegation called for an international mechanism to address loss and damage to help rebuild following a disaster, as well as to cope with slow onset impacts, such as sea level rise and ocean acidification. Another delegation recommended that opportunities be created for enhancement of regional financial institutions, development of regional institutions, the establishment of public-private partnerships, making efforts to reduce risks in investment and economic activities and the development and enhancement of disaster information. Another delegation encouraged ESCAP to explore the creation of a joint insurance programme that could rapidly mobilize funds when a disaster struck while further relief was awaited.

342. The Commission noted that, despite high economic growth rates, the Asia-Pacific region still faced chronic problems of poverty, hunger, unemployment and inequality, as well as environmental degradation. Poverty was highly concentrated in rural areas, as well as among some social and ethnic groups, older persons, persons with disabilities, single mothers and vulnerable children and in specific geographic areas. The Commission highlighted the need for balancing the stabilization and

development role of macroeconomic policies, which required a paradigm shift to forward-looking, sound and prudent macroeconomic policies in order to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development, in accordance with the commitment made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

343. The representative of Pakistan welcomed the preparation of cost estimates in the *Survey*; the estimates had been created for an illustrative package of six policies involving a universal job guarantee; universal pension; disability benefits; and universal access to education, to health services and to electricity. In that regard, the representative requested that the secretariat extend its analysis to more countries. Moreover, the analysis should also be carried out on how to mobilize domestic resources for those purposes.

344. The Commission noted with satisfaction that many least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States had continued to grow robustly despite global economic and financial challenges; however, it expressed concern that the growth was driven largely by natural resource-seeking investments and concentrated in a few areas with a narrow export base. In some countries, the development pattern focused too much on resource extraction with limited attention being paid to job opportunities, a situation that was contributing to rising inequalities.

345. The Commission was informed of the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. It noted that those countries were affected greatly by poverty, income disparity, high unemployment and underemployment, social and spatial exclusion, rising energy prices, volatility in food and commodity prices, climate change consequences, debt crises and the sluggish economic recovery of North America and Europe, which posed serious challenges for them. Frequent economic crises and shocks had had significant impacts on private sector investment and public sector investment in social services in small island countries. The Commission emphasized that those countries must continue to be given special priority by the international community so that they could close their development gaps.

346. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress made by several least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially in reducing poverty. Those countries also had made significant progress or were on track in achieving the goals related to gender equality, promoting education and reducing child and maternal mortality. The Commission noted with concern that, despite such notable progress, attainment of the Millennium Development Goals remained a challenge, and that many of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States would not be able to achieve all the Goals by 2015. Disparity and inequalities were still visible in the levels of rural and urban poverty; poverty was more pronounced among certain social and ethnic groups and specific geographical areas. The Commission noted with satisfaction that several policies and measures had been taken by several least developed countries and small island developing States to accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to protect the poor, the elderly and the vulnerable children of single mothers and separated parents. In addition, a social pension scheme would enable all men and women more than 70 years old to qualify for a pension.

347. The Commission noted with appreciation that the delegations of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in Asia and the Pacific had participated in a meeting on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 for such countries in the Asia-Pacific region. That meeting, which was held in Bangkok on 24 April 2013, adopted the Bangkok

Declaration on the United Nations Development Agenda for Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.<sup>192</sup> The Commission noted that Asia and the Pacific constituted one of the most progressive and dynamic regions of the world; thus, the region's perspectives would be critical in shaping the global development agenda. It also observed that the lessons learned from efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals should form the basis for shaping development goals beyond 2015, including the need to develop an agenda that was realistic and achievable. The Commission observed that, given the persistent challenges, the development agenda beyond 2015 must be inclusive and sustainable as well as transformative through job creation, including youth employment, access to basic education, improved health, poverty eradication, gender equality, environment sustainability, climate change impacts and adaptation and mitigation, social inclusion, infrastructure development, sustainable financing, technology transfer, increased productivity, improvement in competitiveness and promotion of sustainable production.

348. The Commission was informed by the delegations of Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic of the stated goal of the respective countries to graduate from the least developed country category by 2020. The delegation of Bangladesh noted that the country was planning to graduate from that category to become a middle-income country by 2021. The Commission was also informed of the long-term vision of Nepal, as contained in the country's thirteenth development plan, to graduate from its least developed country status as early as possible. Towards that end, those countries outlined the efforts that they had been undertaking, such as adopting growth-oriented macroeconomic policies, supporting the robust performance of the export sector, harnessing investment potential by removing infrastructure bottlenecks and governance weaknesses, strengthening resource mobilization through financial sector reform and public-private partnerships, enhancing agricultural growth, stabilizing commodity prices and lowering the inflation rate, minimizing both income and human poverty and securing health and education for all. The Commission underlined the need to take vulnerability to economic shocks and natural disasters into account when deciding on the appropriate time to graduate to a more developed economic category. The Commission was informed that the international community must continue to assist least developed countries in formulating strategies and policies towards graduation from the least developed country category.

349. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, and the secretariat for having successfully organized the Euro-Asian Final Regional Review of the Almaty Programme of Action, which had been held in Vientiane from 5 to 7 March 2013 and which had adopted the Vientiane Consensus.<sup>164</sup> The Commission also expressed its appreciation to the Government of Cambodia for hosting the preparatory meeting for the biennial review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for least developed countries. That meeting, which had been held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 17 to 19 December 2012, had adopted the Siem Reap Outcome document.<sup>193</sup> Further, the Commission expressed its appreciation to the Government of Turkey for hosting the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, which had been held in Istanbul from 9 to 13 May 2011. It requested the countries in the Asia-Pacific region to endorse the Vientiane Consensus as the regional input for the Global Review of the Almaty Programme of Action, which was scheduled to take place in 2014.

350. The Commission noted that the Siem Reap Outcome document and the Vientiane Consensus both had set a clear vision and priorities for addressing the common problems faced by the least developed countries and landlocked developing

---

<sup>192</sup> See resolution 69/3, annex.

