



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

### Seventy-second session

Agenda item 3 (a)

### Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

#### 72/1. Statute of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture

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

*Recalling* its resolutions 174 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977, 220 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982, 60/5 of 28 April 2004 and 61/5 of 18 May 2005 on the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific,

*Recalling also* the agreement between the Government of Indonesia and the United Nations regarding the hosting of the Centre, signed on 29 April 1981,

*Recalling further* the support of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its sixty-sixth session, based on the recommendation of the Governing Council of the Centre, for the change of name from the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific to the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture,

*Welcoming with appreciation* the financial resources and facilities that have been provided by the Government of Indonesia and the support of other members and associate members,

*Recalling* its resolution 71/1 of 29 May 2015 entitled “Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda”,

*Taking note* of the report of the Governing Council of the Centre on its twelfth session,<sup>1</sup>

1. *Adopts* the revised statute of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture, the text of which is annexed hereto;

2. *Calls upon* members and associate members to provide enhanced voluntary contributions, both financial and in-kind, to support the work of the Centre.

*6th plenary meeting  
19 May 2016*

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<sup>1</sup> E/ESCAP/72/10.

## **Annex**

### **Statute of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture**

#### **Establishment**

1. The Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific, which was established in April 1981 pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 174 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977, its statute adopted by Commission resolution 220 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982, its name changed to the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific in May 2005 pursuant to Commission resolution 60/5 of 28 April 2004, its statute adopted pursuant to Commission resolution 65/4 of 29 April 2009, shall continue in existence under the title the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as “CAPSA” or “the Centre”) under the terms of the present statute.
2. The membership of CAPSA is 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 has the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

#### **Objective**

4. The objective of CAPSA is to promote a more supportive policy environment in member countries to enhance the living conditions of rural poor populations in disadvantaged areas and to promote research and development related to sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture to alleviate poverty and improve food security in the Asian and Pacific region.

#### **Functions**

5. The Centre shall achieve the above objective by undertaking such functions as:
  - (a) Coordination of socioeconomic and policy research on sustainable agriculture and food security;
  - (b) Networking and partnership with other international organizations and key stakeholders;
  - (c) Research and analysis of trends and opportunities with regard to improving the economic status of rural populations;
  - (d) Production, packaging and dissemination of information and successful practices on poverty reduction;
  - (e) Dissemination of information and good practices on poverty reduction measures;
  - (f) Training of national personnel, particularly national scientists and policy analysts;
  - (g) Advisory services.

## **Status and organization**

6. CAPSA shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) and a Director and staff.
7. CAPSA is located in Bogor, Indonesia.
8. The activities of CAPSA shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. CAPSA shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions. CAPSA shall engage actively with the host country in an open and transparent manner.

## **Governing Council**

9. The Governing Council shall consist of a representative nominated by the Government of Indonesia and the representatives of eight members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission, from their respective relevant line ministries. 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 of the Commission or his/her representative shall attend the 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, when that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.
15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chair or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chair shall preside at the meetings of the Council. If the Chair is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chair shall act as Chair for the remainder of that term.
16. The Council shall review the administrative and financial status of CAPSA and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

### **Director and staff**

17. CAPSA 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 CAPSA and the implementation of its programme of work.

19. The Centre shall endeavour to develop its capacities and programme of work to assist member States in an efficient and effective manner.

### **Resources of the Centre**

20. The Centre shall strive towards a funding structure that is primarily dependent on extrabudgetary resources.

21. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be urged to make a regular annual contribution on a voluntary basis to CAPSA, as contributions are essential to its operations. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

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

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

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

### **Amendments**

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

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

26. 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 the present 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**

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

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## **Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

### **72/2. Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization**

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

*Recalling* its resolution 58/5 of 22 May 2002 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery,

*Recalling also* its resolution 61/3 of 18 May 2005 on the statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery and resolution 69/5 of 1 May 2013 on the statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization,

*Noting with appreciation* the significant financial resources and facilities that have been provided by the Government of China to the Centre since its establishment and the support of other members and associate members,

*Recalling* its resolution 71/1 of 29 May 2015 entitled “Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda”,

*Taking note* of the report of the Governing Council of the Centre,<sup>2</sup>

1. *Adopts* the revised statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, the text of which is annexed hereto;
2. *Calls upon* members and associate members to continue to provide necessary resources to support the work of the Centre.

*6th plenary meeting  
19 May 2016*

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<sup>2</sup> E/ESCAP/72/14.

## **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 Sustainable 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 nutrition, and poverty reduction and promoting agro-based small and medium-sized enterprise development and commercial farming to seize opportunities for increased market access and agrifood 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 environmentally friendly agro-technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, 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 on mutually agreed terms from research and development institutes to the agricultural and farm machinery extension systems in member countries for poverty reduction;

(g) Assistance in the voluntary 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 an array of stakeholders, in particular 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 and other staff.

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 of relevant line ministries 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 Chair and Vice-Chair. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chair or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chair shall preside at meetings of the Council. If the Chair is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chair shall act as Chair 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.

17. The Council shall ensure that the Centre develops its capacity to assist member States in an efficient and effective manner.

#### **Director and staff**

18. 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.

19. 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.

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

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

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

22. The Centre shall strive towards a funding structure that is primarily dependent on extrabudgetary resources.

23. 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.

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

#### **Amendments**

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



**Matters not covered by the present statute**

26. 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**

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

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## **Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

### **72/3. Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology**

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

*Recalling* its resolutions 159 (XXXI) of 6 March 1975 and 164 (XXXII) of 31 March 1976 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology,

*Recalling also* the agreement between the Government of India and the United Nations regarding the headquarters of the Centre, signed on 11 April 1994,

*Recalling further* its resolution 61/4 of 18 May 2005 on the statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology,

*Noting with appreciation* the significant financial resources and facilities that have been provided by the Government of India to the Centre since its establishment and the support of other members and associate members,

*Recalling* its resolution 71/1 of 29 May 2015 entitled “Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda”,

*Taking note* of the report of the Governing Council of the Centre,<sup>3</sup>

1. *Adopts* the revised statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, the text of which is 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 and consider enhancing such support to enable the Centre to play a more effective role in assisting the member countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through capacity-building activities for technology transfer and facilitation.

