

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

### Resolution 69/1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) Constituting a new committee on energy;

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

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

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

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

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

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary:

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

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

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

**Annex I**  
**Conference structure of the Commission**

**I. The Commission**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## II. Subsidiary structure

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

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

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

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

- (a) Review and analyse regional trends;
- (b) Identify, in consultation with member States, their priorities and emerging issues and consult on regional approaches, taking into consideration subregional aspects;
- (c) Promote regional dialogue, including its subregional synergies, and an exchange of experiences on policies and programmes;
- (d) Consider common regional positions as inputs to global processes and promote regional follow-up to their outcomes;
- (e) Propose issues for consideration by the Commission as the basis for possible resolutions;
- (f) Monitor the implementation of Commission resolutions;
- (g) Promote a collaborative approach to addressing the development challenges of the region, where appropriate, between Governments and civil society, the private sector and United Nations and other international institutions at the regional and subregional levels.

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

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

- (a) Implementation of the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;
- (b) Poverty reduction and balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development;
- (c) Gender equality;
- (d) Priority needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **VI. General provisions**

### **A. Rules of procedure**

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

### **B. Informal session**

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

## **Annex II**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **2. Committee on Trade and Investment:**

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

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

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

(d) Technology transfer to address regional development challenges.

#### **3. Committee on Transport:**

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

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

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

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

4. Committee on Environment and Development:

(a) Integration of environmental sustainability in development policy;

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

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

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

5. Committee on Information and Communications Technology:

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

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

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

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

6. Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction:

(a) Policy options and strategies on multi-hazard disaster risk reduction and mitigation;

(b) Regional cooperation mechanisms for disaster risk management, including space and other technical support systems;

(c) Multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks.

7. Committee on Social Development:

(a) Implementation of internationally agreed commitments, including those agreed at the United Nations on social development, population, ageing, disability, youth and disadvantaged groups, gender equality and health;

(b) Policy options, strategies and good practices in social policy and protection;

(c) Social policies and financing aimed at building inclusive societies.

8. Committee on Statistics:

(a) Ensure that all countries in the region by 2020 have the capability to provide a basic range of population, economic, social and environmental statistics;

(b) Create a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through stronger collaboration.

### **Annex III**

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

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

(a) To strengthen close cooperation and consultation between the member States and the secretariat, including by providing advice and guidance to be taken into account by the Executive Secretary while undertaking the respective activities;

(b) To serve as a deliberative forum for substantive exchange of views and provide guidance on the formulation of the agenda of the Commission and in connection with economic and social developments that have an impact on the Asia-Pacific region;

(c) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the strategic framework, programme of work and theme topics for sessions of the Commission consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission;

(d) To receive, on a regular basis, information on the administrative and financial functioning of the Commission;

(e) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Commission's programme of work and resource allocation;

(f) To review the draft calendar of meetings prior to its submission to the Commission at its annual session;

(g) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for sessions of the Commission and committees subsidiary to the Commission, consistent with the need to ensure a results-oriented and focused agenda that is aligned with the developmental priorities of member States, as defined by them, as well as chapter II of its rules of procedure;

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

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

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

**Resolution 69/2**  
**Final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region<sup>5</sup>**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 58/201 on the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,<sup>6</sup> and General Assembly resolution 59/245 on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

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

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

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

### **Resolution 69/3**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

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

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

#### **Annex**

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

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

2. We underline the importance of full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,<sup>14</sup> the Almaty Programme of Action,<sup>15</sup> the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States<sup>16</sup> and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,<sup>17</sup> and underscore the

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

<sup>15</sup> Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries (*Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3)*, annex I).

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

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

need for strong commitments to underpin the outcomes of the United Nations conferences on landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to be held in 2014 and their implementation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12. We call upon the international community to make a determined effort to end extreme poverty and hunger in all least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including those in the Asia-Pacific region. We therefore underline that the concerns of these countries must be at the forefront of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, as well as all other ongoing processes, including the formulation of sustainable development goals.

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

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

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

16. We underline the importance of strong and structured implementation of the development agenda beyond 2015. In this regard, the traditional donors, development partners from the South, the private sector and civil society organizations will have to play a decisive role. Strong and additional commitments and actions are necessary in favour of our countries in regard to ODA, debt, trade, technology transfer and diffusion and foreign direct investment (FDI) and must form an integral part of the development agenda beyond 2015. We recall the commitments made in the Istanbul Programme of Action<sup>14</sup> by donor countries to review their ODA

commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for least developed countries. We also underline the need to establish a mutual accountability mechanism between our countries and our development partners with a view to ensuring the delivery of commitments made in international conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. *Decides* to collectively explore and identify the challenges in achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication in the region that should be addressed in the elaboration of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, taking into account the particular challenges of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

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

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

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

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

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

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. *Adopts* the statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, as revised in the text annexed to the present resolution;
2. *Calls upon* members and associate members to continue to provide voluntary resources to support the work of the Centre;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to seek additional funding from donors to strengthen the Centre's mandated activities and their impact.

*Fifth plenary meeting*  
*1 May 2013*

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

**Establishment**

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

**Objectives**

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

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

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

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

## **Functions**

5. The Centre will achieve the above objectives through undertaking such functions as:

(a) Assistance in the improvement of agricultural engineering and sustainable agricultural mechanization;

(b) Enhancement of farm mechanization technologies in addressing issues related to subsistence farming for increased food security and poverty reduction and promoting agro-based small and medium-sized enterprise development and commercial farming to seize opportunities for increased market access and agro-food trade;

(c) A focus on an agro-based enterprise cluster concept and enterprise development activities to enhance the capabilities of members in identifying potential agricultural commodities in their respective countries on a clustering basis;

(d) Regional cooperation in green agro-technology transfer, including through networking of focal point national institutes in CSAM member countries and other relevant institutions;

(e) Setting up an interactive Internet website to allow members full access to information and technology databases, including the sharing of expert systems and decision support systems in financial management of small and medium-sized enterprises;

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

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

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

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

## **Status and organization**

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

7. The Centre is located in Beijing.

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

## **Governing Council**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Director and staff**

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

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

#### **Technical Committee**

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

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

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

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

### **Resources of the Centre**

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

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

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

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

### **Amendments**

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

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

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

### **Entry into force**

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

### **Resolution 69/6**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Recognizing* the important contribution that the United Nations regional commissions, together with development partners, such as bilateral donors, international and regional financial institutions and other organizations, are making to assist countries in increasing private sector involvement in infrastructure development, with a particular emphasis on the Build-Operate-Transfer Model as referred to in the *Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings – A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective* published by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Economic Commission for Europe,<sup>31</sup>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

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

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

(f) Exploring ways to facilitate cooperation among countries of the Asia-Pacific region on public-private partnership projects in their effort towards: (i) streamlining financial flows and motivating investment, especially through attracting foreign direct investment to public-private partnership projects; (ii) setting up forums to invite representatives of the private sector from different countries to cooperate in public-private partnership projects; (iii) launching a process for establishing a working group comprising interested Asian and Pacific countries to explore leveraging prudential financial institutions and instruments, including emerging ones, such as Islamic financial instruments, for financing public-private partnership projects; and (iv) encouraging and inviting countries of the Asia-Pacific region to consider setting up an Asian investment bank;

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

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Also recalling* the Regional Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Dry Ports along the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Networks and the second session of the Committee on Transport, both held in Bangkok from 1 to 3 November 2010, which initiated the process of drafting an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports,<sup>37</sup>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. *Adopts* the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, the text of which is contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Invites* all relevant members of the Commission to become parties to the Agreement in order to ensure its rapid entry into force;

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

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

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

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

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

<sup>46</sup> Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries (*Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I*).

**Annex**  
**Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports**

*The Parties to this Agreement,*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Have agreed* as follows:

**Article 1**  
**Definition**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Article 7**

##### **Procedures for amending the main text**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Article 8**

##### **Procedures for amending annex I**

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Annex II to the Agreement shall be amended by the procedure specified in this Article.
2. Amendments may be proposed by any Party.
3. The text of any proposed amendment shall be circulated to all members of the Working Group by the secretariat at least forty-five (45) days before the Working Group meeting at which it is proposed for adoption.
4. An amendment shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the Parties to the Agreement present and voting at the meeting of the Working Group. The amendment as adopted shall be communicated by the secretariat to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall circulate it to all Parties.
5. An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 4 of the present Article shall be deemed accepted if, during a period of ninety (90) days from the date of the notification, less than one third of the Parties notifies the Secretary-General of the United Nations of their objection to the amendment.
6. An amendment accepted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the present Article shall enter into force for all Parties thirty (30) days after the expiry of the period of ninety (90) days referred to in paragraph 5 of the present Article.