<sup>193</sup> Available from [www.unohrrls.org/UserFiles/File/SiemReapOutcomeDocument\\_Final.pdf](http://www.unohrrls.org/UserFiles/File/SiemReapOutcomeDocument_Final.pdf).

countries. Those outcomes contained several priority areas for action by least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, such as productive capacity development, trade, food security, social development, reduction of vulnerability and resource mobilization for development. One country informed the Commission that it had made positive initial progress in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by pursuing national-level actions in the areas identified. The Commission took note of the invitations to support resolutions submitted by least developed countries and small island developing States concerning sustainable management and use of ocean resources and the final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. The Commission noted with appreciation the organization of the Pacific regional preparatory meeting, to be held in Fiji from 10 to 12 July 2013, for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in 2014, and the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2015.

351. The Commission noted that progress had been made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals related to gender, health and education. In that regard, one delegation stressed the need to eliminate violence against women as part of overall social development policies.

352. The Commission highlighted the importance of pursuing inclusive and sustainable development, based on the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The delegation of Pakistan expressed the view that the Asia-Pacific region could make a substantial contribution in carving out the sustainable development goals along with the means of implementation. The Commission emphasized that disaster risk reduction needed to be incorporated into the deliberations on the development agenda beyond 2015 and sustainable development goals. The Commission noted that, in order to improve economic resilience, disaster risk reduction strategies, including climate change adaptation initiatives, must be integrated into national macroeconomic frameworks. It also noted that improved governance, as well as institutional and legislative frameworks, were deemed essential to manage effectively the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters resulting from climate change. The delegation of Bhutan highlighted the need to rethink the current development paradigm in the context of General Assembly resolution 65/309 on happiness: towards a holistic approach to development.

353. The delegation of the Republic of Korea noted the meaningful contribution that ESCAP had made to sustainable development, particularly with regard to green growth, and reiterated its commitment to cooperate with ESCAP and the Global Green Growth Institute in sharing the vision for green growth with developing countries. The delegation of Kazakhstan highlighted the opportunities for interregional collaboration for green growth through the Green Bridge Partnership Programme 2011-2020, which was welcomed in the outcome statement of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want".<sup>159</sup> In that regard, the delegation of Viet Nam informed the Commission that the country had successfully implemented strong measures to restructure the economy, with the objective of improving the quality of economic growth and mitigating impacts of natural disasters in line with its national green growth strategy for the period 2011-2020. The delegation stated that the country had offered to share its success story and lessons learned by hosting an ASEAN regional centre for a green economy in support of the establishment of the ASEAN economic community.

354. Several delegations highlighted their renewed commitment to a green economy in the context of poverty eradication and to actively explore an effective, low-carbon model for a green economy to promote sustainable development and economic recovery at the global and regional levels. The Commission noted the unprecedented rates of depletion of natural resources, loss of biodiversity and climate change and emphasized that responsible management of natural resources, such as land, oceans and seas, water, forests and fisheries, was a prerequisite for an inclusive and

sustainable future. Several delegations highlighted in particular the vulnerability of poor rural women and children who were often deprived of access to natural and financial resources and were severely affected during times of crisis.

355. The delegation of Papua New Guinea informed the Commission of its country's role as the Chair of the Coalition of Rainforest Countries in promoting, as an effective measure for reducing greenhouse gases, the set of steps known as "reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation" through the protection of forests vital for keeping the climate system in balance. The delegation of Nauru highlighted the need to establish an international mechanism to address loss and damage caused by climate impacts and to help in reconstruction when disasters occur. It also highlighted that such a mechanism would require comprehensive understanding of climate risks. The delegation of Fiji introduced some of the initiatives that it had embarked on as a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, including the implementation of a national climate policy, which placed emphasis on mitigation, adaptation and best practices for emergency response and rehabilitation. The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea suggested that ESCAP make further efforts to invigorate environmentally friendly technical cooperation in the fields of economic infrastructure, low-carbon technology development and renewable energy development, which were currently under way in various countries in the region.

356. Several delegations emphasized the importance of energy issues, in particular the need for greater regional connectivity for energy security and access to affordable energy. The delegation of the Russian Federation emphasized that the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, which was to be held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, in May 2013, would create a sound basis for strengthening regional cooperation, while another delegation underscored that the forthcoming EXPO 2017, to be hosted in Astana, would look into the "energy of the future" with a focus on renewable energy sources. The delegations of several Pacific small island States and Mongolia highlighted the importance of strengthening and increasing the share of renewable energy in the overall energy mix at the national and regional levels. In recognizing the impacts of volatile oil prices and finite resources, a number of delegations reiterated the importance of addressing energy security through regional cooperation. The secretariat was encouraged to undertake analytical studies on the role of regional cooperation for enhanced energy security. The delegation of Pakistan requested ESCAP to undertake a study on the role of regional cooperation for enhanced energy security in South and South-West Asia.

357. The delegation of Viet Nam informed the Commission that the country had hosted the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Seminar on Water and River Basin Management – A Green Growth Approach, which had been held in Can Tho City, Viet Nam, on 21 and 22 March 2013. The Commission noted that a ceremony to commemorate World Water Day 2013 based on the theme of the International Year of Water Cooperation had been organized during the meeting.

358. The Commission noted the need to maintain an open trading regime, promote market integration and avoid trade protectionism by adhering to open regionalism and the principles of openness, inclusiveness and transparency. The importance of science and technology in promoting industrial creativity and creating jobs was also emphasized. The Commission noted the importance of reliable energy sources and the rule of law for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

359. The Commission was informed of the importance of revitalizing trade and investment for countries to cope with disaster and economic crises. In that context, the private sector was called on to play an important role in disaster risk reduction as part of its corporate social responsibility. It was noted that disasters and economic crises could seriously disrupt supply chains and inflows of FDI and that it was therefore advisable to diversify sources of finance and investment by promoting domestic investment and attracting FDI from various sources and countries.

360. The Commission noted that market integration in the Asia-Pacific region would not only boost exports but could also insulate the economies in the region from future economic shocks. That would require greater access to markets within the region and the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, as well as the development of regional connectivity. In that connection, it took the view that greater market access should be accorded to products from developing countries, with duty-free and quota-free market access being granted to least developed countries on a sustained basis.

361. One delegation called on the secretariat to strengthen its regional institutions that were involved in the transfer of technology.

