

## Resolution 67/1

### **Ulaanbaatar Declaration: Outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries**

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

*Recalling* the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,<sup>1</sup> which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/201 of 23 December 2003,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 63/9 on the implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), 64/4 on the implementation of the Seoul Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, 65/6 on support for the establishment of an international think tank of landlocked developing countries, 66/4 on the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia, and 66/5 on the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific,

*Recalling further* the outcome document of the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/2 of 3 October 2008,

*Acknowledging* the important contributions of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network<sup>2</sup> and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network<sup>3</sup> in promoting the development of transport infrastructure, especially in landlocked developing countries,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 64/214 of 21 December 2009, in which the Assembly welcomed the establishment of the international think tank for the landlocked developing countries, and 65/172 of 20 December 2010, in which it welcomed the progress made since the establishment of the think tank,

*Recalling also* the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, which was held from 20 to 22 September 2010,<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.*

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. 41607.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, No. 46171.

<sup>4</sup> See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

*Expressing concern* at the gaps faced by the landlocked developing countries in the process towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizing that the greatest challenge facing the landlocked developing countries is that of promoting inclusive and sustainable growth for reducing poverty and improving the quality of life of the people,

*Expressing concern also* at the re-emergence of rising food and energy prices and the special vulnerabilities of the landlocked developing countries to such price rises,

*Stressing* the enormous capacity-building needs in the area of trade and transport facilitation in landlocked developing countries,

*Emphasizing* the need for continued international support for the achievement by the landlocked developing countries of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Re-emphasizing* that the interests and concerns of landlocked and transit developing countries should be taken fully into account while establishing transit transport systems, and urging development partners to take a constructive and inclusive approach in the implementation of regional transit projects,

*Recalling* that the final review of the Almaty Programme of Action is scheduled for 2013,

*Noting with appreciation* the convening of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries, which was organized jointly by the Government of Mongolia and the secretariat of the Commission, held in Ulaanbaatar from 12 to 14 April 2011, and inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Mongolia,

*Taking note* of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration,<sup>5</sup> the outcome of the Policy Dialogue, which encompasses issues related to the Millennium Development Goals and other development challenges, market access and trade opportunities, and transit transport connectivity as well as South-South and triangular cooperation as important for the landlocked developing countries,

1. *Commends* the Executive Secretary for advancing the implementation and review of the Almaty Programme of Action<sup>1</sup> in Asia and the Pacific;

2. *Appreciates* the Ulaanbaatar Declaration<sup>5</sup> as an outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries;

3. *Notes* the Bhutan development philosophy, Gross National Happiness, which provides a framework for holistic and sustainable development, and notes with appreciation the proposal made by Bhutan to include happiness as “the ninth voluntary Millennium Development Goal” at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals;

---

<sup>5</sup> E/ESCAP/67/22, annex.

4. *Calls upon* members and associate members to consider implementing, as appropriate, the recommendations contained in the Ulaanbaatar Declaration, including the provision of assistance to landlocked developing countries in Asia and the Pacific;

5. *Urges* landlocked developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region to sign and ratify the Multilateral Agreement on the Establishment of the International Think Tank for the Landlocked Developing Countries of 24 September 2010 at their earliest convenience in order to bring the think tank, which was established in Ulaanbaatar on 27 July 2009, to full operation;

6. *Invites* the development partners to assist landlocked developing countries in fostering cooperation with the transit countries;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist landlocked developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region, in cooperation with other relevant international entities, in implementing the recommendations of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration;

(b) To continue to assist landlocked developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region, in cooperation with other relevant international entities, in their pursuance of the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) To provide, in collaboration with relevant international organizations, necessary assistance to the landlocked developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region during the final review of the Almaty Programme of Action,<sup>1</sup> which is scheduled for 2013;

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

---

### **Resolution 67/2**

#### **Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific**

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

*Recalling* the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,<sup>6</sup> in particular those parts which concern energy, and General Assembly resolution 65/151, in which the Assembly decided to declare 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 63/6 on the implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy

---

<sup>6</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap I, resolution 2, annex

services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and 64/3 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,

*Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2010,<sup>7</sup> adopted by the sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific on 2 October 2010,*

*Recognizing that energy security is a key development issue for all countries in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States,*

*Recognizing also that nearly one billion people in the Asia-Pacific region today do not have access to modern affordable energy services,*

*Emphasizing the need to improve access to reliable, affordable and environmentally sound energy resources for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,*

*Recognizing that energy demand in the Asia-Pacific region is rising faster than in other regions and is projected to almost double by the year 2030 and that fossil fuels are likely to remain the main source of energy for meeting that demand,*

*Expressing concern that volatile oil prices may threaten the region's nascent recovery from the global economic crisis and its prospects for achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,*

*Recognizing the potential of various new and renewable energy technologies in meeting the challenges presented by unmet energy demand,*

*Expressing appreciation for the work of the ESCAP secretariat in promoting subregional energy cooperation with a view to enhancing energy security and sustainable development,*

*Welcoming the ongoing efforts of Governments to promote regional and interregional cooperation for enhanced energy security and sustainable use of energy resources,*

1. *Calls upon* all members and associate members to further promote regional cooperation in addressing energy security challenges and to formulate and implement coherent energy policies based on comprehensive assessments of their environmental and social impacts;

2. *Urges* members and associate members, as appropriate, to give due attention to supply-side constraints, the management of energy demand and the consequences of price volatility and potential disruptions to energy supply,

<sup>7</sup> E/ESCAP/67/8, chap. I, sect. A.

