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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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Agenda item 2

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on 19 May 2023

79/1. Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, by which the Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 77/165 of 14 December 2022 on the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind, in which the Assembly recalled the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹ and the Paris Agreement,² acknowledged that they are the primary international intergovernmental forums for negotiating the global response to climate change, expressed determination to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation, recognized that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and addressing adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change, and noted with concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of parties' mitigation pledges, in particular their nationally determined contributions, as appropriate, and aggregate emission pathways, and in which the Assembly also recalled the Paris Agreement, which, pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, thereof, will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances, and in which the Assembly urged Member States to adopt a climate- and environment-responsive approach to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) recovery efforts in order to achieve a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery and accelerate a transition to low-emission, climate-resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies,

Recalling further its resolution 78/1 of 27 May 2022, entitled "Bangkok Declaration Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: a Common Agenda to

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

² See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Advance Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”, in which the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific reaffirmed their commitment to advancing sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, as well as its resolutions 72/8 of 19 May 2016 on fostering regional cooperation and partnerships to respond to the climate change challenge in the Asia-Pacific region and 76/1 of 21 May 2020 on strengthening cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework³ and its mission to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, and recalling also resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development,⁴ in which the Environment Assembly recognized that nature-based solutions could contribute significantly to climate action,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 77/161 of 14 December 2022 on promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda, in particular paragraph 7, and recognizing the importance of raising awareness of national, subnational, and local initiatives to promote climate action, including through innovative climate-resilient waste management initiatives as a means to advance the 2030 Agenda,

Reaffirming our commitment to promoting multilateralism and international cooperation, strengthening partnerships for sustainable development, upholding the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and advancing sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,

Reaffirming also its resolution 78/1, in which it committed itself to protecting our planet, noted that without more determined actions, the planet would be more affected by multiple challenges to our common environment, inter alia, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and all types of natural disasters, with small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries being among the most affected, recognized that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment was important for the enjoyment of human rights and for sustainable development in all its dimensions, noted that human beings were at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and that they were entitled to healthy and productive lives in harmony with nature, noted also that the well-being of humanity depended on the health of nature and hence on the ability to sustainably use, restore and protect the ecosystem services, recalled the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, and in that connection, noted the need to immediately curb greenhouse gas emissions and pursue an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge and achieve a more balanced growth, including through sustainable consumption and production patterns, in line with the 2030 Agenda, and noted also the need to take urgent actions to enhance international collaboration for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources and reduce

³ Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decision 15/4, annex.

⁴ UNEP/EA.5/Res.5.

pollution of air, oceans and fresh water, mitigate the impacts of pollution on human health and halt the global decline of biodiversity,

Reiterating that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an immediate and urgent global priority,

Reaffirming that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and is already resulting in multiple negative impacts on economies and societies, emphasizing the urgency of scaling up action and support, including finance, capacity-building and technology transfer, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change, taking into account the priorities and needs of developing countries,

Recognizing that clean, sustainable, affordable, reliable, just, inclusive, equitable and secure transitions to renewable and clean energy use, as well as conservation, in line with national circumstances, will be instrumental in addressing climate change and ensuring energy security,

Reaffirming the sovereign rights of countries over their energy resources and their right to define appropriate policies for the production and use of energy, recognizing that the 2030 Agenda is to be implemented for the full benefit of all, for today's generation and for future generations,

Recognizing that the enhanced access to international finance is important to support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and recognizing also the ongoing efforts in this regard,

Recognizing also the need to promote energy efficiency and accelerate transitions and appropriate access to clean energy technologies and electric mobility in public transport, and sustainable, low-emission and energy-efficient modes of transport, as well as the use of renewable energy in transport by providing, as appropriate, technical and financial support to developing countries, taking into account national priorities and circumstances, and recognizing further the need to enhance regional supply chain connectivity and diversification,

Reaffirming that international trade is an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction and contributes to the promotion of sustainable development,

Reaffirming also the commitment made in the 2030 Agenda to strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through the provision of international support to developing countries to mobilize additional financial resources for them from multiple sources, and reiterating that the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development⁵ is critical for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing the urgent need to address, in a comprehensive and synergistic manner, the interlinked global crises of climate change and biodiversity loss in the broader context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the vital importance of protecting, conserving, restoring and sustainably using nature and ecosystems for effective and sustainable climate action,

⁵ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

Taking note of the findings published in the 2023 Synthesis Report, which is contained in the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Taking note also of the summary of the theme study on accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development,⁶ in which the global climate agenda is addressed with a broad focus on economic, social and environmental benefits,

1. *Urges* all its members and associate members to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;

2. *Encourages* all its members and associate members to strengthen regional and subregional cooperation to accelerate climate action in Asia and the Pacific for the sustainable development of all members and associate members and for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by:

(a) Promoting information-sharing, policy dialogues and technical assistance and cooperation with a view to developing policies that will support the implementation of nationally determined contributions and low-emission and climate-resilient development;

(b) Promoting the use of clean and renewable energy resources and research on clean energy technologies, as well as the development, deployment, commercialization, availability, accessibility and affordability of such technologies, and enhancing international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, hydrogen, energy storage, carbon capture, utilization and storage, bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technologies, including technologies that avoid, abate and remove greenhouse gas emissions, and improved infrastructures for supplying affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and advanced energy efficiency systems as part of the region's energy transition;

(c) Promoting regional power system connectivity to enhance climate resilience and sustainability;

(d) Promoting low-emission mobility, clean energy technologies and logistics;

(e) Promoting sustainable socioeconomic policies and investments consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development;

(f) Taking a whole-of-government approach to strengthening the collection and use of climate change-related statistics;

(g) Promoting the implementation and strengthening of early warning systems for all as key adaptation strategies in the region;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to support members and associate members in enhancing cooperation efforts with a view to taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, including by promoting partnerships involving Governments and major groups and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to facilitate voluntary information-sharing, policy dialogues and technical

⁶ ESCAP/79/2.

assistance and cooperation for climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable development;

(b) To facilitate cooperation across various sectors of the economy to combat climate change and its impacts, including by supporting regional cooperation on sustainable, low-emission and energy-efficient modes of transport, and providing regional assessments, capacity-building and technical support on policies for climate-resilient development, as appropriate;

(c) To encourage and collaborate with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, regional and subregional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, in line with the existing mandates and within the existing resources of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, to build the capacities of members and associate members, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to develop policies and take actions to combat climate change and its impacts, develop early warning systems for all at the regional level, and support regional and subregional priorities to address climate-related challenges;

(d) To continue to provide information to members and associate members of the Commission on progress made by the secretariat in the implementation of the United Nations Secretariat climate action plan 2020–2030, in the context of existing reporting processes, as appropriate;

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

*9th plenary meeting
19 May 2023*