*6th plenary meeting  
19 May 2016*

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<sup>3</sup> E/ESCAP/72/13.

## **Annex**

### **Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology**

#### **Establishment**

1. The Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (hereinafter referred to as “the Centre” or “APCTT”), established on 16 July 1977 pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions 159 (XXXI) of 6 March 1975 and 164 (XXXII) of 31 March 1976, shall continue in existence under the terms of the present statute.
2. The membership of APCTT is identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as “ESCAP” or “the Commission”).
3. APCTT has the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

#### **Objectives**

4. The objectives of the Centre are to assist the members and associate members of ESCAP through strengthening their capabilities to develop and manage national innovation systems; develop, transfer, adapt and apply technology; improve the terms of transfer of technology; and identify and promote the development and transfer of technologies relevant to the region.

#### **Functions**

5. The Centre will achieve the above objective by undertaking such functions as:
  - (a) Research and analysis of trends, conditions and opportunities;
  - (b) Advisory services;
  - (c) Dissemination of information and good practices;
  - (d) Networking and partnership with international organizations and key stakeholders;
  - (e) Training of national personnel, particularly national scientists and policy analysts.

#### **Status and organization**

6. The Centre shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”), a Director and staff.
7. The Centre is located in New Delhi.
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 India and no fewer than 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 this is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

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

16. The Council shall advise on the formulation and implementation of the programme of work of the Centre and review the administration and financial status of the Centre. 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.

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

19. The Centre shall strive towards a funding structure that is primarily dependent on extrabudgetary resources.

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

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

22. 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.

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

#### **Amendments**

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

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

25. 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**

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

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## **Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

### **72/4. Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific**

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

*Conscious* of the importance of trade as an engine for inclusive economic growth and sustainable development and of the need to increase the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of international trade transactions to maintain and enhance the competitiveness of the region,

*Emphasizing* that facilitation of cross-border paperless trade makes international trade transactions more efficient and transparent while improving regulatory compliance, particularly if trade-related data and documents in electronic form are exchanged across borders,

*Recalling* its resolution 68/3 of 23 May 2012 on enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable intraregional trade facilitation and the request contained therein to work towards the development of regional arrangements,

*Recalling also* its resolution 70/6 of 8 August 2014 on the implementation of the decision of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade to establish the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation for further improving the draft text of the regional arrangement on facilitation of cross-border paperless trade as a potential intergovernmental agreement and preparing a draft road map for its implementation,

*Recalling further* the outcome of the first meeting of the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation,<sup>4</sup> held in Bangkok from 1 to 3 April 2015, and in particular the creation of working groups under the Steering Group in order to enable nominated officials to engage in dedicated negotiation,

*Welcoming* the finalization of the draft Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific by the Interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation at its second meeting,<sup>5</sup> held in Bangkok from 23 to 25 March 2016,

*Expressing its appreciation* to the Government of the Republic of Korea for the valuable support it provided for the process of developing the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific through the establishment of a trust fund,

*Convinced* that the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific will strengthen regional economic cooperation and integration among member States to promote inclusive and sustainable development,

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<sup>4</sup> E/ESCAP/71/41.

<sup>5</sup> E/ESCAP/72/12.

1. *Adopts* the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present resolution;
2. *Invites* all members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to become parties to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific in order to ensure its rapid entry into force;
3. *Invites* international organizations to continue to collaborate with members of the Commission to facilitate cross-border paperless trade in the region;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:
  - (a) Assist member States in the process of becoming parties to the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific;
  - (b) Collaborate effectively with international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors and international and subregional organizations in implementing the Agreement;
  - (c) Continue and further strengthen the secretariat's support for capacity-building activities related to trade facilitation and paperless trade, particularly in connection with the implementation of the Agreement, especially with regard to least developed and landlocked developing countries;
  - (d) Discharge effectively the functions of the secretariat of the Agreement;
  - (e) Report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*6th plenary meeting  
19 May 2016*

## **Annex**

### **Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific**

*The Parties to the present Framework Agreement (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”),*

*Conscious of the importance of trade as an engine of growth and development and the need to increase the efficiency of international trade transactions to maintain and enhance the competitiveness of the region,*

*Noting that unimpeded trade plays a crucial role in promoting comprehensive connectivity, which will lead to trade creation and new growth in the region,*

*Recognizing that paperless trade makes international trade more efficient and transparent while improving regulatory compliance, particularly if trade-related data and documents in electronic form are exchanged across borders,*

*Noting that the trade and supply chain security initiatives under implementation in major export markets will make it increasingly necessary for all actors in the international supply chain to exchange data and documents electronically,*

*Considering the fact that many countries of the Asia-Pacific region are currently engaged in implementing electronic systems at the national level to expedite processing of trade-related data and documents,*

*Considering also the fact that countries of the Asia-Pacific region increasingly include provisions for electronic exchange of information in their trade agreements,*

*Recognizing the conclusion of the negotiation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation at the ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization and the importance of the implementation of the Agreement,*

*Aware that facilitating mutual recognition and exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form between landlocked and transit countries would significantly reduce transit time and costs and enhance trade and development opportunities for the landlocked countries,*

*Aware also that facilitating exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form would particularly enable small and medium-sized enterprises to more effectively participate in international trade and enhance their competitiveness,*

*Mindful of the different levels of economic as well as information and communications technology development of the Parties,*

*Acknowledging that the availability of information and communications technology and related physical infrastructure is not sufficient in some countries to ensure sustainable business development,*

*Noting the necessity to establish an enabling legal environment in order to maximize the benefits associated with cross-border paperless trade,*



*Desirous* of formulating a legal framework to deepen and broaden cooperation in cross-border paperless trade facilitation among the Parties and to chart the future developments in this area,

Hereby agree as follows:

### **Article 1 Objective**

The objective of the present Framework Agreement is to promote cross-border paperless trade by enabling the exchange and mutual recognition of trade-related data and documents in electronic form and facilitating interoperability among national and subregional single windows and/or other paperless trade systems, for the purpose of making international trade transactions more efficient and transparent while improving regulatory compliance.