3. *Calls upon* members and associate members to cooperate proactively in the development and deployment of cost-effective new and renewable energy technologies, and to promote cooperation on increasing energy efficiency, in particular, in the context of South-South cooperation;

4. *Encourages* all members and associate members to develop and strengthen efficient policy and regulatory structures at the national and subnational levels that will encourage private-sector investment in energy products;

5. *Also encourages* members and associate members to actively engage the private sector in order to enhance investments, to generate innovations and to take leadership as a partner in creating a sustainable energy future;

6. *Invites* Governments, donor countries, relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, international and subregional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, as well as the private sector and civil society, to actively consider contributing towards the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To strengthen the role and capacity of the ESCAP secretariat in the area of energy security;

(b) To ensure effective coordination with other United Nations bodies and agencies, in particular through UN-Energy, and with multilateral agencies and subregional organizations in working towards enhancing the capacity of ESCAP member States;

(c) To collaborate effectively with development partners in order to mobilize financial and technical support to promote regional cooperation for enhanced energy security;

(d) To assist members and associate members in meeting their energy security challenges through: (i) the collaborative development of energy security scenarios; and (ii) the organization of meetings and regional networking arrangements aimed at promoting the exchange of experiences and information;

(e) To convene, in 2013, the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum at the ministerial level to discuss the progress achieved in the Asia-Pacific region in addressing the energy security challenges at the regional, national and household levels, and to facilitate continuous dialogue among member States with a view to enhancing energy security and working towards sustainable development;

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

## Resolution 67/3

### Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific

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

*Recognizing* that all the Millennium Development Goals are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, and therefore underline the need to pursue these goals through a holistic and comprehensive approach, as well as the need for the members of the Commission to continue rapid economic growth in order to lift millions of people out of poverty and achieve Millennium Development Goal 1, while keeping environmental sustainability high on the agenda, as proposed in Millennium Development Goal 7, while maintaining the pace of growth and environmental vigilance,

*Noting with satisfaction* the successful holding of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Astana from 27 September to 2 October 2010, which adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2010, and the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015, and welcomed and endorsed the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative: Europe-Asia-Pacific Partnership for the Implementation of “Green Growth”,<sup>8</sup> as outcomes of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development,

*Noting* that the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative is intended to provide a forum for dialogue among European, Asian and Pacific countries and therefore can serve as a contribution to the preparatory process for the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, to be held in 2011,

*Noting with appreciation* the continuous commitment of the Government of Kazakhstan, which has provided financial, expert and logistic support for the development of the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative and its draft partnership programme, the establishment of a secretariat (“Green Bridge” Office) and the preparatory meeting for the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” to discuss the Europe Asia-Pacific partnership programme of Green Growth of the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative held in Astana on 5 May 2011,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to fostering regional and intraregional cooperation activities aimed at furthering progress towards sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes and recognizes* the outcomes of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific;<sup>9</sup>

2. *Emphasizes* that the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2010, which outlines Asian and Pacific perspectives and approaches to achieving sustainable development, can serve as a regional input to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

3. *Encourages* all members and associate members of the Commission:

---

<sup>8</sup> See E/ESCAP/67/8.

<sup>9</sup> E/ESCAP/67/8, chap. I.

(a) To participate actively, as appropriate, in the implementation of the three outcome documents<sup>9</sup> of the Ministerial Conference;

(b) To formulate programmes and strategies, as appropriate, to implement the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015, at the national, regional and subregional levels;

(c) To encourage the private sector and civil society to participate in activities related to the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative;

(d) To facilitate joint research on the development and application of policies and tools, including environmentally sound technologies, and take all practical steps to promote and facilitate, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies;

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

(f) To support the necessary flow of new technologies and transfer of know-how and technologies for capacity-building to developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region;

4. *Invites* all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned, multilateral financial institutions and donors, as well as non-governmental organizations, to contribute to and be part of the partnership programme of the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist members and associate members, upon request, in implementing the provisions of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2010;

(b) To assist, upon request, countries in the region by providing technical assistance in the execution of the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015, and relevant national strategies and actions;

(c) To organize policy dialogues and forums on issues under the six programme areas covered by the Regional Implementation Plan;

(d) To support the implementation of the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative and its proposed programme for partnership between Europe and Asia and the Pacific, through various activities, including participation in meetings and conferences organized by the Government of Kazakhstan and the Economic Commission for Europe;

(e) To encourage strongly effective coordination and joint pursuit of the regional activities of the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in facilitating the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

(f) To report on the progress made in the execution of the Regional Implementation Plan based on information provided by members and associate members, on a voluntary basis, to the 2013 session of the Committee on

Environment and Development, and to the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, in 2015;

(g) To convene the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2015.

---

## **Resolution 67/4**

### **Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management**

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

*Expressing* deep concern at the increasing number and expanding scale of disasters triggered by natural hazards in recent years and their social, economic and environmental impacts on vulnerable people and societies, especially in developing countries,

*Recalling* the outcome of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005<sup>10</sup> and the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters<sup>11</sup> and its strategic goals and priorities for action as well as recommendations, which include establishing or strengthening existing specialized regional collaborative centres, as appropriate, to undertake research, training, education and capacity-building in the field of disaster risk reduction,<sup>12</sup>

*Recalling also* its resolution 63/10 of 23 May 2007 on the review of modalities for regional cooperation in natural disaster management, in particular the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management, in which, among other things, it recognized the significant role of natural disaster management in achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction and acknowledged the importance of natural disaster information management,

*Recalling further* paragraph 1 of its resolution 66/8 of 19 May 2010 on the review of the proposal for the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in which it noted with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the proposed centre, and invited the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the Commission with the supplementary information requested in paragraph 1 of resolution 64/10 and to consider revising its draft resolution to take into account the outcome of the review requested in paragraph 1 of resolution 64/10, in consultation with the secretariat, for submission to the Commission for consideration at its sixty-seventh session,

---

<sup>10</sup> See A/CONF.206/6, chap. I, and Corr.1.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., resolution 2.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., para. 31 (d).