362. The Commission noted that a stronger focus on agricultural development, through a higher level of investment, for example, was required for enhanced resilience, especially cases in which the sector accounted for a high share of employment and where the poor were concentrated in rural areas. Several delegations emphasized the need to pay attention to food security in respect of vulnerable population groups, which could be done through the stabilization of commodity prices, targeted food distribution schemes and new food security legislation, among other things. The Commission emphasized the importance of enhancing the resilience of vulnerable population groups through agriculture by supporting agricultural growth, modernizing the agricultural sector, fostering closer interaction between the agricultural and industrial sectors in order to close the rural-urban gap, strengthening the exports of the agricultural sector and focusing on adaptation to climate change through, among other things, the development of climate-resilient crop varieties.

363. In recognizing that regional connectivity in Asia and the Pacific promoted food and energy security in addition to trade and social interaction, several delegations stressed the importance of regional cooperation in realizing intercountry connectivity through investment in highways and railways. In that regard, the Commission noted that a number of member States were investing in transport infrastructure projects, including the development of the Asian Highway network, Trans-Asian Railway network and Euro-Asian transport linkages, to enhance connectivity within the region and beyond.

364. In particular, the Commission noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran had completed or upgraded all Asian Highway routes crossing its territory and had expected to complete all missing links of the Trans-Asian Railway network within its territory within the next two years. It also noted that some countries were implementing policies for corridor-based development of transport infrastructure in order to enhance connectivity to neighbouring States as well as offering transit for regional and international trade.

365. The Commission acknowledged that the secretariat had performed important work by assisting member States in achieving greater connectivity through the development of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, which would further increase the relevance and efficiency of the region's infrastructure networks, particularly for the benefit of landlocked countries. In that regard, the Commission adopted the Agreement<sup>194</sup> and welcomed the opening of the Agreement for signature during the second session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport, which would be held in Bangkok on 7 and 8 November 2013. It invited member States to consider signing the Agreement in order to ensure its early implementation.

366. The Commission noted that infrastructure financing remained a major challenge for many member States. It recognized that the private sector could contribute significantly to the region's future infrastructure development and expressed

---

<sup>194</sup> See resolution 69/7, annex.



the hope that the use of the public-private partnership modality in the region would be strengthened through the adoption of the Commission resolution on the outcome of the third Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development, which had been held in Tehran in November 2012.<sup>195</sup>

367. The Commission noted the importance of promoting regional and subregional connectivity by accelerating the process of integration into the regional and global economic systems through, among other things, the ASEAN Economic Community and accession to WTO. In that connection, some countries, including landlocked developing countries, informed the Commission of their intention to transform themselves from landlocked to land-linked countries by enhancing integration and connectivity with neighbouring countries through such activities as the Greater Mekong Subregion initiative and investments in infrastructure, especially roads and railways that link those countries with the Asian Highway Network, to facilitate trade and investment with neighbouring countries.

368. Several countries expressed continued commitment to supporting the work of SIAP.

369. While concurring on the importance of sustainability as a policy focus for the region, one delegation stressed that the issue should be incorporated into the monitoring and assessment framework for the global development agenda beyond 2015. Another delegation suggested that the monitoring framework for the global development agenda beyond 2015 should include goals on market efficiency and improved infrastructure.

370. The Commission took note of the priorities that some member States gave to national statistics development in order to address the gaps in reliable statistical data for strategic planning and decision-making, including the development of a high-quality statistical system as a central goal of a long-term comprehensive development plan and the formulation of a national statistical development strategy. One delegation informed the Commission that it was sponsoring a draft resolution on civil registration and vital statistics<sup>196</sup> with a view to enhancing national capacity to gather data accurately and systematically.

371. Several delegations reported on the ongoing transition of their countries from conflict situations and the related security concerns and challenges. A successful political transition, the demobilization and integration of former combatants, and the resettlement and improvement of livelihoods of displaced persons from combat-affected areas were cited as examples.

372. The delegation of Bhutan extended appreciation to the secretariat for its continued support in regional advisory services.

373. The Commission commended the secretariat for the high analytical quality of the comprehensive documentation pertaining to the challenges facing the region, as contained in the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013* and the 2013 theme study, entitled *Opportunities to Build Resilience to Natural Disasters and Major Economic Crises*. The secretariat was requested to disseminate the messages and recommendations of the *Survey* and the theme study to a wider audience across the region.

---

<sup>195</sup> See resolution 69/6.

<sup>196</sup> See resolution 69/15.

**Agenda item 9**

**Theme topic for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission (2013): “Opportunities to build resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises”**

374. The Ministerial Round Table on Building Resilience to Natural Disasters and Major Economic Crises was focused on the policy challenges facing the region as countries dealt with multiple and converging shocks that posed increasingly complex threats to Asia and the Pacific. The panellists provided insights into how people, organizations, policymakers and institutions could work together to build systems of resilience based on their own experiences at the national and regional levels. The panellists were:

(a) Mr. Richard Gordon, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Philippine Red Cross, former senator and former Minister of Tourism of the Philippines;

(b) Lieutenant General (retired) Nadeem Ahmed, former Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan;

(c) Mr. Rizal Ramli, founder and Chairman of the Advisory Group on Economic Industry and Trade (ECONIT), former Minister of Finance and former Coordinating Minister of the Economy of Indonesia;

(d) Mr. Surin Pitsuwan, former Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand;

(e) Mr. William Sabandar, Deputy to the Head of the President’s Delivery Unit for Development Monitoring and Insight of Indonesia and former Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of ASEAN for post-Nargis Recovery.

375. The Executive Secretary served as moderator for the panel. In her opening remarks, she introduced the theme study, entitled *Opportunities to Build Resilience to Natural Disasters and Major Economic Crises*, by emphasizing that Asia and the Pacific was the most disaster-prone region in the world. The Executive Secretary noted that impacts of economic crises were even more devastating, with economically and socially vulnerable people having experienced the most difficulty in coping with unexpected shocks imposed by forces well beyond their control. While global financial crises, food and fuel crises and the consequences of natural disasters might have seemed to be unrelated, they were all shocks applied to the complex systems that interlinked social, economic and environmental factors. A single incident, which might once have been localized and managed in isolation, now had multiple and interrelated regional and global consequences. The Executive Secretary emphasized that building resilience to those interrelated threats called for government action that was designed and implemented through multi-stakeholder partnerships. A number of specific actions were recommended, including investment in prevention and preparedness, setting policies that balanced short-term macroeconomic stability with long-term development needs, the provision of social protection, ensuring local community inclusiveness in decision-making, establishment of public-private partnerships and providing protection to critical sectors. She noted that regional cooperation produced solutions that were greater than the sum of the policy actions of individual countries.