### **Article 2 Scope**

The present Framework Agreement applies to cross-border paperless trade between the Parties.

### **Article 3 Definitions**

For the purpose of the present Framework Agreement:

- (a) “Cross-border paperless trade” means trade in goods, including their import, export, transit and related services, taking place on the basis of electronic communications, including exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form;
- (b) “Electronic communication” means any communication that the parties involved in trade make by means of data messages;
- (c) “Data message” means information generated, sent, received or stored by electronic, magnetic, optical or similar means, including, but not limited to, electronic data interchange;
- (d) “Trade-related data” means data contained in or transmitted in connection with a trade-related document;
- (e) “Trade-related documents” means documents, both commercial and regulatory, required in completing commercial transactions;
- (f) “Commercial transactions” means transactions relating to the trade in goods between parties whose places of business are in different territories;
- (g) “Mutual recognition” means reciprocal recognition of the validity of trade-related data and documents in electronic form exchanged across borders between two or more countries;
- (h) “Single window” means a facility that allows parties involved in a trade transaction to electronically lodge data and documents with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export and transit-related regulatory requirements;
- (i) “Interoperability” means the ability of two or more systems or components to exchange information and to use the information that has been exchanged.

**Article 4**  
**Interpretation**

Any interpretation of the present Framework Agreement must have due regard for the general principles on which it is based, for its international character and for the need to promote uniformity in its application.

**Article 5**  
**General principles**

1. The present Framework Agreement shall be guided by the following general principles:

- (a) Functional equivalence;
- (b) Non-discrimination of the use of electronic communications;
- (c) Technological neutrality;
- (d) Promotion of interoperability;
- (e) Improved trade facilitation and regulatory compliance;
- (f) Cooperation between the public and private sectors;
- (g) Improving transboundary trust environment.

2. The Parties agree that implementing national legislation and regulations that apply these principles to the exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form will establish common levels of trust and increase interoperability.

**Article 6**  
**National policy framework, enabling domestic legal environment and paperless trade committee**

1. The Parties shall endeavour to establish a national policy framework for paperless trade, which may define targets and implementation strategies and allocate resources, and a legislative framework.

2. The Parties shall endeavour to create an enabling national legislation on paperless trade, in particular addressing the functions of the national operators for cross-border paperless trade, taking into consideration international standards and best practices, if applicable.

3. The Parties may establish a national committee, comprising relevant representatives of government and private sector parties, in accordance with their domestic environment. The committee will promote a legally enabling domestic environment for exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form as well as facilitate interoperability of cross-border paperless trade. The Parties may alternatively rely on a similar body already functioning domestically in lieu of establishing a separate committee and may designate that body, or an appropriate organizational unit or working group within it, as the national committee for the purpose of the present Framework Agreement.

**Article 7****Facilitation of cross-border paperless trade and development of single-window systems**

1. The Parties shall endeavour to facilitate cross-border paperless trade by enabling exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form, utilizing the existing systems in operation or creating new systems.
2. The Parties are encouraged to develop single-window systems and use them for cross-border paperless trade. In developing single-window systems or upgrading existing ones, the Parties are encouraged to make them consistent with the general principles provided in the present Framework Agreement.

**Article 8****Cross-border mutual recognition of trade-related data and documents in electronic form**

1. The Parties shall provide for mutual recognition of trade-related data and documents in electronic form originating from other Parties on the basis of a substantially equivalent level of reliability.
2. The substantially equivalent level of reliability would be mutually agreed upon among the Parties through the institutional arrangement established under the present Framework Agreement.
3. The Parties may enter into bilateral and multilateral arrangements to operationalize cross-border mutual recognition of trade-related data and documents in electronic form, in a manner consistent with the principle of the transboundary trust environment and all the other general principles, provided that the provisions of these bilateral and multilateral arrangements do not contradict the present Framework Agreement.

**Article 9****International standards for exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form**

1. The Parties shall endeavour to apply international standards and guidelines in order to ensure interoperability in paperless trade and to develop safe, secure and reliable means of communication for the exchange of data.
2. The Parties shall endeavour to become involved in the development of international standards and best practices related to cross-border paperless trade.

**Article 10****Relation to other legal instruments enabling cross-border paperless trade**

1. The Parties may, where appropriate, adopt relevant international legal instruments concluded by United Nations bodies and other international organizations.
2. The Parties shall endeavour to ensure that the cross-border exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form is consistent with international law as well as regional and international regulations and best practices, as identified by the institutional arrangements established under the present Framework Agreement.

**Article 11**  
**Institutional arrangements**

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) shall, for the purposes of the present Framework Agreement, establish a paperless trade council comprising one (1) high-level nominee from each Party. The Council shall meet upon request but at least once a year.

2. In the performance of its functions, the Paperless Trade Council shall be supported by a standing committee, which shall supervise and coordinate the implementation of the present Framework Agreement and submit its recommendations to the Council for review. The Standing Committee shall be composed of senior representatives of each Party and will meet at least once a year.

3. For the purposes of implementing the present Framework Agreement, the Standing Committee may establish working groups which shall report to the Standing Committee on the implementation of the related action plan under the present Framework Agreement.

4. The ESCAP secretariat shall be designated the secretariat of the present Framework Agreement and shall also be the secretariat of the bodies established under the present Framework Agreement. It shall provide support in coordinating, reviewing and supervising the implementation of the present Framework Agreement and in all related matters.

5. The Council shall, by a two-thirds majority vote, adopt such rules of procedure as may be required for the performance of its functions, including for the Standing Committee and the Working Groups. Except as otherwise provided for in the present Framework Agreement, decisions by the Council shall be taken by a majority of votes cast by members present and voting, provided that at least two thirds of the participating States are present.

6. The Council and the Standing Committee may, under their competence determined in the rules of procedure, adopt protocols on specific legal, technical and organizational matters. The requirements for entry into force of any protocol shall be established in that instrument.