**Article 10**  
**Reservations**

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

**Article 11**  
**Withdrawal**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Article 15**  
**Annexes**

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

**Article 16**  
**Secretariat**

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

**Article 17**  
**Depositary**

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

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

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

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

2. Dry ports have transport connections to other dry ports, border posts/land customs stations/integrated check posts, seaports, inland waterway terminals and/or airports.
3. Dry ports are listed below.
4. The name of a dry port is followed by its location or the name of the nearest town/city.
5. Potential dry ports are indicated below in square brackets.

### **List of dry ports**

#### **Afghanistan**

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

#### **Armenia**

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

#### **Azerbaijan**

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

[International Logistics Centre,  
Alyat]  
[New Baku International Sea Trade  
Port, Alyat]

[Keshla Station, Baku]

[South Terminal on frontier point at state border (Astara)]

[Sumgait Station, Sumgait]

### **Bangladesh**

Akhaura, Brahmanbaria

Benapole, Jessore

Bibirbazar, Comilla

Burimari, Lalmonirhat

Hili, Dinajpur

Kamlapur ICD, Dhaka

Sonamasjid, Chapai Nawabganj

Teknaf, Cox's Bazar

[Bangladbandh, Panchagargh]

[Bhomra, Satkhira]

[Bilonia, Feni]

[Dhirasram ICD, Gajipur]

[Gobrakura, Mymensingh]

[Koraitali, Mymensingh]

[Nakugao, Sherpur]

[Ramgarh, Khagrachari]

[Tamabil, Sylhet]

### **Bhutan**

Phuentsholing Dry Port,  
Phuentsholing

[Gelephu, Sarpang]

[Gomtu, Samtse]

[Nganglam, Samdrupjongkhar]

[Samdrupjongkhar,  
Samdrupjongkhar]

[Samtse, Samtse]

### **Cambodia**

CWT Dry Port, Phnom Penh

Olair World Wide Dry Port, Phnom Penh

Phnom Penh International Port,  
Phnom Penh

Phnom Penh Special Economic Zone, Phnom Penh

So Nguon Dry Port, Bavet

Tech Srun Dry Port, Phnom Penh

Teng Lay Dry Port, Phnom Penh

### **China**

Changchun Longxing Bonded  
International Logistics Port,  
Changchun

Erliahaote South International  
Logistics Center, Erliahaote

Harbin Longyun Logistics Park,  
Harbin

Hekou Port Transport Logistics  
Park, Hekou

Korgas International Logistics Park,  
Korgas

Hunchun International Logistics  
Park, Hunchun

Jinghong Mengyang International  
Logistics Center, Jinghong

Kashi International Logistics  
Park, Kashi

Tengjun International Land Port,  
Kunming

Manzhouli New International  
Freight Yard, Manzhouli

Nanning Bonded Logistics Center, Nanning	Pingxiang Border Trade Logistics Center, Pingxiang (Youyi Guan)
Ruili Cargo Centre, Ruili	Suifenhe Cargo Centre, Suifenhe
Xinjiang Railway International Logistics Park, Urumqi	Yiwu Inland Port Station, Yiwu
Zhangmu Port Warehouse Logistics Trading Center, Zhangmu	
<b>Georgia</b>	
Poti Free Industrial Zone, Poti	[Tbilisi International Logistics Centre, Tbilisi]
<b>India</b>	
Ajni, Nagpur, Maharashtra	Amingaon, Guwahati, Assam
Aroor, Kerala	Ballabhgarh, Faridabad, Haryana
Bhadohi, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	
Bhagat Ki Kothi, Jodhpur, Rajasthan	Chehreta, Amritsar, Punjab
Dadri, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	Daulatabad, Aurangabad, Maharashtra
Dhandarikalan, Punjab	Dhannad Rau, Indore, Madhya Pradesh
Dronagiri Node, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	Durgapur, West Bengal
Garhi Harsaru, Gurgaon, Haryana	Irugur, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
Jamshedpur, Jharkhand	Janory, Nasik, Maharashtra
Kanakpura, Jaipur, Rajasthan	Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
Khodiyar, Gujarat	Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
Majerhat, Kolkata, West Bengal	Mandideep, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh	Patli, Gurgaon, Haryana
Pithampur, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh	Raipur, Chhattisgarh
Sachin, Surat, Gujarat	Sanath Nagar, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
Senewal, Ludhiana, Punjab	Tondiarpet, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Tughlakabad, Delhi	Vadodara, Gujarat
Whitefield, Bangalore, Karnataka	
<b>Indonesia</b>	
Gedebage Dry Port, Bandung	Cikarang Dry Port, Bekasi
<b>Iran (Islamic Republic of)</b>	
Imam Khomeini International Airport, Tehran Province	
Motahari Rail Station, Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi Province	
Salafchegan Special Economic Zone, Qom Province	

Sirjan Special Economic Zone, Kerman Province  
 [Arvand Free Industrial Zone, Khozestan Province]  
 [Sahlan Special Economic Zone, Tabriz, East Azerbaijan Province]  
 [Sarakhs Special Economic Zone, Khorasan Razavi Province]  
 [Shahid Dastgheyb International Airport, Shiraz, Fars Province]  
 [Zahedan Logistics Centre, Sistan and Bakluchestan Province]

### **Kazakhstan**

Aktobe Centre, Aktobe	Damu Industrial and Logistics Centre, Almaty
[High Tech Logistics, Almaty Region]	
[Korgas International Border Cooperation Centre, Almaty Region]	
[Tau Terminal, Almaty Region]	

### **Kyrgyzstan**

Alamedin, Bishkek	Osh, Osh
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### **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

Thanaleng, Vientiane	[Houyxi, Bokeo]
[Laksao, Borikhamsai]	[Luangprabang, Luangprabang]
[Nateuy, Luangnamtha]	[Oudomsai, Muangxai]
[Pakse, Champasack]	[Seno, Savanakhet]
[Thakhek, Khammouane]	

### **Malaysia**

Inland Clearance Depot Kontena Nasional, Prai	Inland Container Depot, Padang Besar
Internal Clearance Depot Seri Setia, Kuala Lumpur	
Ipoh Cargo Terminal, Ipoh	Nilai Inland Port, Nilai
Tebedu Inland Port, Sarawak	[Pulau Sebang Inland Depot, Pulau Sebang]

### **Mongolia**

Altanbulag	Sainshand
Ulaanbaatar	Zamyn-Uud
[Choibalsan]	

### **Myanmar**

[Bago]	[Mandalay]
[Mawlamyine]	[Monywa]
[Muse]	[Pyay]

[Tamu]

[Yangon]

### **Nepal**

Bhairahawa ICD, Bhairahawa

Biratnagar ICD, Biratnagar

Birgunj ICD, Birgunj

Kakarbhitta ICD, Kakarbhitta

[Tatopani ICD, Larcha]

### **Pakistan**

Customs Dry Port, Hyderabad

Customs Dry Port, Peshawar

Faisalabad Dry Port Trust,  
Faisalabad

Lahore Dry Port, Mughalpura

Margalla Dry Ports, Islamabad

Multan Dry Port Trust, Multan

National Logistics Center Container Freight Station, Lahore

National Logistics Center Dry Port,  
Quetta

Pakistan Railways Prem Nagar Dry  
Port, Kasur

Railways Dry Port, Quetta

Sambrial Dry Port, Sialkot

Silk Route Dry Port, Sost, Gilgit,  
Baltistan

### **Philippines**

Clark, Angeles City, Pampanga,  
Luzon

Davao City, Eastern Mindanao

Koronadal City, South Cotabato

Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental, Northern Mindanao

Zamboanga City, Western  
Mindanao

### **Republic of Korea**

Uiwang ICD, Uiwang

### **Russian Federation**

Janino Logistic Park, Saint Petersburg Region

Multimodal Logistic Complex “Rostov universal port”, Rostov-on-Don Region

Terminal Logistics Centre “Baltiysky”, Leningrad Region

Terminal Logistics Centre “Kleshchiha”, Novosibirsk

Terminal Logistics Centre “Doskino”, Nizhny Novgorod,

[Dmitrovsky Multimodal Centre, Moscow Region]