376. General Ahmed shared his experience and lessons learned during the management and oversight of relief efforts during the 2005 earthquake and 2010 floods in Pakistan. He reiterated, as had been highlighted in the theme study, that the frequency and magnitude of disasters was rising and noted that, as with every shock, the capacity of developing countries to respond to disasters was reduced. General Ahmed emphasized that ex-ante disaster risk reduction must take priority over ex-post disaster response in the current development paradigm. He suggested that disaster relief assistance should be contingent upon mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into longer-term development needs. He called for social safety nets as a key component of

disaster preparedness and observed that information and communications technologies were key tools for assessing disaster damage, identifying hazards and developing risk mitigation strategies. He described some of the initiatives undertaken by Pakistan in the area of disaster risk reduction, including national disaster risk reduction legislation, the creation of more practical building codes, land management requirements, local-level disaster management plans, capacity-building, early warning systems and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into all government projects. As a best practice, the country had utilized national surveys to identify those most vulnerable during times of crisis in order to ensure that inclusive assistance programmes were developed and available in times of need.

377. The Executive Secretary requested Mr. Gordon to share with the panel how he had managed to build strong stakeholder participation support in the Philippines in order to address disaster risk reduction. She asked him to share his experiences as a leader of reforms that had promoted community resilience and ex-ante disaster prevention. Mr. Gordon emphasized that people must always be part of the change process and that social protection along with the empowerment of people through their active involvement in local decision-making processes was an essential strategy for building community resilience. In the Philippines, practical action in disaster preparedness at the local level had been widely employed through such tools as early warning systems, accessible emergency and first aid response and disaster risk reduction planning. Mr. Gordon underlined that the Philippines was a country prone to frequent disasters. In that regard, a new law on disaster risk reduction empowered local government, civil societies and non-governmental organizations in disaster mitigation and gave them a more solid legal and financial foundation. During recent floods and typhoons in the Philippines, local communities had become far more involved in disaster preparedness; the private sector and civil society were paramount for the delivery of responses, and local governments had been given resources to spend on disaster risk reduction. Mr. Gordon also drew attention to the potentially higher impact of disasters on urban centres with large populations and suggested that countries promote less highly concentrated urbanization as part of disaster risk mitigation.

378. Mr. Ramli provided a brief overview of the policy responses to the 1997 financial crisis in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. He noted that monetary policy responses had varied across the region and observed that, during the height of an economic or financial crisis, countries should limit the spread of the crisis and apply solutions that would take into account political, social and economic circumstances. Countries must analyse their own monetary and fiscal situation and prescribe solutions that balanced short-term macroeconomic stability with long-term development goals. Mr. Ramli recounted the difficulties faced by Indonesia following the 1997 Asian financial crisis, which included, among other things, a liquidity crisis faced by the banking sector, the detrimental impact of rising interest rates on enterprises and the social consequences of rising prices. He also highlighted the enormous costs incurred by countries facing an economic or financial crisis, especially among the poor and vulnerable, and urged countries to implement policies that were aimed at ensuring that the burden was shared fairly among various groups.

379. Mr. Sabandar discussed how Indonesia had learned from previous mistakes in disaster management, including during the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which increased the urgency for setting up strong institutions on disaster management. Following that disaster, Indonesia developed a new framework for disaster management that was focused not just on emergency relief, but also on the need to mitigate losses to implement sustained recovery efforts and to prevent further damage from future disaster risks. He emphasized that disaster risk reduction needed to be part of development budgets, policy frameworks and national strategy. He underscored the importance of strong leadership in pushing forward the disaster risk reduction agenda.

380. The Indonesian Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency for Aceh and Nias, which was established following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, had been given full

authority for four years to coordinate the efforts of various relief agencies and the international community. It had been effective in building trust between the Government of Indonesia and the international donor community. Mr. Sabandar explained how Indonesia had developed a legal framework to support and sustain post-disaster development and disaster risk reduction at the national and local government levels. Finally, Mr. Sabandar emphasized that community participation was critical for reconstruction and explained how involving local communities in village planning had enabled them to take charge of the recovery process and had contributed to long-term socioeconomic development.

381. The Executive Secretary asked Mr. Surin to share his views on how the Governments of countries in Asia and the Pacific could work together to produce solutions that were greater than the sum of individual country responses. He stated that through every crisis there was an opportunity to grow, mature and collaborate, and that regional cooperation was extremely effective. He shared highlights from his experience as Secretary-General of ASEAN at the time a groundbreaking tripartite partnership between the Government of Myanmar, ASEAN and the United Nations had been established following Cyclone Nargis in 2008. He emphasized that Cyclone Nargis had provided an opportunity to build partnerships between Myanmar and the international community. Although ASEAN did not have the full range of technical expertise to deal with disasters of such scale, a number of international partners had been identified that had the necessary skills and resources. Through regional cooperation, those partners were able to provide the necessary humanitarian aid to Myanmar. Mr. Surin also emphasized the importance of disaster risk reduction in building resilience and noted the considerable progress made by Bangladesh in that regard.

382. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran noted the important role of advanced land use planning and building codes to mitigate the effects of seismic risks and encouraged regional cooperation in order to build resilience in Asia and the Pacific. In that regard, the delegation noted that ESCAP was well placed to act as a regional platform for the exchange of good practices and experiences that had been developed at the community level.

383. The delegation of Bangladesh shared the experience of the country in building resilience to natural disasters, particularly cyclones, monsoon floods and recurring drought, and expressed its support for regional cooperation as a means of sharing experiences and good practices related to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

384. The delegation of Japan announced that the country would host the third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in early 2015 in order to contribute to the formulation of an effective post-Hyogo framework for action.

385. The delegation of Indonesia underlined the importance of ensuring political commitment at all levels for building resilience to disasters.

386. The delegation of Myanmar expressed its appreciation to the international community for the assistance received during Cyclone Nargis, which had helped the country orient its future development strategies around regional integration.