*Recognizing* the demand for disaster information services in the Asian and Pacific region reflected in several Commission resolutions and reports published by the secretariat, including the *Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2010*,<sup>13</sup> as well as the request of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction at its first session that, among other things, the secretariat continue promoting regional cooperative mechanisms and knowledge-sharing arrangements for disaster risk reduction, including on information, communications and space technologies, to improve different aspects of disaster risk management, such as multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks,<sup>14</sup>

*Recognizing also* the importance of regional and subregional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific for enhancing preventive and responsive measures against disasters, in particular in the subregions with higher levels of disaster risk and lower levels of capacity in collaborative mechanisms on disaster risk reduction and management,

*Recognizing further* the importance of institutional and technical capacity development in disaster information management in the countries and organizations of the region towards achieving the objectives and expected results of disaster risk reduction and management more effectively,

*Noting with appreciation* the outcome of the efforts made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to further develop the proposal for the establishment of the centre and for making the necessary adjustments according to resolution 66/8 in consultation and coordination with the secretariat,<sup>15</sup>

*Expressing deep appreciation* to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its generous offer to support the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management as a regional facility serving the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the related areas, and to bear the costs of establishing as well as operating the centre and its programmes for five years, up to US\$ 50 million,

*Noting* that the main objective of the centre would be to reduce losses and damage resulting from natural hazards by developing the capacities and capabilities of the countries and organizations of the region and strengthening regional cooperation on information sharing and management for disaster risk reduction, and that the Centre would commence its functions and programmes with a focus on the more vulnerable subregions of Asia and the Pacific,

1. *Decides* to initiate the process for the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (the Centre) in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in line with the procedures described in paragraph 5;

2. *Invites* all members and associate members to participate actively in the process of developing the programmes of the Centre and to support its activities, as appropriate, in a comprehensive manner;

---

<sup>13</sup> Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Protecting Development Gains: Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2010*. Available from [www.unescap.org/idd/pubs/Asia-Pacific-Disaster-Report%20-2010.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/idd/pubs/Asia-Pacific-Disaster-Report%20-2010.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> See E/ESCAP/65/9, para. 3.

<sup>15</sup> E/ESCAP/67/21.

3. *Encourages* the United Nations and other international and regional organizations and agencies as well as non-governmental agencies to support actively the process for the establishment of the Centre;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to support the process for the establishment of the Centre, including, inter alia, the development of the required modalities and arrangements for its operationalization through:

(a) Enhanced engagement under ESCAP subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction, with the more vulnerable countries and subregions in the areas of disaster risk reduction and disaster information management;

(b) Enhanced engagement under the ESCAP subregional offices in the areas of disaster risk reduction and disaster information management;

(c) Cooperation with United Nations entities, in particular with the Asia Pacific Office of the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and with other international, regional and non-governmental entities;

(d) Inclusion of the details of the activities under paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above in the secretariat's annual reporting to the Commission;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to include in the secretariat's evaluation plan for 2013 an evaluation of the activities under paragraph 4 and the need for, and benefit of, establishing the Centre as a subsidiary body of the Commission for the development of disaster information management, and to submit the results of that evaluation to the Commission at its seventieth session.

---

### **Resolution 67/5**

#### **Full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, in which the Assembly endorsed the Political Declaration<sup>16</sup> and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,<sup>17</sup>

*Also recalling* General Assembly resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, in which the Assembly encouraged all Member States to further implement the Madrid Plan of Action as an integral part of their national development plans and poverty eradication strategies, and recommended an expanded role for the regional commissions on ageing issues,

*Further recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/14 of 22 July 2010 on the future implementation of the Madrid International Plan of

---

<sup>16</sup> *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), annex I.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

Action on Ageing, 2002, in which the Council decided to conduct the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2013 at the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, and acknowledged the essential contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the implementation, review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, including the organization of regional review and appraisal meetings and the preparation of their outcome documents,

*Recognizing* the unprecedented pace of demographic transition towards an ageing society in the Asia-Pacific region and its profound and far-reaching social, economic and political implications,

*Noting* the enormous demand for elderly care services and the human resource gaps in meeting the needs of older persons in the region,

*Also noting* the higher proportion of women among older persons,

*Concerned* about the vulnerability of older persons, in particular older women, to poverty, social isolation and violence,

*Welcoming* the holding of the Regional Seminar on Health Promotion and Active Ageing in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok on 15 and 16 November 2010, and the Regional Forum on Elderly Care Services in Asia and the Pacific in Nanjing, China, on 21 and 22 January 2011, which contributed to the review of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, in particular, on health and care of the elderly,

*Noting with appreciation* the support provided by the Government of China to the Commission's programme on ageing, including the capacity development inputs of the newly established Human Resource Development Centre for Elderly Care Services based in Zhongshan College, Nanjing, China,

1. *Decides* to convene the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in early 2012 to provide a regional input to the global review;

2. *Encourages* all members and associate members:

(a) To accelerate the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;<sup>17</sup>

(b) To conduct a national review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action using, among other things, a bottom-up participatory approach;

(c) To ensure high-level representation in the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting;

(d) To provide financial or other forms of support for regional cooperation aimed at promoting the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action in the Asia-Pacific region;

(e) To incorporate a gender perspective into all policy actions on ageing, and to strengthen the empowerment and legal protection of older persons, in particular older women;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To further emphasize the role of the Commission in supporting members and associate members in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action;

(b) To provide members and associate members, upon request, with technical assistance to strengthen their capacity for effective implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including its review and appraisal;

(c) To facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices on ageing, including the monitoring and implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

(d) To support members and associate members, upon request, in developing their national capacities for the provision of elderly care services in cooperation with existing training institutions focusing on ageing in the region;

(e) To encourage the participation of all key stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the private sector, in the preparatory process for the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action;

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

---

### **Resolution 67/6**

#### **Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP**

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

*Welcoming* the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>18</sup> on 3 May 2008,

*Recalling* that the General Assembly, in its resolutions 61/106 of 13 December 2006 and 62/170 of 18 December 2007, requested the United Nations system to make concerted efforts to improve the accessibility of its facilities and services for persons with disabilities,

*Also recalling* that the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/186 of 21 December 2010, urged the United Nations system to make a concerted effort to integrate disability issues into its work,

*Reaffirming* the region's commitment to the principles of creating inclusive and barrier-free societies as outlined in the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific<sup>19</sup> and Biwako Plus

<sup>18</sup> General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.