[Kaliningrad]

[Kazan]

[Multimodal Logistic Complex “Southern Primorsky Terminal”, Primorsky Region]

[Svijazhsky Multimodal Logistic Centre, Tatarstan]

[Terminal Logistics Centre “Primorsky” Ussuriysk, Primorsky Region]

[Terminal Logistics Centre “Tamansky”, Krasnodar Region]

[Terminal Logistics Centre “Beliy Rast”, Moscow Region]

[Volgograd]

[Yekaterinburg]

### **Sri Lanka**

[Peliyagoda, Colombo]

[Telangapata, Colombo]

### **Tajikistan**

Dushanbe, Dushanbe

Karamyk, Jirgital

Khujand, Khujand

Kurgan-Tube, Kurgan-Tube

Nizhniy Panj, Qumsamgir

Tursunzade, Tursunzade

Vakhdat, Vakhdat

### **Thailand**

Lat Krabang ICD, Bangkok

[Chiang Khong, Chiang Rai]

[Natha, Nong Khai]

### **Turkey**

Gelemen, Samsun

Kazan, Ankara

[Bogazkopru, Kayseri]

[Bozuyuk, Bilecik]

[Gokkoy, Balikesir]

[Habur]

[Halkali, Istanbul]

[Hasanbey, Eskisehir]

[Kaklik, Denizli]

[Kars]

[Kayacik, Konya]

[Kosekoy, Izmit]

[Mardin]

[Palandoken, Erzurum]

[Sivas]

[Turkoglu, Kahramanmaras]

[Usak]

[Yenice, Mersin]

[Yesilbayir, Istanbul]

### **Viet Nam**

ICD Lao Cai, Lao Cai Province

ICD Song Than, Binh Duong  
Province

ICD Tan Cang-Long Binh, Dong  
Nai Province

ICD Tien Son, Bac Ninh  
Province

[Hanoi]

[ICD Gia Lai, Gia Lai Province]

[ICD Vinh Phuc, Vinh Phuc  
Province]

[Lang Son]

## **Annex II**

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

#### **1. General**

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

## **2. Functions**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (i) Information and communications systems, which include electronic data interchange systems, scanners and vehicle-weighing equipment;
- (j) A container, vehicle and equipment repair yard, if necessary.

### **Resolution 69/8**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. *Invites* members and associate members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

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

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

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

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

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

**Resolution 69/9**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Taking into account* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development emphasized that regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations regional commissions and their subregional offices, have a significant role to play in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions,<sup>65</sup>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 60/252 on the World Summit on the Information Society, in which the Assembly acknowledged the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition to benefit fully from the potential of information and communications technologies,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Recognizing further* that a higher level of connectivity among Member States due to a well-established infrastructure can be used effectively for environmental protection and disaster risk management and response, thereby protecting precious lives and the environment while contributing to the improvement of economic growth and living standards,

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

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

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

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

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

1. *Encourages* all members and associate members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

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

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

## **Resolution 69/11**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

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

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

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

## **Annex**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Regional cooperation should be strengthened by enhancing networking and harmonization among the relevant initiatives and efforts being made, and by enlarging the base of stakeholders around a common theme. There are several initiatives at the international level, namely the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and its Operational Satellite Applications Programme

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

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

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

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

9. Capacity-building should be given high priority, especially in the context of high-risk and low-capacity developing countries. While there are initiatives at the regional and subregional levels that promote capacity-building, it is necessary to address capacity-building needs collaboratively. The ESCAP secretariat should work in close cooperation with various regional initiatives, partners and key stakeholders not only to foster synergy, but also to enhance the effectiveness of these efforts to address capacity gaps, particularly in high-risk and low-capacity developing countries in the region.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **II. Towards sustainable development**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**B. At the national level**

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

33. National Governments are encouraged to allocate sufficient financial and human resources within their means to enable the use of space and geographic information system applications towards the planning and implementation of national initiatives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Resolution 69/12**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

#### **Resolution 69/13**

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

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

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

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

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

*Noting with satisfaction* the high-level participation of members and associate members and the contribution of key stakeholders, including organizations

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

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

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

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

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

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

of and for persons with disabilities, to the above-mentioned High-level Intergovernmental Meeting,

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

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

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

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

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

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

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

## **Annex**

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

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, in which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,<sup>100</sup> and resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993, in which the Assembly adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Recalling* Commission resolution 59/3 of 4 September 2003 on the regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific during the Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, in which the Commission, inter alia, requested members and associate members to support the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. *Adopt* the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, as attached, to catalyse action that shall accelerate, during the new Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, the achievement of the regional vision of an inclusive society that ensures, promotes and upholds the rights of all persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. *Request* the Executive Secretary of ESCAP:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Appendix I**

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

#### **A. Background**

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

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

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

4. The Incheon Strategy is not intended to replicate the comprehensive coverage of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-Based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, the Biwako Plus Five and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which will all continue to serve as overarching policy frameworks for regional work in the field of disability.

5. Similar to the Millennium Development Goals,<sup>111</sup> the Incheon goals and targets are time-bound for accelerating implementation by focusing particular attention on the achievement of a set of priority goals and targets during the course of the new Decade, 2013-2022, as well as facilitating the measurement of progress to be attained by countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### **B. Key principles and policy direction**

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

- (a) Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy, including the freedom to make one’s own choices, and independence of persons;
- (b) Non-discrimination;
- (c) Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- (d) Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- (e) Equality of opportunity;

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

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

- (f) Accessibility;
- (g) Equality between men and women;
- (h) Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

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

(a) Legislative, administrative and other measures supportive of rights fulfilment are adopted, implemented, reviewed and strengthened so that disability-based discrimination is eliminated;

(b) Development policies and programmes are disability-inclusive and gender-sensitive and harness the potential of combining universal design with technological advancements for enabling persons with disabilities to fulfil their rights;

(c) Development policies and programmes address the basic needs of persons with disabilities and their families who live in poverty;

(d) Effective and timely collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated disability data are pursued for evidence-based policymaking;

(e) National, subnational and local policies and programmes are based on plans that are explicitly inclusive of persons with disabilities and that also prioritize the active participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in relevant decision-making processes;

(f) The necessary budgetary support is provided at all levels for disability-inclusive development and tax policies facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities;

(g) All national, subregional, regional and international entities concerned with development include disability dimensions in their policies and programmes;

(h) National, subnational and local coordination, with subregional and regional linkages, ensure that disability inclusion in development policies and programmes is strengthened through intensification of multisectoral consultation and collaboration, to expedite and review Decade implementation and share related good practices;

(i) Community- and family-based inclusive development is promoted in order to ensure that all persons with disabilities, irrespective of socioeconomic status, religious affiliation, ethnicity and location, are able, on an equal basis with others, to contribute to and benefit from development initiatives, particularly poverty reduction programmes;

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

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

(l) Diverse disability groups are empowered that include but are not limited to the following underrepresented groups: girls and boys with disabilities, young persons with disabilities, women with disabilities, persons with intellectual, learning and developmental disabilities, persons with autism, persons with

psychosocial disabilities, persons who are deaf, hard of hearing and deafened, persons who are deaf-blind, persons with multiple disabilities, persons with extensive disabilities, older persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities living with HIV, persons with disabilities arising from non-communicable diseases, persons with disabilities affected by leprosy, persons with disabilities caused by medical conditions and intractable epilepsy, persons with disabilities affected by road crashes, indigenous and ethnic minority persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities who are homeless and inadequately housed, persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, and the occurrence of natural and human-made disasters, persons with disabilities who are victims of landmines, persons with disabilities who do not have legal status, persons with disabilities who are victims of domestic violence, particularly women and children, and family advocacy groups, as well as particularly marginalized persons with disabilities living in slums, rural and remote areas and atolls;

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

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

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

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

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

10. Goals describe the desired end results. Targets are aimed to be achieved within a given time frame. Indicators measure progress towards the targets and verify that the targets have been achieved. There are two types of indicators: core indicators and supplementary indicators.<sup>112</sup> All indicators should be disaggregated by sex wherever possible.