387. The representative of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council noted the important contribution that an accountable private sector could make in addressing the issue of sustainable and inclusive development in the Asia-Pacific region. In that regard, the representative emphasized the role of the private sector in promoting more accountable business practices that reduced the impact of natural disasters, and underlined the need to find ways in which risk-ready businesses could support resilience-building measures.

388. The panel expressed appreciation for the relevance and the timeliness of the theme study, the high-quality analysis of the twin shocks of disasters and economic crises, and the highly relevant policy recommendations contained in the study.

389. The Deputy Secretary-General delivered closing remarks, noting that, in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world, it was always the poor and vulnerable that were the most severely affected by natural disasters and economic crises. He emphasized that there was no peace without development, that there was no development without peace, and that there would be neither of them without human rights. He stressed the need to plan for worst-case scenarios and called on countries to “build back better” for improved preparation for a disaster or crisis. He stated that disaster risk reduction should play an important role in the development agenda beyond 2015. In the current era of multiple shocks, which were spreading faster and increasing in frequency and magnitude, the Deputy Secretary-General encouraged policymakers to mobilize resources at all levels of government and to reach out to the private sector, civil society, academia and the scientific community for multisectoral policy solutions.

**Agenda item 10**  
**Other matters**

390. No other matter was discussed.

**Agenda item 11**  
**Adoption of the report of the Commission**

391. The report of the Commission on its sixty-ninth session was adopted unanimously at its fifth plenary meeting on 1 May 2013.

## Annex I

### Statement of programme budget implications of actions and proposals of the Commission

1. The requests contained in the resolutions listed below will have no additional programme budget implications for the approved programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013:<sup>a</sup>

(a) Resolution 69/1: A conference structure of the Commission for the inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Resolution 69/2: Final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region;

(c) Resolution 69/3: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on the Development Agenda beyond 2015;

(d) Resolution 69/4: Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015;

(e) Resolution 69/5: Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;

(f) Resolution 69/6: Implementation of the Tehran Declaration to promote public-private partnerships in infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development;

(g) Resolution 69/7: Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports;

(h) Resolution 69/8: Enhancing knowledge-sharing and cooperation in integrated water resources management in Asia and the Pacific;

(i) Resolution 69/9: Implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme towards voluntary follow-up to the Rio+20 outcome “The future we want”;

(j) Resolution 69/10: Promoting regional information and communications technology connectivity and building knowledge-networked societies in Asia and the Pacific;

(k) Resolution 69/11: Implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017;

(l) Resolution 69/12: Enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific;

(m) Resolution 69/13: Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific;

(n) Resolution 69/14: Implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;

(o) Resolution 69/15: Implementing the outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific;

---

<sup>a</sup> See General Assembly resolution 67/247 A-C.

(p) Resolution 69/16: A core set of population and social statistics to guide national capacity development in Asia and the Pacific;

(q) Resolution 69/17: Sustainable management, conservation and use of ocean resources for the development of Asia-Pacific small island developing States.

2. Extrabudgetary resources, where appropriate, will be sought for the implementation of the activities required under the above-mentioned resolutions.

3. With respect to resolution 69/11, one output for facilitating the implementation of the Plan of Action would be added to the proposed programme of work for 2014-2015, namely implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017.

4. With respect to resolution 69/15, one output for implementing the regional intergovernmental ministerial-level meeting on civil registration and vital statistics would be added to the programme of work in 2014-2015. Full implementation of the resolution would require additional extrabudgetary resources to support the implementation of the required activities and additional regular budgetary resources, in the amount of approximately \$67,000 for the 2014-2015 proposed programme budget, for the regional intergovernmental ministerial-level meeting.

## Annex II

### Meetings of subsidiary bodies and other intergovernmental bodies held since the sixty-eighth session of the Commission

Subsidiary body and officers		Session	Document symbol of report
<i>Committees</i>			
<b>I. Committee on Transport</b>		<b>Third session</b> Bangkok 10-12 October 2012	<b>E/ESCAP/69/8</b>
Chair	Mr. Anuradha Wijekoon (Sri Lanka)		
Vice-Chairs	Mr. Bouaphet Sayasane (Lao People's Democratic Republic) Mr. Jeke Tavai Kelo (Fiji)		
Rapporteur	Mr. Erdem Direkler (Turkey)		
<b>II. Committee on Information and Communications Technology</b>		<b>Third session</b> Bangkok 20-22 November 2012	<b>E/ESCAP/69/9</b>
Chair	Mr. Louis Napoleon Corpuz Casambre (Philippines)		
First Vice-Chair	Mr. Fernando Carvalho Da Cruz (Timor-Leste)		
Second Vice-Chair	Mr. Purushottam Ghimire (Nepal)		
<b>III. Committee on Statistics</b>		<b>Third session</b> Bangkok 12-14 December 2012	<b>E/ESCAP/69/13</b>
Chair	Ms. Carmelita Ericta (Philippines)		
Vice-Chairs	Mr. Gerelt-Od Ganbaatar (Mongolia) Mr. Ki-Jong Woo (Republic of Korea) Mr. Sefuiva Reupena Muagututi'a (Samoa)		
Member	Ms. Aishath Shahuda (Maldives)		
Rapporteur	Mr. Geoff Bascand (New Zealand)		
<i>Governing Councils</i>			
<b>I. Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development</b>		<b>Seventh session</b> Bangkok 21 November 2012	<b>E/ESCAP/69/10</b>
Chair	Mr. Jnanendra N. Biswas (Bangladesh)		
Vice-Chair	Ms. Rungthip Sripetchdee (Thailand)		
<b>II. Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific</b>		<b>Eighth session</b> Bangkok 6-7 December 2012	<b>E/ESCAP/69/14</b>
Chair	Mr. Trevor Sutton (Australia)		
Vice-Chair	Mr. Takao Itou (Japan)		