<sup>19</sup> E/ESCAP/APDDP/4/Rev.1 (see also Commission resolution 59/3).

Five: towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>20</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 64/8 of 30 April 2008, in which the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to improve the accessibility of the facilities and services of ESCAP for persons with disabilities, in collaboration with United Nations agencies and organizations and disabled persons' organizations,

*Noting* the progress made by the secretariat in improving the accessibility of its facilities and services for persons with disabilities and acknowledging the need to continue such efforts in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

*Mindful* of the need to share good practices with regard to enhancing accessibility in the region as well as in the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note of* the report of the Committee on Social Development on its second session;<sup>21</sup>

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue and strengthen, as appropriate, her efforts to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP, which may encompass the following:

(a) To develop and implement further measures, in consultation with United Nations Headquarters, to enhance the accessibility of the secretariat's physical environment, information and communications systems, and other facilities and services, and support the development of assistive technologies for persons with disabilities, taking into account, as appropriate, the principles and relevant articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(b) To work with United Nations Headquarters to establish an inter-agency advisory group comprising concerned United Nations entities, and conduct an open dialogue with key stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities from Asia and the Pacific, to review the accessibility of facilities and services in the United Nations complex in Bangkok and to make recommendations for their further improvement to the Executive Secretary;

(c) To establish a mechanism within the secretariat to promote the full inclusion and rights of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others, bearing in mind United Nations system-wide policies and the principles and relevant articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(d) To integrate the perspective of persons with disabilities into the secretariat's work, including its activities relating to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific;

(e) To promote greater knowledge and awareness among secretariat staff of the rights of persons with disabilities, including through, exploring with United Nations Headquarters, the provision of disability-sensitive training for staff at large;

---

<sup>20</sup> E/ESCAP/APDDP(2)/2 (see also Commission resolution 64/8).

<sup>21</sup> E/ESCAP/67/11.

(f) To continue the progressive implementation, in consultation with United Nations Headquarters, of standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations;

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

---

## **Resolution 67/7**

### **Role of cooperatives in social development in Asia and the Pacific**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 64/136 of 18 December 2009, in which the Assembly proclaimed the year 2012 the International Year of Cooperatives,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 65/184 of 21 December 2010 on cooperatives in social development, in which the Assembly invited Member States to consider taking action towards establishing national mechanisms, such as national committees, to prepare for, observe and follow up on the International Year of Cooperatives,

*Recognizing* the growing role and important contribution of cooperatives in alleviating poverty, reducing unemployment, improving the livelihood of people and promoting economic and social development in the Asia-Pacific region,

*Emphasizing* the importance of developing and enhancing cooperatives for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve the development goals set by major United Nations and other world conferences, including the Millennium Summit,<sup>22</sup>

*Reaffirming* the need for further action at the regional level to raise public awareness of the activities of cooperatives with a view to creating an enabling environment for their growth and sustainability,

*Welcoming* the holding of the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Cooperatives in Social Development: beyond 2012, in Ulaanbaatar, from 3 to 6 May 2011, prior to the official launch of the International Year of Cooperatives,

1. *Invites* all members and associate members to consider taking action towards establishing national mechanisms, such as national committees, to prepare for, observe and follow up on the International Year of Cooperatives, in particular for the purpose of planning, stimulating and harmonizing the activities of the governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations concerned with the preparations for and observance of the Year;

2. *Encourages* governments to take appropriate policy measures to create and promote a supportive and enabling environment for the development and enhancement of cooperatives through close partnership with the cooperative movement, better legislation, wider advocacy of the role and contribution of

---

<sup>22</sup> See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

cooperatives to the socio-economic development of their countries, and awareness-raising activities;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist members and associate members, upon request, in preparing for and observing the International Year of Cooperatives;

(b) To facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices of cooperatives at the regional level;

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

---

**Resolution 67/8**

**Strengthening social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific**

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

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

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

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

*Noting* that the theme study for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission,<sup>23</sup> through its analysis and recommendations, offers a valuable contribution to the policy debate on the direction of social protection in Asia and the Pacific,

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

---

<sup>23</sup> *The Promise of Protection: Social Protection and Development in Asia and the Pacific* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.II.F.5).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

### **Resolution 67/9**

#### **Asia-Pacific regional review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 60/262 of 2 June 2006, by which the Assembly adopted the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,<sup>24</sup>

*Recalling also* Commission resolutions 57/1 of 25 April 2001 and 59/1 of 4 September 2003, in which the Commission called for members and associate members to undertake regional action to fight HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, and Commission resolution 66/10 of 19 May 2010, in which it noted with particular concern the continuing high prevalence of HIV among key affected populations, including sex workers, injecting drug users and men who have sex with men, as well as the extent of the legal and policy barriers that impede progress in developing and implementing effective ways of responding to HIV,

*Welcoming* the 2011 comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS<sup>25</sup> and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, to be undertaken by the high-level meeting which the General Assembly decided to convene in its resolution 65/180 of 20 December 2010, which will mark the ten-year review of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the five-year review of the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS with the goal of achieving universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010, and the important opportunity provided by the high-level meeting, which is scheduled to be held from 8 to 10 June 2011, for countries to review progress, obstacles, gaps, challenges, opportunities and lessons learned,

---

<sup>24</sup> General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

<sup>25</sup> General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

*Noting* Human Rights Council resolution 16/28 of 25 March 2011 on the protection of human rights in the context of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), in which the Council bore in mind the vision of zero new infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero discrimination in the global HIV/AIDS response, referred to in the 2011-2015 Strategy of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and reaffirmed the urgent need to scale up efforts significantly towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support,