**Article 12**  
**Action plan**

1. The Standing Committee, under the supervision of the Paperless Trade Council, shall develop a comprehensive action plan, which shall include all concrete actions and measures with clear targets and implementation timelines necessary for creating a consistent, transparent and predictable environment for the implementation of the present Framework Agreement, including the implementation schedules of the respective Parties. The Parties shall implement the action plan in accordance with the schedule, and the implementation status of each Party shall be reported to the Standing Committee.

2. The implementation schedule for each Party shall be developed as part of the action plan based on a self-assessment of their readiness.

### **Article 13**

#### **Pilot projects and sharing of lessons learned**

1. The Parties shall endeavour to initiate and launch pilot projects on cross-border exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form, in particular among customs and other regulatory agencies. The Parties shall collaborate on such pilot projects through the institutional arrangements established under the present Framework Agreement.
2. The Parties shall report to the Standing Committee on the progress of pilot projects to facilitate the sharing of experience and lessons learned and to establish a collection of best practices for interoperability of cross-border exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form. The exchange of experience and lessons learned would extend beyond the Parties to the present Framework Agreement, to the extent possible and as appropriate, in an effort to promote paperless trade implementation throughout the region and beyond.

### **Article 14**

#### **Capacity-building**

1. The Parties may cooperate to provide technical support and assistance to each other in order to facilitate the implementation of the present Framework Agreement.
2. The Parties may collaborate on capacity-building through the institutional arrangements established under the present Framework Agreement.
3. The Parties shall give special consideration to requests from least developed and landlocked developing countries for technical assistance and cooperation arrangements designed to assist them in developing their paperless trade capacity and in taking full advantage of the potential benefits of the present Framework Agreement.
4. The Parties may invite development partners for more effective technical and financial assistance in the implementation of the present Framework Agreement.

### **Article 15**

#### **Implementation of the present Framework Agreement**

Each Party shall endeavour to implement the provisions of the present Framework Agreement by creating a legally enabling environment and developing the necessary technical infrastructure to facilitate the cross-border exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form. The Parties recognize that least developed and landlocked developing countries may need technical and financial assistance to develop technical infrastructure and to create a legally enabling environment, which are essential for facilitating the cross-border exchange of trade-related data and documents in electronic form.

### **Article 16**

#### **Other agreements in force**

The present Framework Agreement or any action taken under it shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties under any existing agreements or international conventions to which they are also parties.

**Article 17**  
**Dispute resolution**

1. Any dispute that may arise among the Parties regarding the interpretation and application of the present Framework Agreement shall be settled by means of negotiation or consultation among the Parties concerned.
2. In the event that the Parties involved in a dispute relating to the present Framework Agreement are unable to settle it by negotiation or consultation, they shall be referred for conciliation if any of them requests such a referral.
3. The dispute shall be submitted to one or more conciliators selected by the Parties involved in the dispute. If the Parties involved in the dispute fail to agree on the choice of a conciliator or conciliators within three (3) months of the request for conciliation, any of those Parties may request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to appoint a single conciliator to whom the dispute shall be submitted.
4. The recommendation of the conciliator or conciliators appointed, while not binding in character, shall become the basis of renewed consideration by the Parties involved in the dispute.
5. By mutual consent, the Parties involved in the dispute may decide in advance to accept the recommendation of the conciliator or conciliators as binding.
6. The provisions of the present article shall not be construed as excluding other measures for the settlement of disputes mutually agreed between the Parties involved in the dispute.
7. 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 18**  
**Procedure for signing and becoming a Party**

1. The present Framework Agreement shall be open for signature by ESCAP member States at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017.
2. ESCAP member States may become Parties to the present Framework Agreement by:
  - (a) Signature, followed by ratification, acceptance or approval; or
  - (b) Accession.
3. Ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

## **Article 19**

### **Entry into force**

1. The present Framework Agreement shall enter into force ninety (90) days after the date on which the Governments of at least five (5) ESCAP member States have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the present Framework Agreement pursuant to article 18, paragraphs 2 and 3.

2. For each ESCAP member State that deposits its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession after the date upon which the conditions for the entry into force of the present Framework Agreement have been met, the present Framework Agreement shall enter into force for that Party ninety (90) days after the date of its deposit of the said instrument.

## **Article 20**

### **Procedures for amending the Framework Agreement**

1. The text of the present Framework Agreement may be amended by the procedure specified in the present article.

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

3. The text of any proposed amendment shall be circulated to all members of the Paperless Trade Council by the secretariat at least sixty (60) days before the Council meeting at which it is proposed for adoption.

4. An amendment shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting at the meeting of the Paperless Trade Council. 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 for those Parties that have accepted it three (3) months after the amendment has been accepted by two thirds of the number of Parties at the time of its adoption. For any Party that accepts the amendment after its entry into force, the amendment shall enter into force three (3) months after the Party's acceptance of the amendment.

## **Article 21**

### **Reservations**

Reservations may not be made with respect to any of the provisions of the present Framework Agreement, except as provided in article 17, paragraph 7.

## **Article 22**

### **Withdrawal**

Any Party may withdraw from the present Framework 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 23**  
**Suspension of validity**

The operation of the present Framework Agreement shall be suspended if the number of Parties becomes less than five (5) for any period of twelve (12) consecutive months. In such a situation, the secretariat shall notify the Parties. The provisions of the present Framework Agreement shall again become operative if the number of Parties reaches five (5).

**Article 24**  
**Limits to the application**

Nothing in the present Framework 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.