Subsidiary body and officers	Session	Document symbol of report
<b>III. Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization</b>	<b>Eighth session</b> Bangkok 13 December 2012	<b>E/ESCAP/69/7</b>
Chair	Mr. Chinthaka P. Balasooriya (Sri Lanka)	
Vice-Chair	Mr. Chan Saruth (Cambodia)	
<b>IV. Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology</b>	<b>Eighth session</b> Bangkok 14 December 2012	<b>E/ESCAP/69/6</b>
Chair	Mr. Dilip Kumar Basak (Bangladesh)	
Vice-Chair	Mr. Jovito Rey Gonzales (Philippines)	
<b>V. Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture</b>	<b>Ninth session</b> Bogor, Indonesia 14-15 February 2013	<b>E/ESCAP/69/5</b>
Chair	Ms. Rangsit Poosiripinyo (Thailand)	
Vice-Chair	Mr. Teodoro S. Solsoloy (Philippines)	
<i>Other intergovernmental bodies</i>		
<b>I. Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing</b>	Bangkok 10-12 September 2012	<b>E/ESCAP/69/11</b>
Chair	Mr. Xiao Caiwei (China)	
Vice-Chairs	Mr. Mohamed Zahid (Maldives) Ms. Jemma Baghdasaryan (Armenia)	
Rapporteur	Mr. Russell de Burgh (Australia)	
<b>II. High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012</b>	Incheon Republic of Korea 29 October- 2 November 2012	<b>E/ESCAP/69/12</b>
Chair	Mr. Chemin Rim (Republic of Korea)	
Vice-Chair	Mr. Salim Segaf Al-Jufri (Indonesia)	
Rapporteur	Ms. Parisya H. Taradji (Philippines)	
<b>III. Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia</b>	<b>Seventh session</b> Bangkok 28 November 2012	<b>E/ESCAP/69/15</b>
Chair	Mr. Esen Aydogdyev (Turkmenistan)	

## Annex III

### Publications and documents issued by the Commission

#### A. Publications issued since the sixty-eighth session<sup>\*</sup>

##### Executive direction and management

*Building Resilience to Natural Disasters and Major Economic Crises.* (Theme study 2013) ST/ESCAP/2655 (Sales No. E.13.II.F.3).

*ESCAP Annual Report 2013 — Building a Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific: Because People Matter.* ST/ESCAP/2659.

*What's Ahead @ ESCAP*\*\*

##### Subprogramme 1

##### Macroeconomic policy and inclusive development<sup>a</sup>

*Asia-Pacific Development Journal*

Vol. 19, No. 1, June 2012. ST/ESCAP/2637. (Sales No. E.12.II.F.11)

Vol. 19, No. 2, December 2013. ST/ESCAP/2653. (Sales No. E.12.II.F.15)

CAPSA Fact Sheet\*\*

4/2012 - Strengthening value chains for secondary crops

5/2012 - Networking for agricultural development

6/2013 - Home and community gardens in South-East Asia

*Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2012: Year-end Update.* ST/ESCAP/2649.

*Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013: Forward-looking Macroeconomic Policies for Inclusive and Sustainable Development.* ST/ESCAP/2654 (Sales No. E.13.II.F.2).

*Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2012: Pursuing Shared Prosperity in an Era of Turbulence and High Commodity Prices,* May 2012. ST/ESCAP/2628. (Sales No. E.12.II.F.9).

MPDD Working Papers\*\*

WP/12/02, March 2012. Building productive capacities: challenges and opportunities for least developed countries.

WP/12/03, July 2012. Euro zone debt crisis: scenario analysis and implications for developing Asia-Pacific.

WP/12/04, August 2012. Strategies for structural transformation in countries in South and South-West Asia.

WP/12/05, November 2012. In which industries to invest? Aligning market and development incentives in Myanmar.

---

<sup>\*</sup> Where applicable, the ESCAP document symbol and (in parentheses) United Nations publication sales numbers are noted. A double asterisk (\*\*) denotes publications that are available online only.

<sup>a</sup> Including the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA).

*Palawija News (CAPSA):*

- Vol. 29, No. 1, April 2012. From 'knowledge is power' to 'sharing knowledge is more powerful': the challenge of developing knowledge-sharing culture in innovation systems.
- Vol. 29, No. 2, August 2012. Meeting food security needs through sustainable agriculture: a perspective with reference to Bangladesh.
- Vol. 29, No. 3, December 2012. Towards promoting the participation of smallholders in agricultural markets in Papua New Guinea.

**Subprogramme 2**  
**Trade and investment<sup>b</sup>**

*APTIAD Briefing Note* \*\*

- No. 4, June 2012. Trade agreements and arrangements in the Pacific subregion.
- No. 5, September 2012. Trade and investment agreements between Asia-Pacific and Latin America.

*ARTNeT Newsletter* \*\*

- Vol. 8, No. 1, January – July 2012
- Vol. 8, No. 2, August 2012 – February 2013

*ARTNeT Working Papers* \*\*

- No. 113, May 2012. Thailand's 2011 flooding: its impact on direct exports and global supply chains.
- No. 114, June 2012. Multilateralism in crisis.
- No. 115, June 2012. The impacts of natural disasters on global supply chains.
- No. 116, July 2012. SPS measures and possible market access implications for agricultural trade in the Doha round: an analysis of systemic issues.
- No. 117, August 2012. The role of developing countries in global economic governance.
- No. 118, August 2012. Asia's international production networks: Will India be the next assembly centre?
- No. 119, September 2012. Import tariffs and export subsidies in the World Trade Organization: a small-country approach.
- No. 120, October 2012. Challenges resulting from the global economic crisis, and responses by Vietnamese woman-led, export-oriented enterprises: a preliminary inquiry.
- No. 121, December 2012. Trade costs in the developing world: 1995-2010.
- No. 122, January 2013. Social security for migrant labour in the Greater Mekong Subregion.
- No. 123, February 2013. Specific trade facilitation measures to promote export of traditional knowledge based goods – a case study of Mukdahan and Nakhon Phanom.

---

<sup>b</sup> Including the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM).

*Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor (APCTT):*

- Vol. 29, No. 1, January-March 2012. Enhancing regional economic integration through national innovation systems.
- Vol. 29, No. 2, April-June 2012. Adoption and utilization of renewable energy technologies.
- Vol. 29, No. 3, July-September 2012. Accessing the biotechnology global value chain partnering opportunities for SMEs of Asia-Pacific.
- Vol. 29, No. 4, October-December 2012. Promoting nanotechnology applications: the role of R&D institutes to enhance competitiveness of SMEs.
- Vol. 30, No. 1, January-March 2013. Technology-based resilience to natural disasters: opportunities for Asia and the Pacific.

*Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Agreements Database\*\**

*Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2012: Recent Trends and Developments.* December 2012. ST/ESCAP/2650.

Directory of trade and investment-related organizations of developing countries and areas in Asia and the Pacific (database).\*\*

*E-TISNET Trade and Investment News and Information Sources (monthly)\*\**

*Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF) newsletter\*\**

- No. 1, 30 March 2012
- No. 2, 29 June 2012
- No. 3, 31 January 2013

*Electronic Single Window Legal Issues: A Capacity-building Guide.* October 2012. ST/ESCAP/2636.

*The Gravity Model of International Trade: A User Guide.* ARTNeT Gravity Modeling Initiative. October 2012. ST/ESCAP/2645.

*Studies in Trade and Investment:\*\**

- No. 77, April 2013. From corporate social responsibility to corporate sustainability: moving the agenda forward in Asia and the Pacific. ST/ESCAP/2658.

*Trade and Investment Division, staff working papers:\*\**

- No. 1/12, 20 September 2012 (revised 31 December 2012). Myanmar: opening up to its trade and foreign direct investment potential.
- No. 2/12, 25 November 2012. Agricultural trade costs in Asia and the Pacific: patterns, compositions and determinants.
- No. 1/13, 12 February 2013 (revised 10 April 2013). Trade facilitation and paperless trade in Asia: results from an expert survey.

*UNAPCAEM Policy Brief:\*\**

- No. 2, May-August 2012. Organic agriculture gains ground on mitigating climate change and improving food security: healthy food from healthy soil.

*UNNExT Brief: Towards a Single Window Trading Environment:\*\**

- No. 8, August 2012. Developing a national single window for import, export and logistics in Thailand.

*VATIS Update: Biotechnology.* (APCTT):\*\*

- Vol. 1, No. 113, January-March 2012
- Vol. 1, No. 114, April-June 2012
- Vol. 1, No. 115, July-September 2012
- Vol. 1, No. 116, October-December 2012

*VATIS Update: Food Processing* (APCTT):\*\*

- Vol. 3, No. 111, January-March 2012
- Vol. 3, No. 112, April-June 2012
- Vol. 3, No. 113, July-September 2012

*VATIS Update: Non-conventional Energy* (APCTT):\*\*

- Vol. 2, No. 112, January-March 2012
- Vol. 2, No. 113, April-June 2012
- Vol. 2, No. 113, July-September 2012

*VATIS Update: Ozone Layer Protection* (APCTT):\*\*

- Vol. 4, No. 110, January-February 2012
- Vol. 4, No. 111, March-April 2012
- Vol. 4, No. 112, May-June 2012
- Vol. 4, No. 113, July-August 2012
- Vol. 4, No. 114, September-October 2012

*VATIS Update: Waste Management* (APCTT):\*\*

- Vol. 5, No. 108, January-March 2012
- Vol. 5, No. 109, April-June 2012
- Vol. 5, No. 110, July-September 2012

### **Subprogramme 3**

#### **Transport**

*Efficient Cross-border Transport Models.* September 2012. \*\*

*Model on Integrated Controls at Border Crossings.* September 2012. \*\*

### **Subprogramme 4**

#### **Environment and development**

Discussion Paper:\*\*

Climate change adaptation for water management in a green economy.

Energy Resources Development Series

No. 42, December 2012. Widening energy access and enhancing energy security to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.  
ST/ESCAP/2646.

*Report of the Fifth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum.* January 2012. ST/ESCAP/2608.

*Sustainable Urban Transportation Systems — An Overview.* ESCAP and CITYNET, August 2012.

## **Subprogramme 5**

### **Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction<sup>c</sup>**

APCICT Knowledge Sharing Series:

No. 1, 2012. ICT for development: institution building.

No. 2, 2012. Cybersecurity.

*Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2012: Reducing Vulnerability and Exposure to Disasters*. ESCAP and UNISDR, 19 October 2012. ST/ESCAP/2639.

*Compendium on Water-related Hazards and Extreme Weather Events in Central Asia and Neighbouring Countries*. ST/ESCAP/2640.

## **Subprogramme 6**

### **Social development**

2012 ESCAP Population Datasheet, 20 December 2012.

*Asia-Pacific Population Journal*

Vol. 27, No. 1, June, 2012. ST/ESCAP/2651 (Sales No. E.12.II.F.99).

*Disability at a Glance 2012: Strengthening the Evidence Base in Asia and the Pacific*. September 2012. ST/ESCAP/2642 (Sales No. E.12.II.F.13)

*Disability, Livelihood and Poverty in Asia and the Pacific: An Executive Summary of Research Findings*. October 2012. ST/ESCAP/2643.

Disability Policy Central for Asia and the Pacific (database)\*\*

Discussion Paper Series:

No. 21, November 2012. Harmful traditional practices in three countries of South Asia: culture, human rights and violence against women. ST/ESCAP/2530.

*Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific*. November 2012. ST/ESCAP/2648.

*Report of the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Assessment of Progress against Commitments in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals, Bangkok, 6-8 February 2012*. May 2012. ST/ESCAP/2633.

*Report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, Bangkok, 10-12 September 2012*. November 2012. ST/ESCAP/2652.

## **Subprogramme 7**

### **Statistics**

Annual core indicators online database\*\*

*Statistical Newsletter*:\*\*

Second Quarter, 29 June 2012.

Third Quarter, 3 October 2012.

Fourth Quarter, 9 January 2013.

First Quarter, 4 April 2013.

---

<sup>c</sup> Including the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM).

*Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2012: Country Profiles.*  
November 2012. ST/ESCAP/2647.

## **Subprogramme 8** **Subregional activities for development**

*Connections (SRO-ENEA)\*\**

- No. 1, April - May 2012
- No. 2, June - July 2012
- No. 3, August - September 2012
- No. 4, October - December 2012
- No. 5, January - February 2013

*Green Economy in a Blue World: Pacific Perspectives 2012.* ESCAP Pacific Office.  
ST/ESCAP/2641.