*Acknowledging* the progress made by governments in Asia and the Pacific during the past decade in addressing the HIV epidemic, which has resulted in a 20 per cent decline in new infections and a stabilization of the AIDS-related mortality rate,

*Welcoming* the efforts made by some countries in the region to increase national ownership by substantially increasing support and funding for their responses to HIV through domestic budgetary provisions, as well as through the integration of care, support and treatment into national health insurance and social protection schemes,

*Affirming* the significant role that the region has played in manufacturing and ensuring the availability of high-quality, affordable generic drugs which have delivered life-saving treatment for millions of people living with HIV globally and play a critical role in achieving universal access,

*Noting with concern* the continuing barriers to access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support faced by key affected populations, particularly sex workers, injecting drug users, men who have sex with men and transgender populations,

*Having reviewed* national progress made in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,

*Noting*<sup>26</sup> that the theme study for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission identifies the most excluded social groups, including those living with HIV, as those in the greatest need of social protection,

1. *Calls upon* members and associate members to further intensify the full range of actions to reach the unmet goals and targets of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS<sup>25</sup> and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS<sup>24</sup> by:

(a) Developing national strategic plans and establishing strategic and operational partnerships at the national and community levels between representatives of public health, law enforcement and civil society and key affected populations to scale up high-impact HIV prevention, treatment, care and support to achieve 80 per cent coverage for key affected populations with a view to achieving the universal access target;

(b) Enhancing financial sustainability, national ownership and capacity, as well as committing a greater proportion of national resources in line with national priorities, to improve the programmatic effectiveness of responses to HIV;

(c) Considering processes that encourage stakeholder consultation in promoting access to affordable medicines, diagnostics and vaccines, bearing in mind the relevant provisions in General Assembly resolution 60/262 (the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS);

(d) Initiating, as appropriate, in line with national priorities, a review of national laws, policies and practices to enable the full achievement of universal

---

<sup>26</sup> *The Promise of Protection: Social Protection and Development in Asia and the Pacific* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.II.F.5).

access targets with a view to eliminating all forms of discrimination against people at risk of infection or living with HIV, in particular key affected populations;

(e) Increasing the effectiveness of national responses by prioritizing high-impact interventions for key affected populations, reducing service delivery costs, improving accountability mechanisms and ensuring that monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks are focused on impact, outcomes, cost-effectiveness and efficiency and are also well integrated into relevant planning processes, relating to both HIV-specific planning and more comprehensive development planning;

(f) Continuing to develop their national strategies to address all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, particularly against women and girls;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To bring the present resolution to the attention of the high-level meeting on AIDS to be convened by the General Assembly from 8 to 10 June 2011 as a basis for the preparation of a draft declaration which could serve as an outcome document of that meeting;

(b) To coordinate with other relevant United Nations agencies to produce an overview of the progress made in achieving universal access;

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

---

## **Resolution 67/10**

### **A core set of economic statistics to guide the improvement of basic economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific**

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

*Stressing* the importance of and need for timely, reliable and comparable official economic statistics for monitoring financial and economic trends, and evaluating related economic policies and their impact,

*Recalling* that, in response to the recognition by member States of a need to improve economic statistics in developing economies of the Asia-Pacific region, the Commission's Committee on Statistics at its first session, held in Bangkok from 4 to 6 February 2009, decided, among other things, the following:

(a) To adopt a coordinating governance structure that would guide the development, implementation and monitoring of an action plan for the development of economic statistics in the Asian and Pacific region;

(b) To establish a technical advisory group to advise its Bureau...and to formulate a minimum core set of economic statistics that each country in the Asian and Pacific region would be in a position to produce,<sup>27</sup>

*Having considered and taken note of* the report of the Committee on Statistics on its second session,<sup>28</sup>

---

<sup>27</sup> See E/ESCAP/65/13, chap. I, decision 1/2.

1. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee on Statistics to use the core set of economic statistics<sup>29</sup> as a regional framework to focus regional efforts, coordinate training and mobilize donor support for capacity-building;<sup>30</sup>

2. *Recommends* that members and associate members use, as appropriate, the core set of economic statistics as a framework and guide in the development of their national statistical systems.

---

### **Resolution 67/11**

#### **Strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific**

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

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>31</sup>

*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>32</sup> in which Heads of State and Government strongly reiterated their determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit,

*Recalling further* the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, as adopted by the Statistical Commission in 1994,<sup>33</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 62/10 on strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific,

*Recalling also* its resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission, in which it re-established the Committee on Statistics as the highest-level intergovernmental body on statistics in Asia and the Pacific to discuss and coordinate matters related to statistics development,

*Recalling further* its resolution 65/2 on regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development, in which it requested the Executive Secretary to continue to assist members and, as appropriate, associate members in strengthening their statistical capacity, in accordance with Commission resolution 62/10,

*Having considered* the report on the implementation of resolutions 62/10 and

---

<sup>28</sup> E/ESCAP/67/12.

<sup>29</sup> E/ESCAP/CST(2)/4.

<sup>30</sup> See E/ESCAP/67/12, chap. I.

<sup>31</sup> See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

<sup>32</sup> See General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

<sup>33</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 9 (E/1994/29)*, chap. V, para. 59.