#### **Goal 1**

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

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

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<sup>112</sup> Core indicators facilitate intercountry sharing of progress in the course of the new Decade; these are indicators for which data can be generated with some effort. Supplementary indicators may facilitate progress tracking among countries with similar social and economic development conditions and for which data may be less easy to collect.

**Target 1.A**  
**Eliminate extreme poverty among persons with disabilities**

**Target 1.B**  
**Increase work and employment for persons of working age with disabilities who can and want to work**

**Target 1.C**  
**Increase the participation of persons with disabilities in vocational training and other employment-support programmes funded by Governments**

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**Indicators for tracking progress**

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**Core indicators**

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

**Supplementary indicator**

- 1.4 Proportion of persons with disabilities living below the national poverty line
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**Goal 2**  
**Promote participation in political processes and in decision-making**

12. The participation of persons with disabilities in the political process and in decision-making is the cornerstone for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. Being able to exercise the right to vote and the right to be elected is intrinsic to this goal. The Decade must witness greater and more widespread progress in the participation of diverse groups of persons with disabilities, including women and youth with disabilities, in political processes and in decision-making at all levels. Moreover, technological improvements should be harnessed to enable persons with disabilities to participate in public decision-making processes and to exercise their rights and fulfil their responsibilities as full members of society. The improvements include the provision of an enabling environment for persons with disabilities to have equitable access to appointments in the judicial, executive and legislative branches of government, including those of the supreme court, ministries and national legislative body.

**Target 2.A**  
**Ensure that persons with disabilities are represented in government decision-making bodies**

**Target 2.B**  
**Provide reasonable accommodation to enhance the participation of persons with disabilities in the political process**

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**Indicators for tracking progress**

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**Core indicators**

- 2.1 Proportion of seats held by persons with disabilities in the parliament or equivalent national legislative body
- 2.2 Proportion of members of the national coordination mechanism on disability who represent diverse disability groups

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- 2.3 Proportion of those represented in the national machinery for gender equality and women's empowerment who are persons with disabilities
  - 2.4 Proportion of polling stations in the national capital that are accessible with processes in place that ensure confidentiality of voters with disabilities

**Supplementary indicators**

- 2.5 Proportion of cabinet positions held by persons with disabilities at the national level
  - 2.6 Proportion of supreme court judges who are persons with disabilities
  - 2.7 Availability of legislation that requires the national election authority to conduct the election process in a manner that makes it accessible for persons with diverse disabilities
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**Goal 3**

**Enhance access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication**

13. Access to the physical environment, public transportation, knowledge, information and communication is a precondition for persons with disabilities to fulfil their rights in an inclusive society. The accessibility of urban, rural and remote areas based on universal design increases safety and ease of use not only for persons with disabilities, but also for all other members of society. Access audits are an important means of ensuring accessibility and must cover all stages of the process of planning, design, construction, maintenance and monitoring and evaluation. Access to assistive devices and related support services is also a precondition for persons with disabilities to optimize their level of independence in daily life and live in dignity. Ensuring the availability of assistive devices for those living in low-resource settings involves encouraging research, development, production, distribution and maintenance.

**Target 3.A**

**Increase the accessibility of the physical environment in the national capital that is open to the public**

**Target 3.B**

**Enhance the accessibility and usability of public transportation**

**Target 3.C**

**Enhance the accessibility and usability of information and communications services**

**Target 3.D**

**Halve the proportion of persons with disabilities who need but do not have appropriate assistive devices or products**

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**Indicators for tracking progress**

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**Core indicators**

- 3.1 Proportion of accessible government buildings in the national capital
- 3.2 Proportion of accessible international airports
- 3.3 Proportion of daily captioning and sign-language interpretation of public television news programmes
- 3.4 Proportion of accessible and usable public documents and websites that meet internationally recognized accessibility standards
- 3.5 Proportion of persons with disabilities who need assistive devices or products and have them

### **Supplementary indicators**

- 3.6 Availability of government access audit programmes that require the participation of experts with disabilities
  - 3.7 Availability of mandatory technical standards for barrier-free access that govern the approval of all designs for buildings that could be used by members of the public, taking into consideration internationally recognized standards, such as those of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
  - 3.8 Number of sign language interpreters
  - 3.9 Availability of mandatory technical standards for barrier-free access that govern the approval of all ICT-related services, such as websites for the public, taking into consideration internationally recognized standards, such as those of ISO
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## **Goal 4**

### **Strengthen social protection**

14. Social protection coverage in developing countries of Asia and the Pacific is often limited to social insurance programmes and available only to those with regular employment contracts in the formal sector, leaving the vast majority of the population, especially persons with disabilities, without sufficient coverage. It is therefore crucial to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to social protection on an equal basis with others, and to promote further the social protection floor with a focus on health care and basic income protection for all. Furthermore, there is a lack of affordable services, including personal assistance and peer counselling services, which enable persons with disabilities to live independently in the community. For many persons with disabilities, these services are prerequisites for their participation in society.

#### **Target 4.A**

**Increase access to all health services, including rehabilitation, for all persons with disabilities**

#### **Target 4.B**

**Increase coverage of persons with disabilities within social protection programmes**

#### **Target 4.C**

**Enhance services and programmes, including for personal assistance and peer counselling, that support persons with disabilities, especially those with multiple, extensive and diverse disabilities, in living independently in the community**

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### **Indicators for tracking progress**

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#### **Core indicators**

- 4.1 Proportion of persons with disabilities who use government-supported health-care programmes, as compared to the general population
- 4.2 Coverage of persons with disabilities within social protection programmes, including social insurance and social assistance programmes
- 4.3 Availability of government-funded services and programmes, including for personal assistance and peer counselling, that enable persons with disabilities to live independently in the community

#### **Supplementary indicators**

- 4.4 Number of government-supported programmes for care services, including for respite care
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- 4.5 Availability of national community-based rehabilitation programmes
  - 4.6 Availability of health insurance for persons with disabilities
  - 4.7 A decrease in the unmet need for assistance and support services
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## **Goal 5**

### **Expand early intervention and education of children with disabilities**

15. There has been relative neglect of the issue of developmental delays and disabilities among children, many of whom are the children of families living in poverty. In much of the Asia-Pacific region, a disproportionate number of children with disabilities do not have access to early intervention and education programmes. Early detection of delays in reaching developmental milestones is as important as regularly measuring the height and weight of infants and children. Following early detection of delay in reaching developmental milestones, it is necessary to provide prompt and appropriate responses to optimize their all-round development. Such early intervention responses cover, inter alia, stimulation, nurturing and care, and pre-school education. Investing in early childhood programmes yields higher returns than at subsequent levels of education and training. Government commitment to early childhood programmes would significantly improve their development outcomes. Furthermore, it is essential for Governments to ensure that children with disabilities have access, on an equitable basis with others in the communities in which they live, to high-quality primary and secondary education. This process includes engaging families as partners in providing more effective support for children with disabilities.

#### **Target 5.A**

**Enhance measures for early detection of, and intervention for, children with disabilities from birth to pre-school age**

#### **Target 5.B**

**Halve the gap between children with disabilities and children without disabilities in enrolment rates for primary and secondary education**

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

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##### **Core indicators**

- 5.1 Number of children with disabilities receiving early childhood intervention
- 5.2 Primary education enrolment rate of children with disabilities
- 5.3 Secondary education enrolment rate of children with disabilities

##### **Supplementary indicators**

- 5.4 Proportion of pre- and antenatal care facilities that provide information and services regarding early detection of disability in children and protection of the rights of children with disabilities
  - 5.5 Proportion of children who are deaf that receive instruction in sign language
  - 5.6 Proportion of students with visual impairments that have educational materials in formats that are readily accessible
  - 5.7 Proportion of students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, deafblindness, autism and other disabilities who have assistive devices, adapted curricula and appropriate learning materials
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## **Goal 6**

### **Ensure gender equality and women's empowerment**

16. Girls and women with disabilities face multiple forms of discrimination and abuse. Isolation, compounded by dependency on caregivers, renders them extremely vulnerable to many forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, with attendant risks, including of HIV infection, pregnancy and maternal and infant

death. Girls and women with disabilities are largely invisible in mainstream gender equality programmes. Information concerning sexual and reproductive health, general health care and related services is seldom in formats and language that are accessible. The true promise of the Decade will be fully realized only when girls and women with disabilities are active participants in mainstream development.

