

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT
29 April 2004–18 May 2005

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2005

SUPPLEMENT No. 19



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NOTE

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

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
ADB	Asian Development Bank
APCAEM	Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery
APCICT	Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAPSA	Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific
CCOP	Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia
FDI	foreign direct investment
GNP	gross national product
ICT	information and communication technology
ODA	official development assistance
SARS	severe acute respiratory syndrome
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SMEs	small and medium-sized enterprises
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Introduction

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period from 29 April 2004 to 18 May 2005, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at the fifth plenary meeting of its sixty-first session on 18 May 2005.

Chapter I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Issues calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

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|---|---|
| 61/1. Mid-term review concerning the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission | 61/4. Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology |
| 61/2. Statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific | 61/5. Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific |
| 61/3. Statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery | 61/6. Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development |

B. Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

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|--|--|
| 61/7. Regional cooperation for the protection of vulnerable people through the promotion of economic and social aspects of human security as a follow-up to the Shanghai Declaration | 61/10. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly |
| 61/8. Mid-point review of the 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 | 61/11. Implementation of 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 |
| 61/9. Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific | 61/12. Regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health |

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE SIXTIETH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

2. During the period under review, the following meetings of subsidiary bodies were held: High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes, Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific and Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries.

3. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex III to the present report. The reports of those bodies reflect the discussions held, the agreements reached and the decisions taken by them.

B. Other activities

4. Lists of publications issued, meetings held and advisory services provided in the calendar year 2004 are given in annex V to the present report.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

5. The secretariat maintained close and regular liaison with United Nations Headquarters and cooperated with the departments concerned, as well as with the secretariats of the other regional commissions, on projects of common interest.

Chapter III

SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

6. The sixty-first session of the Commission was held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, from 12 to 18 May 2005. The session comprised two segments. The senior officials' segment was held from 12 to 14 May 2005 and the ministerial segment from 16 to 18 May 2005.

7. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members:

Armenia	Nepal
Australia	Netherlands
Azerbaijan	New Zealand
Bangladesh	Pakistan
Bhutan	Palau
Brunei Darussalam	Papua New Guinea
Cambodia	Philippines
China	Republic of Korea
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Russian Federation
Fiji	Samoa
France	Singapore
India	Solomon Islands
Indonesia	Sri Lanka
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Tajikistan
Japan	Thailand
Kazakhstan	Timor-Leste
Kiribati	Tonga
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Turkey
Malaysia	Tuvalu
Maldives	United States of America
Mongolia	Uzbekistan
Myanmar	Vanuatu
	Viet Nam
	Hong Kong, China
	Macao, China
	New Caledonia

8. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland attended. A representative of the Holy See also attended.

9. The session was attended by representatives of the following United Nations Secretariat units: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery and Regional Commissions New York Office.

10. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Office for Project Services and United Nations Population Fund.

11. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization, International Maritime Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

12. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, Asian Development Bank, Asian Productivity Organization, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Asian Reinsurance Corporation, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, Colombo Plan Secretariat, Commonwealth of Independent States, Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, European Union, International Organization for Migration, Mekong River Commission, Typhoon Committee Secretariat and WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

13. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations in general consultative status: Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, CONGO Working Group on Asia, HelpAge International, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Women, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Muslim World League, World Muslim Congress and World Veterans Federation; and from the following organizations in special consultative status: Baha'í International Community, Disabled Peoples' International, International Air Transport Association, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association,

Population Council, Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises.

14. Representatives of the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Asian Institute for Rural Development, Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, Humanitarian Organization for Poverty Eradication and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies also attended the session.

15. The list of participants is given in document ESCAP (61)/INF.1/Rev.2.

16. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected H.E. Mr. Kassymzhomart Tokaev (Kazakhstan) Chairperson.