**Article 25**  
**Depositary**

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

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

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## Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

### 72/5. Strengthening regional cooperation on transport connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

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

*Stressing* the importance of the diversification of transport and logistics supply chains within Asia and the Pacific and between Asia and Europe to enhance transport connectivity and economic growth,

*Encouraged* by the successful regional cooperation that led to the definition and formalization of the Asian Highway network, the Trans-Asian Railway network and the network of dry ports of international importance, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

*Recognizing* that the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network,<sup>6</sup> the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network,<sup>7</sup> the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports,<sup>8</sup> the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport and the Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport<sup>9</sup> provide an institutional framework for the development of integrated transport systems and efficient regional transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, and noting the need for further harmonization of the regional railway institutional arrangement,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/197 of 22 December 2015 on comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable intermodal transit corridors, in which the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to continue to promote and facilitate effective international cooperation on sustainable transport issues,

*Recognizing* the importance of international intermodal transport corridors for safe, efficient, reliable and affordable movement of goods and people for supporting sustainable economic growth, improving the social welfare and enhancing international cooperation and trade among member States,

*Recognizing also* the need to connect the economies of small island developing States to the network of regional and global supply chains by integrating them into existing and emerging intermodal transport and transit corridors,

*Noting* the new approach by member States to include an international dimension in the planning of their transport infrastructure and implementation of unified, prompt and transparent transit policy for the development of efficient transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific,

*Recognizing* that in the context of developments in the global economy, simplifying the procedures for international cargo transportation

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<sup>6</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. 41607.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2596, No. 46171.

<sup>8</sup> Commission resolution 69/7.

<sup>9</sup> Commission resolution 71/7, annex.

through the elimination of non-physical barriers would promote the growth of volumes of intraregional and interregional intermodal cargo flows,

*Recalling* Commission resolution 66/4 of 19 May 2010 on the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia, resolution 68/4 of 23 May 2012 on the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016) and resolution 71/8 of 29 May 2015 on strengthening intraregional and interregional connectivity in Asia and the Pacific and the regional strategic framework for the facilitation of international road transport procedures,

*Acknowledging* Commission resolution 71/6 on maritime transport connectivity for sustainable development, that maritime transport connectivity is vital to the achievement of sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, and that maritime transport is an essential factor in supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recalling* the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024,<sup>10</sup> which reaffirmed the importance of the development of transit transport infrastructure networks and the improvement of intermodal connectivity in terms of their integration into the regional and global markets,

*Emphasizing* the significance of East-West and North-South international transport corridors for intermodal transport connectivity to enhance international trade and transportation,

*Noting* the role of East-West and North-South international transport corridors, together with other national, subregional and regional initiatives, in promoting the development of international transport corridors to offer fast and safe transit opportunities for intercontinental trade between Asia and Europe and to contribute to regional economic development,

*Stressing* the importance of aligning future transport development with the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, as a high priority, the Goals related to road safety,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the *Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific* and the *Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia*,

*Recognizing* that new technologies such as intelligent transport systems or global navigation satellite systems have the potential to substantially improve the management of traffic flows along international transport corridors, thereby contributing to reduced transport costs and a more environmentally friendly transport sector in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizing the importance of building and strengthening the capacity of member States to harness and deploy these technologies,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the competitiveness, efficiency, safety and security of transport systems as well as the implementation of environmentally sound innovative technologies and capacity-building, including personnel training for improving the quality of transport for sustainable development,

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<sup>10</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/137.

1. *Calls upon* countries in the Asia-Pacific region to further strengthen and develop cooperation among existing subregional initiatives within the framework of the Trans-Asian Railway network and Asian Highway programmes of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;
2. *Calls upon* countries in the Asia and Pacific region and relevant international organizations to develop and strengthen the intermodal connectivity in support of achieving sustainable development;
3. *Encourages* all relevant international and regional financial institutions to actively cooperate with the Governments of the Asia-Pacific region and to assist them in financing the development of transport corridors;
4. *Invites* member States that have not yet done so to consider the possibility of becoming parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network<sup>7</sup> and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network<sup>6</sup> as well as the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports;<sup>8</sup>
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:
  - (a) Support the efforts of members and associate members of the Commission on the development of international transport connectivity;
  - (b) Promote effective coordination with the relevant United Nations agencies and other international and regional organizations to exchange best practices and knowledge related to transport and transport infrastructure development;
  - (c) Collaborate with relevant regional initiatives and programmes aimed at developing transport connectivity, in particular through the development of East-West and North-South international transport corridors;
  - (d) Cooperate with all relevant international and regional financial institutions, as well as international organizations, in order to further mobilize financial and technical support for the wider development and promotion of transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific;
  - (e) Make all efforts to encourage all relevant international and regional financial institutions to actively cooperate with member States of the Asia-Pacific region and to assist in financing the development of transport corridors, including the completion of missing links in the routes of East-West and North-South international transport corridors;
  - (f) Report to the Commission at its seventy-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*6th plenary meeting  
19 May 2016*

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## **Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

### **72/6. Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 69/214 of 19 December 2014, in which it acknowledged, inter alia, the importance of regional dimensions of sustainable development and invited the United Nations regional commissions to continue to contribute to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups, and other stakeholders, as contained in Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

*Recalling further* resolution 71/1 of 29 May 2015 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, entitled “Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda”, in which the Commission recognized the need for it to continue to adapt and respond to the evolving development challenges and opportunities within the Asia-Pacific region,

*Recalling* Commission resolution 71/5 of 29 May 2015, in which it recognized a number of priorities and recommendations as the region’s contribution to the preparation for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and noting the contributions of the Asia-Pacific Outreach Meeting on Sustainable Development Financing, which was held in Jakarta on 10 and 11 June 2014, and of the Asia-Pacific High-level Consultation on Financing for Development, which was held in Jakarta on 29 and 30 April 2015,

*Noting* the diversity of Asia-Pacific countries in terms of geography, population, income and level of development, coupled with the complex, multisectoral and integrated dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, which calls for strengthening capacities in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and regional cooperation,

*Noting also* that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources,

*Having considered* the report of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development on its third session,<sup>11</sup>

1. *Calls upon* member States to cooperate at the regional level in the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, as provided for by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development on its third session,<sup>11</sup> and decides to implement the recommendations contained therein, while recognizing in this regard the importance of finalizing the form, function and modalities of the Forum, as well as of developing the regional road map;

3. *Recognizes* the role of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other *Representatives* Designated by Members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in providing advice and guidance to the Executive Secretary, as appropriate, on the organization of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017;

4. *Invites* members and associate members to identify priority areas of cooperation on and implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific, with particular emphasis on the practical means of implementation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Encourages* all members and associate members to actively engage in the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and to continue to work on the development of the regional road map for the 2030 Agenda;