**Target 6.A**

**Enable girls and women with disabilities to have equitable access to mainstream development opportunities**

**Target 6.B**

**Ensure representation of women with disabilities in government decision-making bodies**

**Target 6.C**

**Ensure that all girls and women with disabilities have access to sexual and reproductive health services on an equitable basis with girls and women without disabilities**

**Target 6.D**

**Increase measures to protect girls and women with disabilities from all forms of violence and abuse**

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**Indicators for tracking progress**

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**Core indicators**

- 6.1 Number of countries that include the promotion of the participation of women and girls with disabilities in their national action plans on gender equality and empowerment of women
  - 6.2 Proportion of seats held by women with disabilities in the parliament or equivalent national legislative body
  - 6.3 Proportion of girls and women with disabilities who access sexual and reproductive health services of government and civil society, compared to women and girls without disabilities
  - 6.4 Number of programmes initiated by government and relevant agencies aimed at eliminating violence, including sexual abuse and exploitation, perpetrated against girls and women with disabilities
  - 6.5 Number of programmes initiated by government and relevant agencies that provide care and support, including rehabilitation, for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of any form of violence and abuse
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**Goal 7**

**Ensure disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management**

17. The Asia-Pacific region is the region that is most adversely affected by disasters, including those caused by climate change. Persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are at higher risk of death, injury and additional impairments, as a result of exclusion from disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes. Public service announcements are often issued in formats and language that are not accessible by persons with disabilities. In addition, emergency exits, shelters and facilities tend not to be barrier-free. Regular participation of persons with disabilities in emergency preparedness drills and other disaster risk reduction measures at the local and district levels could prevent or minimize risk and damage when disasters occur. Physical and information infrastructure that incorporates universal design principles would improve the chances of safety and survival.

**Target 7.A**  
**Strengthen disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction planning**

**Target 7.B**  
**Strengthen implementation of measures on providing timely and appropriate support to persons with disabilities in responding to disasters**

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**Indicators for tracking progress**

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**Core indicators**

- 7.1 Availability of disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction plans
- 7.2 Availability of disability-inclusive training for all relevant service personnel
- 7.3 Proportion of accessible emergency shelters and disaster relief sites

**Supplementary indicators**

- 7.4 Number of persons with disabilities who died or were seriously injured in disasters
  - 7.5 Availability of psychosocial support service personnel that have the capacity to assist persons with disabilities affected by disasters
  - 7.6 Availability of assistive devices and technologies for persons with disabilities in preparing for and responding to disasters
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**Goal 8**  
**Improve the reliability and comparability of disability data**

18. Persons with disabilities tend to be unseen, unheard and uncounted. Increasingly in recent years, when they have been counted, definitions of “disability” and “persons with disabilities” that are used for collecting disability data have varied widely in the Asia-Pacific region. Taken together, data comparisons across countries are frequently unreliable. The Asia-Pacific region needs more accurate statistics on the population of persons with diverse disabilities and on their socioeconomic status. The adequacy of disability statistics would enable policymaking to be evidence-based to support the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. The Decade is an opportunity to enhance data collection aimed at generating comparable disability statistics over time and across borders. It is crucial that baseline data for the Incheon Strategy indicators are made available to enable effective progress tracking towards the achievement of goals and targets.

**Target 8.A**  
**Produce and disseminate reliable and internationally comparable disability statistics in formats that are accessible by persons with disabilities**

**Target 8.B**  
**Establish reliable disability statistics by the midpoint of the Decade (2017), as the source for tracking progress towards the achievement of the goals and targets in the Incheon Strategy**

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**Indicators for tracking progress**

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**Core indicators**

- 8.1 Disability prevalence based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) by age, sex, race and socioeconomic status
  - 8.2 Number of Governments in the Asia-Pacific region that have established, by 2017, baseline data for tracking progress towards achievement of the Incheon goals and targets
  - 8.3 Availability of disaggregated data on women and girls with disabilities in mainstream development programmes and government services, including health, and sexual and reproductive health, programmes
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**Goal 9****Accelerate the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the harmonization of national legislation with the Convention**

19. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is the first disability-specific, international legal instrument that provides a comprehensive approach to respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of persons with disabilities. The Convention explicitly empowers persons with disabilities as holders of rights, as distinct from being treated as objects of charity. The ESCAP region played an instrumental and historic role in the initiation and drafting of the Convention. As of 30 October 2012, 126 States globally are parties to the Convention and 154 are signatories, of which, in the Asia-Pacific region, 35 Governments have signed the Convention and 25 have ratified the Convention or acceded to it.

**Target 9.A**

**By the midpoint of the Decade (2017), 10 more Governments in Asia and the Pacific will have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and by the end of the Decade (2022) another 10 Governments in Asia and the Pacific will have ratified or acceded to the Convention**

**Target 9.B**

**Enact national laws which include anti-discrimination provisions, technical standards and other measures to uphold and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and amend or nullify national laws that directly or indirectly discriminate against persons with disabilities, with a view to harmonizing national legislation with the Convention**

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**Indicators for tracking progress**

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**Core indicators**

- 9.1 Number of Governments that have ratified or acceded to the Convention
- 9.2 Availability of national anti-discrimination legislation to uphold and protect the rights of persons with disabilities

**Supplementary indicators**

- 9.3 Number of Governments in Asia and the Pacific that have ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
  - 9.4 Number of amended or nullified laws that directly or indirectly discriminate against persons with disabilities
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**Goal 10****Advance subregional, regional and interregional cooperation**

20. The experience of two Asian and Pacific Decades underscores the value of cooperation, at subregional, regional and interregional levels, for facilitating mutual support, including through sharing lessons learned, good practices and innovative solutions. The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation,<sup>113</sup> adopted on 1 December 2011 by the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan, Republic of Korea) recognized the importance of international commitments on disability to form the foundation of cooperation for effective development. Civil society and the private sector could play important roles in catalysing innovative approaches to reaching the Incheon goals and targets. The Asia-Pacific region still faces long-term challenges. In post-conflict areas, such challenges as landmines and remnants of war continue to exacerbate the occurrence of disability and undermine livelihoods. The Decade provides an opportunity for international cooperation, with multisectoral dimensions, to overcome such challenges and support effective implementation.

**Target 10.A**

**Contribute to the Asia-Pacific Multi-donor Trust Fund managed by ESCAP as well as initiatives and programmes to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy**

**Target 10.B**

**Development cooperation agencies in the Asia-Pacific region strengthen the disability-inclusiveness of their policies and programmes**

**Target 10.C**

**United Nations regional commissions strengthen interregional exchange of experiences and good practices concerning disability issues and the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

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**Indicators for tracking progress**

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**Core indicators**

- 10.1 Annual voluntary contributions by Governments and other donors to the Asia-Pacific Multi-donor Trust Fund to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
  - 10.2 Number of donors contributing each year to the Asia-Pacific Multi-donor Trust Fund to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
  - 10.3 Annual voluntary contributions by Governments or other donors to initiatives or programmes to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
  - 10.4 Number of United Nations entities that have regional cooperation programmes, including for South-South cooperation, that explicitly support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
  - 10.5 Number of subregional intergovernmental bodies that have programmes, including for South-South cooperation, which support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
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<sup>113</sup> See [www.aideffectiveness.org/busanhlf4/images/stories/hlf4/OUTCOME\\_DOCUMENT\\_-\\_FINAL\\_EN.pdf](http://www.aideffectiveness.org/busanhlf4/images/stories/hlf4/OUTCOME_DOCUMENT_-_FINAL_EN.pdf).

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- 10.6 Number of regional and subregional projects, including for South-South cooperation, in which organizations of and for persons with disabilities participate in order to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy
  - 10.7 Number of development cooperation agencies operating in Asia and the Pacific that have mandates, policies, action plans and dedicated and appropriately experienced focal points on disability-inclusive development, supportive of ratification and implementation of the Convention and review of follow-up action
  - 10.8 Number of joint activities among the five regional commissions of the United Nations to support the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
  - 10.9 Number of statisticians in the Asia-Pacific region trained in disability statistics, in particular on the ICF approach, by ESCAP and other relevant agencies
  - 10.10 Number of United Nations country- or regional-level development assistance frameworks that explicitly reference disability-inclusive development in line with the United Nations Development Group guidance note on including the rights of persons with disabilities in United Nations programming at the country level
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**D. Modalities for effective implementation: national, subregional and regional levels**

21. This section identifies the modalities that together promote and support implementation. In particular, these modalities build data and information and strengthen multilevel cooperation for advancing progress towards realizing the rights of persons with disabilities through the implementation of the Incheon Strategy in the course of the Decade.