17. Following its past practice, the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegations Vice-Chairpersons: H.E. Mr. Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Ibrahim (Brunei Darussalam), H.E. Mr. Khy Tainglim (Cambodia), H.E. Mr. Shen Guofang (China), H.E. Mr. E.V.K.S. Elangovan (India), H.E. Ms. Sri Mulyani Indrawati (Indonesia), H.E. Mr. Gholamereza Tajghardoost (Islamic Republic of Iran), H.E. Mr. Itsunori Onodera (Japan), H.E. Mr. Phongsavath Boupha (Lao People's Democratic Republic), H.E. Mr. Mustapa Mohamed (Malaysia), H.E. Major General Thein Swe (Myanmar), H.E. Mr. Shankar Prasad Sharma (Nepal), Hon. Maria Lourdes V. Ramiro Lopez (Philippines), H.E. Mr. Lee Tae-sik (Republic of Korea), Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera (Sri Lanka), H.E. Mr. Kantathi Suphamongkhon (Thailand), Hon. Sato Kilman (Vanuatu) and H.E. Mr. Le Van Bang (Viet Nam).

18. The senior officials' segment of the session met in three Committees of the Whole. Committee of the Whole I elected Mr. Natigor Siagian (Indonesia) Chairperson and Ms. Sumaira K. Aslam (Pakistan) and Hon. Ms. Maria Lourdes V. Ramiro Lopez (Philippines) Vice-Chairpersons. Committee of the Whole II elected Mr. Bayazid Mardukhi (Islamic Republic of Iran) Chairperson and H.E. Mr. Shahed Akhtar (Bangladesh) and Mr. Kikeo Chanthaboury (Lao People's Democratic Republic) Vice-Chairpersons. Committee of the Whole III elected H.E. Mr. Chan Heng Wing (Singapore) Chairperson and H.E. Mr. O. Song Chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) and H.E. Ms. Adi Litia Samanunu Qalireia Talakuli Cakobau (Fiji) Vice-Chairpersons.

19. The Commission also constituted a Working Group on Draft Resolutions, under the chairmanship of Mr. Selwyn Das (Malaysia), to consider draft resolutions presented during the session. Mr. Mounkhou Ravjaa (Mongolia) and Mr. Michael J. Delaney (United States) were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the Working Group.

B. Agenda

20. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Policy issues for the ESCAP region:
 - (a) Implications of recent economic and social developments;
 - (b) Implementing the Monterrey Consensus in the Asian and Pacific region: achieving coherence and consistency;
 - (c) Emerging issues in response to tsunamis and other natural disasters.
3. Key developments and activities at the regional level:
 - (a) Poverty reduction;
 - (b) Managing globalization;
 - (c) Emerging social issues.
4. Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries.
5. Management issues:
 - (a) Implementation of Commission resolution 58/1: mid-term review of the revised conference structure;
 - (b) Programme planning and evaluation;
 - (c) Review of the work of the ESCAP regional institutions;
 - (d) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its audit of the regional commissions.
6. Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions.
7. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
8. Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies.
9. Date, venue and theme topic for the sixty-second session of the Commission.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Account of proceedings

21. The session was declared open by the Acting Chairperson, H.E. Mr. Shen Guofang (China). The Executive Secretary of ESCAP read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered an address. H.E. Mr. Chaturon Chaisang, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address.

22. Following the inaugural session, a High-level Panel on Tsunami Recovery Development met. The panellists included high-level representatives from the six tsunami-affected countries, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. A summary of the discussions of the Panel is contained in annex I to the present report.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

23. In his message, the Secretary-General noted that profound changes were taking place across the Asian and Pacific region. A new Asia was emerging, which was contributing to prosperity in the region and throughout the world, but there were also challenges to confront. While the region was certainly making good progress on a number of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, the gains were uneven. Developing countries in the region were showing the highest growth rates in the world, but there were jarring disparities in levels of social and economic development, within and among countries.

24. The Secretary-General noted that in the post-tsunami recovery work it was crucial to break past cycles of poverty. That meant that donors had to disburse the funds needed, and that the funds had to be spent effectively, responsibly and in a transparent manner.