6. *Notes* the regional discussions on financing for development in the Asia-Pacific region, in particular those that took place at the First High-level Follow-up Dialogue on Financing for Development, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea on 30 and 31 March 2016;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and provide annual updates and recommendations to member States, including through the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;

(b) Support the process to define a regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda and to address challenges to its achievement in Asia and the Pacific, pursuant to recommendations of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, as contained in its report;

(c) Strengthen support to member States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in an integrated approach, inter alia, with analytical products, technical services and capacity-building initiatives through knowledge-sharing products and platforms, and to enhance data and statistical capacities;

(d) Continue to provide capacity-building opportunities to member States, leveraging existing expertise and its intergovernmental forum to

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<sup>11</sup> E/ESCAP/72/16.

contribute to the strengthening of their capacity, including through support for mainstreaming financing for development issues in areas such as domestic resource mobilization, as well as through support for their efforts in developing integrated approaches, models and tools in enhancing their regional cooperation on the Sustainable Development Goals with a special emphasis on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

8. *Calls upon* all development partners, in particular the relevant organizations, of the United Nations development system to collaborate with the Commission in promoting sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, through all appropriate mechanisms, including through active participation in Commission sessions, enhanced cooperation on projects and policies and the sharing of good practices through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

9. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary, as convener of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, to strengthen and promote communication, cooperation and collaboration among the relevant organizations of the United Nations development system in Asia and the Pacific and other stakeholders, as appropriate, in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by member States, in particular least developed, landlocked developing and Pacific island developing countries;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*6th plenary meeting*

*19 May 2016*

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## **Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

### **72/7. Regional cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/195 of 22 December 2015 on combating sand and dust storms, in which it acknowledged the role of the United Nations development system in promoting international cooperation to combat sand and dust storms, and in which it stressed the need for cooperation at the global and regional levels with a view to preventing and managing dust and sandstorms through the development of early warning systems and the sharing of climate and weather information to forecast dust storms and sandstorms, and affirming that resilient action to combat sand and dust storms requires a better understanding of the severe multidimensional impacts of dust and sandstorms, including the deterioration of the health, well-being and livelihood of people, increased desertification and land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and land productivity, and their impact on sustainable economic growth,

*Noting with concern* that the frequency and intensity of sand and dust storms have increased in the past three decades and pose a great challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries and that they have adverse impacts on infrastructure, transport and communications and human health,

*Recognizing* that sand and dust storms are a challenging problem for affected countries, with transboundary impacts that are being frequently experienced in Asia and other regions with serious consequences, that require institutional and technical interventions,

*Acknowledging* that implementation of the elements of General Assembly resolution 70/206 of 22 December 2015 on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa would contribute towards the continuation of the sharing of best practices, experiences and technical expertise in combating sand and dust storms,

*Reaffirming* resolution 71/12 of 29 May 2015 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on strengthening regional mechanisms for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Asia and the Pacific, and recognizing the relevance of addressing multidimensional hazards for the achievement of the objectives of the Sendai Framework,<sup>12</sup>

*Recalling* paragraph 1 of Commission resolution 71/11 of 29 May 2015, in which it endorsed the recommendations of the evaluation carried out pursuant to its resolution 67/4 of 25 May 2011 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, including project result 4, which stated that “the Centre work programme may attach priority to the disaster with transboundary reach in the subregions – such as earthquakes, droughts, sandstorm, regional floods”,<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>13</sup> See E/ESCAP/71/INF/6.

*Referring* to resolution XII.13 on wetlands and disaster risk reduction, adopted at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially Waterfowl Habitat in Uruguay in 2015, in which the Conference underscored the significance of the need to develop and implement management plans for wetlands that integrate the principles of ecosystem-based management and adaptation against natural hazards, such as dust and sandstorms,

*Affirming*, in this regard, that resilient action to combat sand and dust storms requires a better understanding of the multidimensional aspects of this challenge, including the deterioration of the health, well-being and livelihood of people, increased desertification and land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and land productivity and their impact on sustainable economic growth,

*Acknowledging with appreciation* the first International Conference on Dust, held in the Islamic Republic of Iran from 2 to 4 March 2016, which facilitated the exchange of recent academic and field-oriented findings and solutions regarding dust phenomena,

1. *Recognizes* that dust and sandstorms, and the unsustainable land-management practices, among other factors, that can cause or exacerbate these phenomena, pose a significant challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries and regions, also recognizes that, in the past few years, dust and sandstorms have inflicted substantial socioeconomic damage on the inhabitants of the world's arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas, and underscores the need to treat them and to promptly undertake measures to address these challenges;

2. *Calls upon*, in this connection, member States to collaborate with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and other relevant stakeholders, including international and regional bodies and organizations, in the discharge of their respective mandates, in relation to General Assembly resolutions 70/195 and 70/206, complementary to the programme of work of the Commission;

3. *Invites* member States to enhance their cooperation towards enhancement of necessary tools, projects and mechanisms aimed at facilitating needed measures, such as forecasting the likelihood of damaging sand- and dust-related events, data collection and knowledge-sharing, setting up monitoring systems and mitigating the adverse impacts of this phenomenon on the health of people, in particular people living on frontiers and in rural areas, in collaboration with related international, regional and subregional entities, including United Nations regional commissions, within their respective mandates and expertise;

4. *Invites* member States, in collaboration with the Commission and other regional organizations, to promote North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation to support the exchange of knowledge and best practices in addressing the problem, within their existing mandates and expertise;

5. *Invites* member States, the Asian Development Bank and other donors to consider contributing financial resources towards the Commission's regional initiatives and projects to address this challenge;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:



(a) Within existing mandates and expertise, accord priority focus on the work of the Commission relating to sand and dust storms as a great transboundary challenge;

(b) Work, including through the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, as well as with other relevant regional organizations, utilizing a combination of existing funds and extrabudgetary contributions, to promote regional and interregional networking on sand and dust storms;

(c) Work closely with the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa in the process of preparing the global assessment on sand and dust storms;

(d) Report to the Commission at its seventy-third session and thereafter on a biennial basis on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*6th plenary meeting  
19 May 2016*