**1. National level**

22. The heart of the implementation of the Incheon Strategy is the national coordination mechanism on disability, with its all-important subnational linkages.

23. Many such mechanisms were established in the course of the past two Asian and Pacific Decades of Disabled Persons. Thus, they would assume primary responsibility for coordinating and catalysing the implementation of the Incheon Strategy at the national and subnational levels.

24. Under the auspices of the national coordination mechanisms, national statistical offices would assume the role of focal point for establishing baseline data for indicators and tracking progress in the implementation of the Incheon Strategy.

25. National coordination mechanisms on disability should undertake tasks that include but are not limited to the following:

(a) Mobilize diverse sectoral ministries, departments and government institutions at all levels, civil society, including organizations of and for persons with disabilities and their family support groups, research institutions and the private sector for multisectoral and nationwide engagement in implementing the Incheon Strategy;

(b) Develop, monitor and report on the implementation of national action plans on achieving the goals and targets of the Incheon Strategy;

(c) Translate the Incheon Strategy into national languages and ensure availability of the national language versions in accessible formats for wide dissemination to all sectors and at all administrative levels;

(d) Undertake national and subnational campaigns, such as the Make the Right Real! Campaign, to raise awareness throughout the Decade that fosters positive perceptions of persons with disabilities;

(e) Promote and support research on the situation of persons with disabilities as a basis for policymaking.

26. The United Nations country teams should support the revitalization and functioning of national coordination mechanisms, as may be required, with particular attention to advocacy, coordination and cooperation directed at implementation, including at subnational levels.

## **2. Subregional level**

27. Subregional intergovernmental entities, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Pacific Islands Forum and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, have an important role in contributing to accelerated implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy by actively promoting disability-inclusive policies and programmes within their respective mandates.

28. The ESCAP secretariat, in its promotion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, shall support subregional and inter-subregional cooperation, in partnership with subregional intergovernmental bodies. In doing so, it shall harness the active participation of its subregional offices in North and Central Asia, East and North-East Asia, the Pacific, and South and South-West Asia, supported by its regional institutions,<sup>114</sup> in promoting disability-inclusive development.

## **3. Regional level**

29. ESCAP members and associate members should discuss the progress, challenges and good practices in implementing the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy in the regular sessions of the Committee on Social Development or its equivalent. Representatives of civil society organizations are encouraged to attend the sessions.

30. A regional working group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, shall be established. The working group shall support full and effective implementation throughout the Decade. Its functions shall focus on the provision of advice and support to the members and associate members, as appropriate, on the regional implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy. The terms of reference of the working group are annexed.

31. The ESCAP secretariat shall contribute to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy through its regional convening role, analytical work and technical support to Governments. In particular, it shall undertake the following in cooperation with United Nations entities:

(a) Support Governments, as appropriate, in harmonizing legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in promoting the Make the Right Real! Campaign;

(b) Promote sharing among members and associate members of national experiences and good practices in disability-inclusive development and in protecting and upholding the rights of persons with disabilities, including the sharing of experiences among national legislative or administrative institutions, in

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<sup>114</sup> Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), Incheon, Republic of Korea; Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), New Delhi; Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), Tokyo; Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA), Bogor, Indonesia; and Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), Beijing.

order to promote and support the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(c) Track progress and support the improvement of disability statistics during the Decade;

(d) Support members and associate members in capacity-building to promote disability-inclusive development;

(e) Engage with civil society organizations, in particular organizations of and for persons with disabilities, and provide a regional platform for stakeholder consultations.

32. The Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability, which was established as a legacy of the first Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons to promote the empowerment of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations and a barrier-free and inclusive society, is called upon to continue building the capabilities of persons with disabilities and multisectoral collaboration, with special attention to encouraging private sector engagement in disability-inclusive business that promotes disability-friendly products, services, employment opportunities and entrepreneurship development.

33. The Make the Right Real Fund, to be initiated by and based in the Republic of Korea, is invited to support the successful implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy.

34. Civil society organizations and, in particular, organizations of and for persons with disabilities, are encouraged to participate in the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy and promote continuous responsiveness to the aspirations and needs of persons with disabilities over the Decade.

## **Appendix II**

### **Terms of reference of the working group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities**

#### *Objective*

1. The objective of the proposed regional working group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities is to provide technical advice and support to members and associate members, to promote the full and effective implementation of the Decade, 2013-2022.

#### *Functions*

2. In pursuance of the objective stated in paragraph 1 above, the working group shall advise members and associate members on the following:

(a) Reviews of Decade progress, especially concerning the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Regional and subregional cooperation to advance implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy;

(c) Research on the evolving situation of persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region;

(d) Outreach to diverse disability groups at the national and local levels, and networking.

### *Membership*

3. The working group shall be composed of representatives of ESCAP members and associate members, as well as civil society organizations operating at the regional and subregional levels in Asia and the Pacific.
4. The tenure of working group members shall be five years, with the possibility of extension for another five years.
5. All ESCAP members and associate members shall be eligible to serve on the working group.
6. The working group should be composed of 30 members, taking into account gender equality: 15 from members and associate members and 15 from civil society organizations. At least half of the seats allocated for civil society organizations should be guaranteed for persons with disabilities and emerging civil society organizations.
7. A civil society entity that meets the following criteria shall be eligible to serve as a member of the working group: (a) operate at the regional and/or subregional levels in Asia and the Pacific; (b) be an organization or network that represents, supports and/or promotes the interests of persons with diverse disabilities; (c) has technical expertise relevant to advancing the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy.
8. The announcement of interest by individual ESCAP members and associate members and civil society organizations in serving as members of the working group shall take place at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 29 October to 2 November 2012.
9. The proposed composition of the working group shall be submitted to the Commission at the session that immediately follows the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting, for a final decision. Thus, the Commission at its sixty-ninth session, in 2013, will make the final decision on the composition of the working group for the first term, spanning the period 2013-2017. The second announcement of interest in serving on the working group shall take place at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting convened on the occasion of the midpoint of the Decade (2017). The Commission at its seventy-fourth session, in 2018, will make the final decision on the composition of the working group for the second term, spanning the period 2018-2022.
10. ESCAP members and associate members, civil society organizations, in particular, organizations of persons with disabilities, subregional intergovernmental agencies, United Nations agencies, development cooperation agencies and development banks can attend meetings of the working group as observers.

### *Rules of procedure*

11. The working group shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

### *Secretariat*

12. The ESCAP secretariat shall serve as the secretariat of the working group. It shall, inter alia, disseminate working group documentation in accessible formats.

## **Resolution 69/14**

### **Implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing<sup>115</sup>**

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

*Recalling* its resolution 67/5 on the full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region, in which, inter alia, it decided to convene the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,

*Noting with satisfaction* the successful outcome of the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the adoption of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,<sup>116</sup>

1. *Endorses the adoption* of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, as contained in the annex to the present resolution, keeping in mind specific national conditions;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:
  - (a) To accord priority to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Bangkok statement;
  - (b) To report to the Commission at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

## **Annex**

### **Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing**

We, the representatives of the members and associate members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), assembled at the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, held in Bangkok from 10 to 12 September 2012,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, in which the Assembly endorsed the Political Declaration<sup>117</sup> and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,<sup>118</sup>

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

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<sup>115</sup> See chap. III, paras. 149-190.

<sup>116</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/11 (see also ST/ESCAP/2652).