*Having also considered* the report of the Committee on Statistics on its second session,<sup>35</sup> including its recommendation on the strategic direction for statistics development in Asia and the Pacific towards 2020 and decisions on coordination and cooperation among national statistical systems and development partners,

*Recognizing* the difficulties that many developing countries face in meeting needs for official statistics in support of economic and social development, including the introduction of some of the major international statistical standards,

*Encouraged* by the capacity-building and other initiatives that are taking place at the national and international levels, in response to relevant international plans and programmes,

1. *Endorses* the strategic direction of the Committee on Statistics, as proposed by the Committee at its second session, with the two overarching goals of (a) ensuring that all countries in the region have the capability to provide an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environmental statistics by 2020, and (b) creating a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through stronger collaboration;<sup>36</sup>

2. *Calls on* members and, as appropriate, associate members to prioritize the strengthening of their national statistical systems and to align resources and institutional arrangements to support the achievement of the two goals described in paragraph 1 above for statistics development in Asia and the Pacific by 2020;

3. *Encourages* members and, as appropriate, associate members with advanced statistical systems, as well as relevant international organizations and institutions, to share expertise and information on their methodological, technological and managerial practices for the benefit of other countries in the region, taking into particular consideration the constraints faced by countries with special needs;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(e) To assist members and, as appropriate, associate members, upon request, in developing their statistical systems and strengthening their capacity with a view to achieving the two goals for statistics development in Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 above, by 2020;

(f) To promote the importance of developing the capacity of not only national statistical offices but also, where appropriate, other parts of national statistical systems across the region;

(g) To provide members and, as appropriate, associate members with assistance in strengthening their capacity to monitor the progress made in achieving development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals;

---

<sup>34</sup> See E/ESCAP/67/3, chap. IV.

<sup>35</sup> E/ESCAP/67/12.

<sup>36</sup> See E/ESCAP/67/12, chap. I, recommendation 2/1.

(h) To facilitate the coordination of international capacity-building activities related to the development of official statistics in the region, including cooperation among the national statistical offices of developing countries;

(i) To raise awareness of the significance of enhancing the use of administrative data as a means of increasing the effectiveness of the production of official statistics;

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

---

## **Resolution 67/12**

### **Improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific**

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

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>37</sup> and the Declaration on the Right to Development,<sup>38</sup>

*Noting* the importance of civil registration and vital statistics systems for improving development outcomes, enabling the observation and assessment of a country's progress towards nationally and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Stressing* the significant role of civil registration within a country's legal systems for recognizing the rights and privileges of individuals and enabling the progressive realization of those rights,

*Recognizing* that civil registration systems capable of generating reliable and timely vital statistics contribute significantly to improved evidence-based planning and increased efficiency in resource allocation,

*Recognizing also* the importance of civil registration and vital statistics in raising the visibility of and improving policy focus on the most vulnerable groups, including women and children in poverty, migrants and other marginalized groups, and providing a basis for designing social protection schemes that reduce risks and vulnerabilities,

*Emphasizing* the fundamental responsibility of members and associate members in establishing, operating and maintaining reliable civil registration and vital statistics systems,

*Recognizing* the role of knowledge creation, strategic research and analysis in supporting health and social development, especially for capacity-building, the transfer of technology, the sharing of good practices and lessons learned, and South-South cooperation,

*Underlining* the need for sustained investment in civil registration and vital statistics systems,

---

<sup>37</sup> See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

<sup>38</sup> General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.

*Noting* the need to build greater understanding and appreciation of the benefits of civil registration and vital statistics on the part of national authorities and development partners,

*Recognizing* the important role of civil society organizations and communities in advocacy and community mobilization for civil registration,

*Acknowledging* the wide differences in the level of development of the civil registration and vital statistics systems of countries in Asia and the Pacific,

*Expressing* deep concern that:

(a) Countries in the region continue to face major challenges in assessing progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular those related to health and the reduction of child and maternal mortality;

(b) While the region has experienced rapid economic growth, and improvements in development indicators have been achieved at the national level, inequalities between population groups and geographic areas have grown in many countries, and currently many national statistical systems are inadequately equipped to observe and assess such inequalities;

(c) There is a lack of sustained high-level political commitment and resources for improving civil registration and vital statistics in some countries, leading to underinvestment in and neglect of this fundamental governance responsibility to a certain extent;

(d) There is a lack of awareness among families and communities of the potential benefits of civil registration and the importance for development of reliable and timely vital statistics;

(e) In many countries in the region, there is inadequate coordination and collaboration among the stakeholders involved in civil registration and vital statistics, resulting in duplication of effort and inefficient use of resources;

(f) In many countries in the region, health-information and statistical systems are constrained by weak institutional capacity, resulting in incomplete coverage and poor quality of civil registration and vital statistics;

(g) The potential of information and communications technologies to improve the efficiency of the collection, compilation, sharing, dissemination and analysis of data on vital events, especially births, deaths and causes of death, has yet to be fully realized,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee on Statistics on its second session;<sup>39</sup>

2. *Also takes note* of the outcome statement of the Regional Forum on the Improvement of Vital Statistics and Civil Registration in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>40</sup> held in Bangkok from 23 to 25 June 2010, which brought together officials of national statistical organizations, civil registration offices and ministries of health as well as international development partners, to develop a regional programme for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics;

---

<sup>39</sup> E/ESCAP/67/12.

<sup>40</sup> See E/ESCAP/CST(2)/3/Add.1.

3. *Encourages* all members and associate members to review and assess the current functioning of the civil registration systems and the quality of the vital statistics produced internally within each country;

4. *Recommends* that the results of country assessments be utilized by members and associate members and stakeholders to develop and implement comprehensive and costed national strategies and plans to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems;

5. *Calls upon* members and associate members to strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions to improve civil registration and vital statistics in their countries;

6. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, other global, regional and subregional development partners and agencies, non-governmental organizations and private sector entities to increase their support to countries for the development and strengthening of civil registration and vital statistics systems;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, where practicable and in accordance with the domestic law and policies of the respective countries:

(a) To convene a high-level regional meeting of decision makers from national statistical organizations, civil registration offices, ministries of health and other relevant stakeholders to raise awareness and foster increased commitment to improving civil registration and vital statistics;

(b) To facilitate the formation of a regional platform aimed at promoting the exchange of experiences and information on strategies and plans to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems, which would, through the secretariat, report on its accomplishments, compile lessons learned and foster South-South and peer-to-peer cooperation for improving civil registration and vital statistics;

(c) To take a lead role in the region, in partnership with regional knowledge hubs and technical agencies, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Statistics Division and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in developing and disseminating standards, evidence, tools and guidelines for civil registration and vital statistics;