## **Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

### **72/8. Fostering regional cooperation and partnerships to respond to the climate change challenge in the Asia-Pacific region**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, and in particular the references to the role of the regional commissions in supporting Member States and the development agenda,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, in which it adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal 13 on the need to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which has the aim of strengthening the framework for financing sustainable development,

*Recognizing* that the adverse impacts of climate change compound existing challenges, especially in small island developing States,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014 on the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, in which Member States recognized the need to implement expeditiously, through genuine and durable partnerships, the global effort in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States through concrete, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented programmes,

*Reaffirming* resolution 71/4 of 29 May 2015 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway and resolution 68/1 of 23 May 2012 on reaffirming the special case and the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States with a focus on the Pacific, in which, inter alia, it requested the Executive Secretary to continue to support capacity development and capacity supplementation for Pacific small island developing States to pursue sustainable development and to increase their resilience, including in response to the challenges of climate change,

*Recalling* its resolution 71/12 of 29 May 2015 on strengthening regional mechanisms for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Asia and the Pacific, resolution 71/11 of 29 May 2015 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, resolution 70/10 of 8 August 2014 on the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific region on the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015, resolution 69/12 of 1 May 2013 on enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific, resolution 69/11 of 1 May 2013 on the 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, resolution 69/9 of 1 May 2013 on the implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme towards voluntary follow-up to the Rio+20 outcome “The future

we want” and resolution 64/3 of 30 April 2008 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,

*Noting with appreciation* the offer from the Government of Fiji at the First High-level Follow-up Dialogue on Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea on 30 and 31 March 2016, to provide seed capital for a possible regional centre in the Pacific to address climate change issues, especially for small island developing States, as noted in the Chair’s Summary of the Dialogue,<sup>14</sup>

*Recognizing* existing Pacific regional institutions that provide a ready platform to support small island developing States and least developed countries towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including those relating to climate change and disaster risk reduction,

1. *Invites* members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to facilitate the exchange of best practices and information sharing in the context of taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, by utilizing existing international and regional institutions, forums and platforms;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to encourage and collaborate with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, regional and subregional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations in line with the existing mandates and resources of the Commission, to promote capacity-building of member States, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, regarding climate change and climate resilience in the areas in which the Commission has existing capacity and expertise, including climate-related disaster risk reduction, through policy dialogues and the sharing of experiences and information, where appropriate;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*6th plenary meeting  
19 May 2016*

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<sup>14</sup> E/ESCAP/72/9, annex.

## **Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

### **72/9. Regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific**

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

*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>15</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,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030,

*Recalling also* Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) as contained in General Assembly resolution 70/1,

*Recognizing* the importance of conservation of marine resources in Asia and the Pacific, including in small island developing States, least developed countries and low-lying coastal states, and noting the various important initiatives undertaken by various regional organizations and bodies as well as regional thematic events dedicated to the sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources,

*Noting* that promoting economic growth, environmental sustainability, social inclusion and the strengthening of ocean ecosystems can be a means to realize Sustainable Development Goal 14 and help member States, especially the least developed countries, small island developing States and coastal States in the region to address their sustainable development challenges,

*Recalling* the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, and noting the 4th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting, held in Xiamen, China, on 28 August 2014 and the International Workshop on the Blue Economy, held in Dhaka on 1 and 2 September 2014 at the initiative of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina,

*Recognizing* the need for the capacity-building of member States to promote conservation and the sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, which can contribute to poverty eradication, food security, creation of sustainable livelihoods and sustained economic growth,

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<sup>15</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

*Mindful* of the increasing challenges to the oceans from both natural and human factors, such as overexploitation of resources in the context of increasing human demands, increasing pollution, loss of biodiversity and the impacts of global climate change and natural disasters,

*Noting* that conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and marine resources promotes, inter alia, increasing scientific knowledge, developing research capacity and transfer of marine technologies,

*Recalling* the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015, which holistically looked at financing for development across three dimensions and addressed the way in which inclusive growth and sustainable development could be achieved to address issues related to, inter alia, sustainable energy, climate change, disaster risk reduction, oceans and seas, food security and biodiversity,

*Welcoming* the convening of the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, to be held in Fiji from 5 to 9 June 2017,

*Recognizing* the important role and mandate of the regional commissions to support the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and regional cooperation for sustainable development, and recalling the importance of regional and subregional dimensions in facilitating effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Calls for* greater cooperation, collaboration and coordination between subregions and regional organizations of Asia and the Pacific and through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation for promoting the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 14;

2. *Notes* the role of the Executive Secretary as the convener of the United Nations Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism to work with relevant United Nations and regional organizations for facilitating cooperation for implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 by member States;

3. *Encourages* member States to promote collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 in the Asia-Pacific region, including by:

(a) Strengthening regional cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources within the legal framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea<sup>16</sup> and, for parties to it, the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>17</sup> for the conservation and the sustainable use of oceans and their resources;

(b) Enhancing the capacity of member States for the protection of coastal areas, the marine environment and resources and economic development in an environmentally sound and inclusive manner and

<sup>16</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

promoting, inter alia, related research and development, investment, capacity-building and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms;

(c) Promoting South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation and collaboration on data collection and the development of environmental baselines to ensure a strong foundation for informed decision-making and policy development on oceans and seas;

(d) Promoting public-private and civil society partnerships to increase economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations specialized agencies and international, regional and subregional organizations, utilizing extrabudgetary contributions and within the mandates of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, to undertake an assessment of capacity development needs of the countries in Asia and the Pacific for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-fourth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*6th plenary meeting  
19 May 2016*

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## **Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

### **72/10. Regional review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, entitled “Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society”, in which the Assembly called for close alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>18</sup>

*Recalling also* its resolution 69/10 of 1 May 2013, entitled “Promoting regional information and communications technology connectivity and building knowledge-networked societies in Asia and the Pacific”,

*Recalling further* its resolution 71/10 of 29 May 2015, entitled “Strengthening regional information and communications technology connectivity through the Asia-Pacific information superhighway”,

*Acknowledging* the importance of information and communications technology as a means of implementation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Encourages* members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to take note of the above-mentioned resolutions in their national development plans in general and their policies and strategies on information and communications technology in particular;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Accord priority to continued support for the member States and relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines;

(b) Ensure enhanced efforts and linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Summit in the work of the secretariat within its existing mandate;

(c) Collaborate with international and regional organizations to continue to hold regional preparatory consultations, including through public-private partnerships and expert meetings;

(d) Hold a regional review of the implementation of the Summit action lines as part of the session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation and ensure linkage to the global forums on the Summit in collaboration with relevant international and regional organizations to avoid duplications;

(e) Coordinate United Nations agencies and partners in the regional review and follow-up towards harmonized approaches to and synergies in the implementation of the Summit;

(f) Report on progress made to the Commission at its seventy-fourth session.