<sup>117</sup> *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. 1, resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

and recommended that Member States expand the role of the regional commissions on ageing issues,

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

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/14 of 22 July 2010 on the future implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, in which the Council decided to conduct the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2013 at the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, and acknowledged the essential contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the implementation, review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

*Also recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/28 of 28 July 2011 on the modalities for the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, in which the Council encouraged the regional commissions to continue to facilitate the review and appraisal exercise at the regional level, and encouraged Member States and United Nations organizations, where appropriate, to provide support to regional commissions in facilitating the review and appraisal process and organizing regional conferences to review national review and appraisal results in 2012,

*Further recalling* Commission resolution 67/5 of 25 May 2011 on the full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region, in which the Commission decided to convene the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2012 to provide a regional input to the global review,

*Noting* that one in four persons in the Asia-Pacific region will be over 60 years of age by 2050,

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

*Noting with great concern* the vulnerability of older persons, in particular older women, to poverty, social isolation and violence,

*Welcoming* the progress achieved by members and associate members in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action since 2002, including the establishment of bodies to lead and coordinate national efforts towards the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

*Also welcoming* the holding of the Preparatory Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Beijing in November 2011,

*Further welcoming* the secretariat's overview of regional implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>119</sup> which reviews progress and identifies gaps in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

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<sup>119</sup> E/ESCAP/MIPAA/IGM.1/1.

*Recalling* that in “The future we want”, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives made a commitment to promote a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly children, youth, women and the elderly and disabled,<sup>120</sup>

*Recognizing* that there are many challenges to be addressed regarding ageing, including income insecurity, inadequate social protection, limited capacity of health systems to address the range of chronic conditions facing older persons, the human resource gaps in meeting the needs for elderly care services, in particular, long-term care, and the provision of an age-friendly environment to encourage the active participation of older persons for the betterment of society as a whole,

*Acknowledging* that the rapid demographic transition in Asia and the Pacific presents significant challenges for the region and that Governments must play a catalysing role in preparing for and responding to an ageing future,

*Also acknowledging* that the Madrid Plan of Action provides a comprehensive and overarching framework for the preparation for and response to ageing, and the need for accelerated action in the Asia-Pacific region,

*Welcoming with appreciation* the role of civil society in supporting older persons and Governments on issues related to ageing,

1. *Recommend* that members and associate members:

(a) Accord priority to addressing the rights of older persons in legal and policy frameworks;

(b) Ensure coordinated multisectoral responses and the mainstreaming of ageing issues into national policies and programmes;

(c) Increase national awareness, capacity and resources to prepare for and respond to the demographic transition;

(d) Develop inclusive social protection systems, with particular attention given to older persons and their vulnerability to poverty and social isolation;

(e) Accord priority to mainstreaming the gender dimension into national responses;

**A. Older persons and development**

(f) Implement specific national policies and programmes on ageing;

(g) Conduct regular reviews of national policies to ensure that ageing issues are mainstreamed into national development plans;

(h) Establish or strengthen national coordination bodies or mechanisms on ageing, as appropriate, to promote and protect the rights of older persons and to coordinate resource allocation for ageing;

(i) Encourage and promote the removal of barriers to the participation of older persons in the labour market through legislation, age-friendly and flexible employment policies, training and skills development, and financial support for entrepreneurship;

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<sup>120</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

(j) Establish comprehensive social protection systems for workers in the formal as well as informal sector, including the provision of universal old-age income security through pensions;

(k) Address the special needs of older persons in rural and remote communities, older persons living in poverty, older women and the “oldest old” (aged 80 and above) to ensure an adequate standard of living for all older persons;

(l) Support the formation of older persons’ associations to provide an effective community mechanism for strengthening the voices of older persons;

(m) Enhance representation of older persons in policy formulation and implementation;

## **B. Advancing health and well-being into old age**

(n) Adapt health and social systems in response to the needs of older persons through an integrated continuum of care, including preventive care, acute care, chronic disease management, long-term care and end-of-life care;

(o) Develop policies and models for promoting healthy ageing to support healthy lifestyles, active ageing and the right to health care;

(p) Develop strategies to meet the rising demand for elderly care, emphasizing especially home and community-based care and to improve the coverage and quality of care in formal and informal settings;

(q) Allocate adequate resources for the training of caregivers, including informal caregivers and service providers, to address the human resource gaps in meeting the needs of elderly care;

(r) Include geriatrics and gerontology in the training curriculum of professionals in the health- and social-care service sectors;

(s) Strengthen the primary health-care system to address the health needs of the elderly population and social support systems for long-term care, including through formal and informal capacity-building mechanisms to develop and assist health professionals and social caregivers;

(t) Encourage community-based and non-profit organizations as well as the private sector to play a major role in the provision of elderly care services and training, in cooperation with government agencies;

## **C. Ensuring enabling and supportive environments**

(u) Create and promote enabling environments to support the active participation of older persons in community and society, including through increased investment in the universal design of housing, public buildings, public spaces and local infrastructure;

(v) Develop public and private partnerships on research and development of more effective products, services, medicines and technology for older persons, including assistive and adaptive technologies to enable older persons to function fully in society and have access to information and communication;

(w) Pay greater attention to the heightened vulnerability and specific needs of older persons in natural disasters and emergencies;

(x) Conduct research on the causes, nature and extent of all forms of elder abuse and violence and act upon the findings of such research;

(y) Enact laws and regulations to strengthen the protection of the rights of older persons with a view to eliminating all forms of discrimination, abuse and violence against older persons, including ageism in employment, health care and other settings;

(z) Promote a positive image of ageing and of older persons through active engagement of the mass media and the voices of older persons, including recognition of the positive contributions made by older persons to their families, communities and society;

2. *Recommend also* that more domestic and international resources be mobilized and, in order to complement national development efforts, international cooperation be enhanced to support developing countries in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

3. *Invite* United Nations funds and programmes to ensure that questions of ageing and older persons are integrated in their programmes and projects, including at the country level;

4. *Request* the Executive Secretary of ESCAP:

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

(b) To increase the regional knowledge base on ageing to support members and associate members in their efforts to develop evidence-informed national policies on ageing;

(c) To continue to facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices on ageing;

(d) To raise public awareness on ageing in partnership with civil society organizations and the media;

(e) To support members and associate members, upon request, in formulating forward-looking policies to prepare for and adjust to the social and economic implications of ageing, as well as mainstreaming ageing into national development frameworks, plans and programmes;

(f) To assist members and associate members in building capacity to provide comprehensive social protection systems that support populations throughout their life course, including specific forms of support for older persons;

(g) To submit the outcome of the Meeting to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-first session as the Asia-Pacific input to the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, in 2013;

(h) To submit the report of the Meeting to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session for consideration and endorsement.

## **Resolution 69/15**

### **Implementing the outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific<sup>121</sup>**

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

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>122</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>123</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>124</sup> the Declaration on the Right to Development,<sup>125</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>126</sup> and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>127</sup>

*Also recalling* its resolution 67/12 on the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific and reaffirming the importance of civil registration and vital statistics systems for safeguarding human rights, producing critical information to support decision makers, enabling good governance, improving development outcomes, measuring aid effectiveness and monitoring progress towards achieving nationally and internationally agreed development goals,

*Affirming* that well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems are crucial for inclusive and sustainable development in the region,

*Acknowledging* the successful outcome of the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok on 10 and 11 December 2012,<sup>128</sup> which brought together senior officials of ministries of health, civil registration offices and national statistical organizations from 43 members and associate members as well as 22 international development partners to reach a consensus on the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>129</sup>

*Appreciating* the efforts made by many members and associate members to improve their civil registration and vital statistics systems, indicated by the 48 members and associate members that have conducted an assessment of their civil registration and vital statistics systems, as requested in Commission resolution 67/12, including the efforts of Pacific island countries and areas through the Pacific Vital Statistics Action Plan 2011-2014,<sup>130</sup>

*Alarmed* that the majority of members and associate members lack civil registration and vital statistics systems that are well functioning and meet relevant international standards and recommendations,

*Recognizing* the important role of international, regional and subregional organizations and development partners to support the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems in countries through advocacy, dissemination of information on standards, application of information and communications technology, research and facilitation of the exchange of knowledge and best practices in the region,

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<sup>121</sup> See chap. III, paras. 192-210.

<sup>122</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>123</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 999, No. 14668.

<sup>124</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol.993, No. 14631

<sup>125</sup> General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.

<sup>126</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>127</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/2.

<sup>128</sup> E/ESCAP/69/26, annex.

<sup>129</sup> E/ESCAP/CST(3)/6/Add.1.

<sup>130</sup> [www.uq.edu.au/hishub/docs/VITAL-STATS-OUTLINE-FINAL.pdf](http://www.uq.edu.au/hishub/docs/VITAL-STATS-OUTLINE-FINAL.pdf).