(d) To facilitate, in close collaboration with technical partners and United Nations agencies, technical assistance, including training and advisory services, to build national capacity in civil registration and vital statistics;

(e) To mainstream attention to civil registration into the subprogrammes on social development and subregional activities for development of the ESCAP programme of work, as appropriate, and work with relevant stakeholders to support and enhance commitment for civil registration and vital statistics;

(f) To consider collaborating closely with relevant partner agencies, especially the World Health Organization, the Health Metrics Network, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, to coordinate and harmonize support and mobilize global, regional and country resources for civil registration and vital statistics;

(g) To enhance the capabilities and capacity of the secretariat to respond to the requests of members for technical assistance and support in their efforts to improve their civil registration and vital statistics systems;

(h) To support members and associate members in the region, in partnership with countries and drawing on regional resources, in monitoring progress in improving civil registration and vital statistics systems upon countries' requests, if any;

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

---

### **Resolution 67/13**

#### **Revision of the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific**

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

*Recalling* its resolution 61/2 on the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific,

*Taking note* of the suggestion made by ESCAP members at the sixth session of the Governing Council of the Institute,<sup>41</sup>

*Recognizing* the fact that both the members of the Governing Council and the non-members have participated in the discussion on the Institute's activities,

*Recognizing also* the desirability of increasing the frequency with which the election to the Governing Council takes place in order to enhance the scope for countries in the region to influence the make-up of the Council and the direction of the Institute's operations,

1. *Decides*, in this regard, to adopt a revised statute for the Institute, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, to provide for the term of the members of the Governing Council to be changed to a period of three years from the current five years;

2. *Also decides* that the revised statute shall be applied to the term of the current members of the Governing Council, which is changed from five years to three years, accordingly, effective as of the date of its adoption by the Commission.

### **Annex**

#### **Statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific**

<sup>41</sup> See E/ESCAP/67/13, annex III, paras. 54-58.

## **Establishment**

1. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as “the Institute”), established in May 1970 as the Asian Statistical Institute, and accorded the legal status of a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as “ESCAP” or “the Commission”) pursuant to Commission resolutions 50/5 of 13 April 1994 and 51/1 of 1 May 1995, shall continue in existence under the same title and under the terms of the present statute.
2. Participation in the training and other activities of the Institute is open to all members and associate members of the Commission.
3. The Institute has the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

## **Objectives**

4. The objectives of the Institute are to strengthen, through practically oriented training of official statisticians, the capability of the developing members and associate members and economies in transition of the region to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics as well as to produce timely and high-quality statistics that can be utilized for economic and social development planning, and to assist those developing members and associate members and economies in transition in establishing or strengthening their statistical training capability and other related activities.

## **Functions**

5. The Institute will achieve the above objectives by undertaking such functions as:
  - (a) Training of official statisticians, utilizing existing centres and institutions for training available in member States;
  - (b) Networking and partnership with other international organizations and key stakeholders;
  - (c) Dissemination of information.

## **Status and organization**

6. The Institute shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”), a Director and staff. ESCAP shall keep separate accounts for the Institute.
7. The Institute is located in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Japan.
8. The activities of the Institute shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Institute shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

## **Governing Council**

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

10. The Director of the Institute 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 shall 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 special sessions at the request of a majority of the Council members.

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

14. The nine representatives constituting the Council under paragraph 9 of the present statute shall have one vote each. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, when this is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

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

16. The Council shall review the administration and financial status of the Institute 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.

17. The Council shall review and endorse annual and long-term workplans consistent with the programme of work.

#### **Director and staff**

18. The Institute shall have a Director and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. 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. The Director and Professional staff shall be appointed for a total term, in principle, not exceeding five years. All appointments shall be for a fixed duration and shall be limited to service with the Institute.

19. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of the Institute, the preparation of annual and long-term workplans and the implementation of the programme of work.

#### **Resources of the Institute**

20. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Institute. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund for the Institute, as referred to in paragraph 6, in which these contributions shall be deposited and utilized solely for the activities of the Institute, subject to paragraph 22 of the present statute.

21. United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other entities should also be encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the operations of the Institute. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Institute.

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

#### **Amendments**

23. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by means of a resolution of the Commission.

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

24. 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**

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

---

## **Resolution 67/14**

### **Cooperation between the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and other United Nations and regional and subregional organizations serving Asia and the Pacific**

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

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

*Recalling further* Commission resolutions 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission and 66/15 on the strengthening of the evaluation function of the secretariat of the Commission,

*Recognizing* the valuable work of the United Nations, specifically that of the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and its partners in the Asian and Pacific region,

*Reaffirming* its role as the main economic and social development forum in Asia and the Pacific within the United Nations system to: (a) promote economic and social development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration; (b) further contribute to the formulation and promotion of development assistance activities and projects commensurate with the needs and priorities of the region; (c) provide inputs for global policymaking processes; and (d) participate in the implementation of relevant policy and programme decisions taken by United Nations organizations,

*Mindful* of the current economic environment affecting most of Asia and the Pacific, and recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>42</sup> in which it

---

<sup>42</sup> See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

is stated that United Nations bodies should develop good cooperation and coordination in the common endeavour of building a more effective United Nations,

*Noting* the importance of an inclusive, transparent and effective multilateral system, as enshrined in General Assembly resolution 65/94 on the United Nations in global governance,

*Cognizant* that it is critical that the existing limited resources of the Commission be targeted based on greatest need and aligned with recipient goals and priorities, including the realization of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, by ensuring that the United Nations system delivers as effectively as possible,

*Taking note* of the efforts made towards United Nations system-wide coherence as reflected in General Assembly resolution 62/277, including initiatives aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations development system,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 64/289, in particular paragraph 22 in which the Assembly acknowledged efforts by developed countries to increase resources for development, including commitments by some developed countries to increase official development assistance, and called for the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2015 and to reach at least 0.5 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2010, as well as the target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent for least developed countries,

1. *Encourages* member States that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in accordance with their commitments as contained in paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 64/289;

2. *Invites* member States to provide extrabudgetary funding should any additional resources be required to implement this resolution;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Assess the manner in which the secretariat carries out its mandate and coordinates its work with regional and subregional organizations operating in Asia and the Pacific, and describe the functioning, decision-making and results of the regional coordination mechanism, including how the secretariat leverages synergies and other efficiencies that could serve as a model for coordination;

(b) Consult with member States, including with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, and present the results to the Commission as part of the biennial reporting on the secretariat's evaluation activities, beginning with the sixty-eighth session of the Commission and continuing in future biennial reports.