*South and South-West Asia Development Monitor\*\**

- No. 4, 15 May 2012
- No. 5, 15 June 2012
- No. 6, 15 July 2012
- No. 7, 15 August 2012
- No. 8, 15 September 2012
- No. 9, 22 October 2012
- No. 10, 22 November 2012
- No. 11, 22 December 2012
- No. 12, January/February 2013
- No. 13, February/March 2013

South and South West-Asia Policy Brief Series

- No. 1, July 2012. Closing MDG gaps in South and South-West Asia: case of health and nutrition outcomes.

South and South-West Asia Development Papers

- No. 1201, April 2012. Developing challenges facing South and South-West Asia: views from the subregion.
- No. 1202, May 2012. Disentangling the poverty effects of sectoral output, prices and policies in India.
- No. 1203, June 2012. The future of financial liberalization in South Asia.
- No. 1204, August 2012. Strategies for structural transformation in countries of South and South-West Asia.
- No. 1205, September 2012. Regional economic cooperation and connectivity in South and South-West Asia: potential and challenges.
- No. 1206, November 2012. Structural transformation, industrialization and poverty reduction: the case of India.
- No. 1301, January 2013. Rising food prices in South Asia: a policy framework to mitigate adverse effects.
- No. 1302, February 2013. Regional cooperation for energy access and energy security in South and South-West Asia.
- No. 1303, March 2013. Trade, capital flows and the balance of payments: trends, challenges and policy options for India.

*South and South-West Asia Development Report 2012-13: Regional Cooperation for Inclusive and Sustainable Development*

**B. Documents submitted to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session**

Document symbol	Document title	Agenda item
<i>Limited documents</i>		
E/ESCAP/69/L.1	Provisional agenda	1
E/ESCAP/69/L.2	Annotated provisional agenda	1
E/ESCAP/69/L.3 and Add.1-23	Draft report	-
E/ESCAP/69/L.4	Draft resolution: Promoting regional information and communications technology connectivity and building knowledge-networked societies in Asia and the Pacific	3 (e) and (f)
E/ESCAP/69/L.5	Draft resolution: Implementing the outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	3(g) and (h)
E/ESCAP/69/L.6	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017	3(e) and (f)
E/ESCAP/69/L.7	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific	3(g)
E/ESCAP/69/L.8	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Tehran Declaration to promote public-private partnerships in infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development	3(c)
E/ESCAP/69/L.9	Draft resolution: Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports	3(c)
E/ESCAP/69/L.10	Draft resolution: Final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region	2(a)
E/ESCAP/69/L.11	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing	3(g)
E/ESCAP/69/L.12	Draft resolution: Enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific	3(e) and (f)
E/ESCAP/69/L.13	Draft resolution: Enhancing knowledge-sharing and cooperation in integrated water resources management in Asia and the Pacific	3(d)
E/ESCAP/69/L.14	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme towards voluntary follow-up to the Rio+20 outcome “The future we want”	3(d)
E/ESCAP/69/L.15	Draft resolution: A core set of population and social statistics to guide national capacity development in Asia and the Pacific	3(g) and (h)
E/ESCAP/69/L.16	Draft resolution: Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015	3(a) and (d)
E/ESCAP/69/L.17	Draft resolution: A conference structure of the Commission for the inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific	5
E/ESCAP/69/L.18	Draft resolution: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on the Development Agenda beyond 2015	2(b)



Document symbol	Document title	Agenda item
E/ESCAP/69/L.19	Draft resolution: Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization	3(b)
E/ESCAP/69/L.20	Draft resolution: Sustainable management, conservation and use of ocean resources for the development of Asia-Pacific small island developing States	3(i)
<i>Regular documents</i>		
E/ESCAP/69/1	Note verbale dated 11 March 2013 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic addressed to the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	2(a)
E/ESCAP/69/2	Summary of key outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action	2(b)
E/ESCAP/69/3	Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	3
E/ESCAP/69/4	Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions	3
E/ESCAP/69/5	Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its ninth session	3(a)
E/ESCAP/69/6	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its eighth session	3(b)
E/ESCAP/69/7	Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture Mechanization on its eighth session	3(b)
E/ESCAP/69/8	Report of the Committee on Transport on its third session	3(c)
E/ESCAP/69/8/Add.1	Finalized draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports	3(c)
E/ESCAP/69/9	Report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology on its third session	3(e)
E/ESCAP/69/10	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its seventh session	3(e) and (f)
E/ESCAP/69/11	Report of the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing	3(g)
E/ESCAP/69/12	Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012	3(g)
E/ESCAP/69/13	Report of the Committee on Statistics on its third session	3(h)
E/ESCAP/69/14	Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its eighth session	3(h)
E/ESCAP/69/15	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its seventh session	3(i)
E/ESCAP/69/16 and Corr.1	Draft programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015	4(a)
E/ESCAP/69/17	Overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions	4(c)

Document symbol	Document title	Agenda item
E/ESCAP/69/18	Final review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its subsidiary structure, pursuant to resolutions 64/1 and 67/5	5
E/ESCAP/69/19	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	6
E/ESCAP/69/20	Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventieth session of the Commission (2014)	7
E/ESCAP/69/21	People - Planet - Prosperity: Sustainable development and the development agenda for Asia and the Pacific beyond 2015	8(a)
E/ESCAP/69/22	Summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013	8(b)
E/ESCAP/69/23	Opportunities to build resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises	9
E/ESCAP/69/24	Note verbale dated 24 December 2012 from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Thailand addressed to the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	3(c)
E/ESCAP/69/25	Note verbale dated 18 February 2013 from the Embassy of Japan in Thailand addressed to the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	3(f)
E/ESCAP/69/26	Outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific	3(h)
<i>Information documents</i>		
E/ESCAP/69/INF/3	Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	3(d)
E/ESCAP/69/INF/4	Report of the Mekong River Commission	3(d)
E/ESCAP/69/INF/5	Report of the Typhoon Committee	3(f)
E/ESCAP/69/INF/6	Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones	3(f)
E/ESCAP/69/INF/7	Report of the 2012 SPECA Economic Forum	3(f)
E/ESCAP/69/INF/8	Report of SPECA side event	3(f)
E/ESCAP/69/INF/9	Evaluation of the conference structure of the Commission	5

---

Printed at the United Nations, Bangkok  
June 2013 – 600

USD 25  
ISBN-13 978-92-1-880245-3