*Convinced* that the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems in countries relies on efforts from ministries of health, civil registration offices, national statistical organizations, local governments and other relevant government stakeholders, and that non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and the public may accelerate these efforts,

*Stressing*, therefore, that multisectoral engagement and coordination is critical for the effective civil registration and vital statistics systems,

*Expressing* deep concern that:

(a) Members and associate members continue to face major challenges in improving civil registration and vital statistics systems, such as legislative gaps, social barriers and discrimination, geographical barriers and a lack of sustained high-level political commitment for improvement,

(b) Civil registration and vital statistics systems in the region suffer from insufficient institutional capacities and financial and human resources, such as scarce investment, inadequate logistics and office equipment in remote areas, poorly trained and remunerated staff and staff retention challenges,

(c) Incomplete registration coverage and poor quality vital statistics are constraining administrative, planning, health information and national statistical systems at local and national levels,

*Emphasizing* the urgency of improving civil registration and vital statistics systems in the region,

1. *Urges* that all civil registration and vital statistics improvement activities in the region include and engage all relevant government entities, particularly those responsible for health, civil registration and statistics;

2. *Supports* the decision of the Committee on Statistics made at its third session<sup>131</sup> related to the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics, including its endorsement of the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>129</sup> and the establishment of a regional knowledge-sharing platform and a regional training network to exchange expertise and experiences within and beyond the region, as stressed by the High-level Meeting on the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific;

3. *Urges* that country actions and regional support activities be aligned with the eight outcomes<sup>132</sup> of the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, which are:

(a) Enhanced public awareness of the value of civil registration and vital statistics systems and actions taken to remove barriers to registration at all levels;

(b) Sustained political commitment to support the development and improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems;

(c) Sufficient and sustainable investments towards making incremental improvements in civil registration and vital statistics systems;

(d) Improved and strengthened policies, legislation and implementation of regulations for civil registration and vital statistics systems;

(e) Improved availability and quality of legal documentation for all individuals;

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<sup>131</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/13, chap. I, decision 3/4.

<sup>132</sup> See E/ESCAP/CST(3)/6/Add.1, para. 3.

(f) Increased capacity of countries in Asia and the Pacific to record, compile, analyse and disseminate complete and reliable statistics on vital events;

(g) Mechanisms established for effective coordination among key stakeholders within civil registration and vital statistics systems;

(h) Increased capacity of countries in Asia and the Pacific to effectively use vital statistics;

4. *Approves* the recommendation of the Committee on Statistics made at its third session that a regional meeting of relevant ministers and development partners be held in order to attain the high-level political commitment required to support the successful implementation of the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific;<sup>133</sup>

5. *Calls upon* organizations of the United Nations system, in particular United Nations Country Teams, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration, international and regional development banks, in particular the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and other global, regional and subregional development partners and agencies, non-governmental organizations and private sector entities to increase their support to countries for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in the region;

6. *Reiterates* its encouragement to members and associate members to conduct an assessment of their civil registration and vital statistics systems and to develop a national multisectoral improvement plan;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to strengthen the capacities and coordination of relevant institutions to improve civil registration and vital statistics systems in their countries;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To convene, in 2014, an intergovernmental regional meeting of ministers of health, ministers responsible for civil registration and heads of national statistical organizations, other relevant government stakeholders and senior officials of relevant development partners to endorse the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and to foster further regional action to support the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in the region;

(b) To collaborate closely with relevant donors and development partners to establish a well-coordinated funding and advocacy campaign in consultation with Governments to support country actions and to fully develop and help fund the regional support activities of the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific;

(c) To establish a regional steering group on civil registration and vital statistics under the auspices of the Committee on Statistics comprising representatives of the health, civil registration and statistics sectors and of relevant development partners, bearing in mind the urgency of initiating further consultations on the Regional Strategic Plan for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and initiating its implementation, as well as taking into account the confines of the existing conference structure of the Commission;

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<sup>133</sup> See E/ESCAP/69/13, chap. I, sect. A, recommendation 3/2.

(d) To ensure that the established regional steering group is tasked with considering and proposing a more appropriate governance structure that would fully facilitate the required multisectoral engagement, which would be considered for adoption by the regional meeting of ministers;

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

**Resolution 69/16**  
**A core set of population and social statistics to guide national capacity development in Asia and the Pacific**<sup>134</sup>

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

*Acknowledging* the role of the Commission in promoting shared prosperity in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive and sustainable economic growth and social development,

*Recognizing* the increasing policy interest in population subgroups and economic and social inequalities,

*Stressing* the importance of and the need for timely, reliable and comparable population and social statistics to support evidence-based policies and decisions, measure the progress of societies and assess the achievement of national and internationally agreed development goals,

*Expressing* concern that the existing capacity of many national statistical systems in the region falls short of meeting the need for timely, reliable and comparable population and social statistics,

*Appreciating* that the Committee on Statistics at its second session resolved to address the gap in national capacity by aiming to ensure that all countries in the Asian and Pacific region have the capacity by 2020 to provide an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environment statistics,<sup>135</sup>

*Recognizing* that many government and non-governmental agencies, apart from the national statistical offices, play very important roles in the production, dissemination and use of population and social statistics, and that the strengthening of national statistical capacity regarding population and social statistics requires the commitment and concerted efforts of all relevant producers and users,

*Having considered and taken note* of the report of the Committee on Statistics on its third session,<sup>136</sup>

1. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee on Statistics to use the core set of population and social statistics<sup>137</sup> as a regional guideline for national capacity development to focus national efforts, coordinate regional cooperation and mobilize support by all relevant partners;

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<sup>134</sup> See chap. III, paras. 192-210.

<sup>135</sup> E/ESCAP/67/12.

<sup>136</sup> E/ESCAP/69/13.

<sup>137</sup> E/ESCAP/CST(3)/5/Add.1.

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*

**Resolution 69/17  
Sustainable management, conservation and use of ocean resources for the development of Asia-Pacific small island developing States<sup>138</sup>**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 67/78 on oceans and the law of the sea,

*Acknowledging* the important role of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea<sup>139</sup> in governing all uses of the oceans and their resources,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 65/2 on the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in which the Assembly recognized that small island developing States continue to be heavily dependent on their coastal and marine resources, and that their development challenges include limited access to financing, technologies and equipment, global overfishing and destructive fishing practices, and barriers to increased participation in fisheries and related activities,

*Recalling also* its resolution 68/1, in which it invited members and associate members, as appropriate, to recognize the importance of oceans and the sustainable development of ocean resources to Pacific small island developing States,

*Recognizing* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,<sup>140</sup> in which, inter alia, the Conference stressed the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and seas and of their resources for sustainable development, including through their contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security and creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change,<sup>141</sup>

*Recognizing also* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development urged the identification and mainstreaming by 2014 of strategies that further assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, in developing their national capacity to conserve, sustainably manage and realize the benefits of sustainable fisheries,<sup>142</sup>

*Noting* “The Oceans Compact — Healthy Oceans for Prosperity”,<sup>143</sup> an initiative of the Secretary-General,

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<sup>138</sup> See chap. III, paras. 228-232.

<sup>139</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

<sup>140</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

<sup>141</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 158.

<sup>142</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 174.

<sup>143</sup> [www.un.org/Depts/los/ocean\\_compact/oceans\\_compact.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/ocean_compact/oceans_compact.htm).

*Noting with appreciation* the Pacific Oceanscape Framework initiative, which focuses urgent and timely attention on the extensive threats to the health of the Pacific Ocean and those who depend upon it,

*Recognizing* the important role and mandate given to the regional commissions to support the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and regional cooperation for sustainable development,

1. *Invites* States Parties to fully implement their obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;<sup>139</sup>

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international financial institutions, other regional and subregional organizations and bilateral donors:

(a) To support capacity development in Asia-Pacific small island developing States for the sustainable management of oceans and seas in accordance with the Convention as part of their efforts to eradicate poverty and ensure food security in the context of sustainable development;

(b) To undertake analysis in order to develop the evidence base for determining how the sustainable use of oceans and seas and their resources can contribute to poverty eradication and sustained economic growth in Asia-Pacific small island developing States;

(c) To submit a report detailing the manner in which the secretariat can support member States in the sustainable management of oceans and seas for sustainable development and poverty eradication to the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries at the seventieth session of the Commission;

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

*Fifth plenary meeting  
1 May 2013*