---

**Resolution 67/15**

## Midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission

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

*Recalling* its resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission,

*Reiterating* the Commission's unique role as the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region and its comprehensive mandate as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region,

*Noting* the importance of further cooperation between the Commission and international, regional and subregional organizations operating in Asia and the Pacific to achieve synergies, build effective partnerships and contribute to greater United Nations system-wide coherence,

*Commending* the Executive Secretary for facilitating the identification by member States of key issues for further consideration, and possible action, by the Commission,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the secretariat on the midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission;<sup>43</sup>
2. *Commends* the Executive Secretary for facilitating the revised conference structure to serve the purpose of improving efficiency and attracting higher and wider representation from members and associate members and encourages the Executive Secretary to continue to do so;
3. *Reaffirms* that substantive activities of the Commission, including such activities as meetings and studies, should be in line with relevant mandates of the Commission;
4. *Commends* the initiative of the Executive Secretary to seek participation by Heads of State and Government at Commission sessions and associated events, as was done at the sixty-sixth session, and encourages the Executive Secretary to continue to do so;
5. *Reaffirms* that an annual session of the Commission is desirable as it ensures continuity in a fast-changing global economic scenario and serves the useful purpose of providing ministers with opportunities to engage with their counterparts bilaterally, in addition to moving forward the Commission's agenda;
6. *Emphasizes* that discussions during the Commission session should focus on the theme topic, other key issues of contemporary relevance for the economic and social development of the region and policy challenges identified by the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*, as well

---

<sup>43</sup> E/ESCAP/67/15.

as the review and endorsement of the proposed strategic framework and programme of work;

7. *Reaffirms* that country statements serve a useful purpose by bringing a country perspective, thereby enabling member States to highlight the steps that they are taking to address the issues on the agenda of the Commission session, and calls on the respective chairs to explore, with the assistance of the secretariat, better time management in order to make the most effective use of the limited time available for each session;

8. *Decides* to move towards paperless Commission sessions with the possibility of electronic early delivery of all pre-session documents and communications, with fewer but higher quality documents, and, in this regard, requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission at its 339<sup>th</sup> session a report that would serve as the basis for a decision at the sixty-eighth session of the Commission which would take effect as of its sixty-ninth session and affect the preparations therefor;

9. *Stresses* the importance of timely submission of draft resolutions to the Commission and once again strongly encourages members of the Commission intending to submit draft resolutions to the Commission to submit them to the Executive Secretary at least one month prior to the commencement of the Commission session in order to allow sufficient time for review by members and associate members of the Commission;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to explore practical and cost-effective ways of convening the Asia-Pacific Business Forum in conjunction with the Commission session to facilitate bringing a business perspective to the discussion, at the same time ensuring that the focus on deliberations at Commission sessions, including on the theme topic, is not taken away by side events;

11. *Decides* that the subsidiary structure of the Commission, which consists of the eight committees meeting biennially with four committees meeting each year, should be maintained until the final review of its conference structure, including its subsidiary structure, at its sixty-ninth session;

12. *Also decides* to reshape the list of issues addressed by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, namely moving the component "Information and communications technology applications for disaster risk reduction" to the agenda of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that Committee sessions are scheduled evenly throughout the year in order to provide sufficient time for their preparation and avoid overlap with other important intergovernmental meetings, as part of the proposed calendar of ESCAP meetings;

14. *Commends* the significant role played by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission in dealing with all matters related to programme planning, administrative and budgetary issues, including

extrabudgetary funding, and encourages the Executive Secretary to continue close consultation with the Advisory Committee;

15. *Decides* to explore ways to strengthen the role of the Advisory Committee and entrusts this task to the Advisory Committee;

16. *Also decides* to entrust the Advisory Committee to review its terms of reference and submit the results of that review to the sixty-eighth session of the Commission;

17. *Further decides* to set clear rules of procedure for the Advisory Committee and for the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions and, in this respect, requests the Executive Secretary to submit a proposal on each of the subjects to the Advisory Committee at its 337<sup>th</sup> and 338<sup>th</sup> sessions, respectively, which would serve as the basis for a decision that will have an effect on its subsequent sessions;

18. *Reaffirms* the utility of making available outcomes of expert group meetings to member States pending the final review of the conference structure;

19. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to carry out further study and analysis, as well as the formulation of a new comprehensive questionnaire to facilitate the final review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission, and to submit the findings, including the questionnaire results, and recommendations to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session, especially on the following issues:

(a) The duration of the Commission session in order to gain efficiencies in time and cost;

(b) The governance structure of the regional institutions vis-à-vis the respective roles and relevant mandates of the Commission, the committees and the governing councils;

(c) With a view to further integrating the regional institutions into the work of the relevant subprogrammes, the relevance of regional institutions to each subprogramme and committee, and the review of budget allocations to improve support for regional institutions through such mechanisms as staff exchanges and joint projects to support their work;

(d) The feasibility of promoting and developing the role of the Advisory Committee in order for it to assist the Commission in carrying out and coordinating its tasks during the intersessional period;

20. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, as part of the final review of the functioning of the conference structure, to carry out further study on proposals for improving the utilization of, and participation in, expert group and other meetings, and possible dissemination of outcomes, in order to engage more fully and constructively with member States and to provide a clearer contribution to the intergovernmental process and further strengthen programme delivery.