<sup>18</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

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## **Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

### **72/11. Advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific for implementation of internationally agreed development goals**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,<sup>19</sup>

*Recalling also* resolution 69/12 of 1 May 2013 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific, its resolution 67/11 of 25 May 2011 on strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific, its resolution 70/2 of 23 May 2014 on disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific, and its resolution 71/12 of 29 May 2015 on strengthening regional mechanisms for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Asia and the Pacific,

*Recalling further* Commission resolution 71/11 of 29 May 2015 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management and re-emphasizing that the Centre can play an important role in enhancing regional cooperation for resilience to disasters,

*Noting with satisfaction* the substantial progress made by the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, established by Commission resolution 70/2 of 23 May 2014 and mandated to develop a basic range of disaster-related statistics, including the design and pilot testing of a draft statistical framework for that purpose, and noting that progress was reported to the Commission in the note by the secretariat on the summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions<sup>20</sup> and in the report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its fourth session,<sup>21</sup>

*Appreciating* the guidance and oversight provided by the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Committee on Statistics to the work of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics,

*Recognizing* the necessity of further work by the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics to finalize the draft statistical framework and to develop accompanying guidelines for the production of disaster-related statistics that respond to common needs for national monitoring and assessment of disaster risk reduction policies, while reflecting diverse

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<sup>19</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>20</sup> E/ESCAP/72/6, sect. V.E.

<sup>21</sup> See E/ESCAP/72/19.



national realities with respect to natural hazard exposure and the availability of data and statistical capacity in countries of the Asia-Pacific region,

*Welcoming* the efforts of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology relating to Disaster Risk Reduction, established by General Assembly resolution 69/284 of 3 June 2015, of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators of the United Nations Statistical Commission, and of the Task Force on Measuring Extreme Events and Disaster of the Conference of European Statisticians, and noting with satisfaction the collaboration and coordination between these initiatives and the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics to strengthen data and statistics for the implementation of internationally agreed development goals as they relate to disaster risk reduction,

1. *Decides* the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific shall continue to function towards the successful conclusion of its work;
2. *Requests* the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Committee on Statistics, supported by the secretariat, to continue to provide guidance and oversight to the work of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:
  - (a) Continue to accord priority to the support for the work of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics;
  - (b) Report to the Commission at its seventy-fourth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*6th plenary meeting*

*19 May 2016*

## **Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

### **72/12. Harnessing science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012 entitled “The future we want”, resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it recognized, inter alia, the critical role of science and technology, the importance of promoting innovation, in particular in developing countries, and the significance of international cooperation in this regard,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 70/213 of 22 December 2015 on science, technology and innovation for development, in which it recognized the vital role that science, technology and innovation, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to address global challenges, such as efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security and nutrition, enhance access to energy and increase energy efficiency, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification, inclusion, growth and transformation, improve productivity and competitiveness and, ultimately, support sustainable development,

*Recalling further* resolution 71/1 of 29 May 2015 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, entitled “Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda”, in which it reconstituted the Committee on Information and Communications Technology as the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, for dealing with the emerging issues, challenges and opportunities in the area of science, technology and innovation,

*Recognizing* the Commission’s unique role as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations development system for the Asia-Pacific region and the most representative regional intergovernmental forum, which may encourage dialogue and cooperation on science, technology and innovation in support of the attainment of the 2030 Agenda and which will cooperate with, and remain across, broader discussions on science, technology and innovation being held within the region, facilitated by major groups and other stakeholders as appropriate,

*Noting* that the spread of information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies across areas as diverse as medicine and energy,

*Recognizing* the importance of creating a conducive environment that attracts and supports private investment, entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility, including an efficient, adequate, balanced and effective

intellectual property framework, while encouraging access to science and technology by developing countries,

*Welcoming* the theme study of the seventy-second session of the Commission, *Harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*,<sup>22</sup>

1. *Reaffirms* that science, technology and innovation are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>23</sup> and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific serves the region as one of the most suitable forums in the United Nations system, which may encourage dialogue and cooperation among member States on science, technology and innovation policies, in particular through its Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation;

3. *Encourages* member States to enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on science, technology and innovation, including knowledge-sharing;

4. *Requests* the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation to consider the recommendations outlined in the theme study<sup>22</sup> and to present an inclusive and comprehensive set of recommendations to the Commission at its seventy-third session;

5. *Invites* member States to work further on convening a biennial Asia-Pacific innovation forum starting in 2017 through the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation and to work further on its terms of reference and modalities, the forum to be held alternatively with that Committee, as a means to enhance and facilitate knowledge-sharing and collaboration among member States, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders as appropriate;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Raise awareness among member States on the science, technology and innovation dialogues taking place at various forums and international, regional and subregional organizations, by acting as a bridge to facilitate cooperation and joint action when necessary;

(b) Encourage, through existing mechanisms, member States to promote public, public-private and civil society partnerships, as appropriate, in order to harness science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of access by all countries to environmentally sound technologies, new knowledge, know-how and expertise and the importance of cooperative action on technology innovation, research and development;

<sup>22</sup> See E/ESCAP/72/32.

<sup>23</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

8. *Calls upon* member States and the relevant organizations of the United Nations development system to support the Commission in harnessing science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region through all mechanisms, as appropriate;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*6th plenary meeting  
19 May 2016*

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