25. The Secretary-General noted that 2005 not only marked the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, but also heralded a renewed debate about the future. The focus should therefore be on ways to defeat poverty, a collective security system to meet common threats and increased respect for human dignity in every land.

26. In March 2005 the Secretary-General had placed before Member States a report setting out proposals for affordable ways to reach the Millennium Development Goals, far-reaching reforms of the international security system and concrete action to increase respect for human rights. He expressed the hope and expectation that leaders would go to the summit at the United Nations in September 2005 ready to take far-reaching decisions, including on ways to adapt the United Nations itself.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

27. The Executive Secretary welcomed those attending the session. He expressed deep gratitude to the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand for inaugurating the session.

28. He noted that since the Commission had last met, which had been on the historic occasion of the sixtieth session, in Shanghai, China, the tsunami of December 2004 and its horrific consequences had added another urgent item to the financing-for-development agenda of the Asian and Pacific region.

29. He noted that, in 2004, ESCAP economies had grown at their fastest pace since 2000 despite the increase in oil prices and the weakness of the dollar. Even with the impact of the December tsunami, increased macroeconomic stability and external strength in the region should enable ESCAP economies to withstand most shocks while working to reduce poverty.

30. The Executive Secretary noted that tsunami-affected countries had succeeded sufficiently in the immediate post-tsunami humanitarian and emergency response, but the need for long-term reconstruction and rehabilitation posed increasing challenges for Governments of the region.

31. The Executive Secretary assured the Commission of the secretariat's continued commitment to the tsunami-affected countries and peoples in the recovery process and of its ongoing commitment to all the region's developing countries, in particular the least developed countries as well as countries in transition, in building their capacity to cope with the numerous challenges that lay ahead.

32. The Executive Secretary noted that the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network was expected to come into force in July 2005. The challenge at present was to identify investment priorities for the further development of the Asian Highway network and related intermodal connections.

33. He emphasized that infrastructure development must meet the needs and priorities of the information and communication highway. The three focus issues from the outcomes of the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society were regional implementation of the outcomes, financial mechanisms for ICT for development and Internet governance.

34. Statistics were essential and central to development. Priority areas were poverty statistics, national accounts, gender statistics and environment statistics. It remained necessary to continually examine poverty-related data for poverty reduction strategy papers, the Millennium Development Goals and other national and international initiatives.

35. The Executive Secretary noted that all development interventions had impacts on the natural and social environment. Safeguards had to be put in place to address problems related to HIV/AIDS, migration, drugs and trafficking that might arise when

transport systems improved. Those and other concerns such as population ageing, disability, health and mortality challenged the effectiveness of Governments in policymaking, planning and managing development for all.

36. One health concern of particular importance to Governments across the region was the spread of avian flu. The flu virus would be likely to persist in the region for years to come because there was no easy way to eradicate it. However, there were measures to limit its impact with coordinated efforts to address the known risks.

37. The Executive Secretary reported that, in accordance with Commission resolution 58/1 of 22 May 2002, the new subsidiary structure focusing on the three priority areas, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues, had been further implemented. By the end of 2004, a complete meeting cycle of the 13 subsidiary bodies had been concluded. The implementation of the resolution would be considered by the Commission in its mid-term review of the revised conference structure.

Inaugural address by the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand

38. The Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, speaking on behalf of the Government of Thailand, extended a warm welcome to those attending the session.

39. He noted the unique platform that ESCAP provided for technical cooperation and the well-being and prosperity of people in the region. He also noted the new threats and challenges that had emerged and hampered the achievement of sustainable economic growth and the reduction of socio-economic inequity.

40. Cross-border tensions, armed conflict and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction were ongoing concerns. Abject poverty, wide income disparities and lack of development provided fertile ground for transnational organized crime in such areas as the trafficking of drugs, armaments and human beings. Climate change, infectious diseases and natural disasters further compounded the challenges. Rapid advances in technology and globalization had made money-laundering a lucrative business.

41. The most recent challenge was the devastation wrought by the December 2004 tsunami. The social and economic costs were staggering, as were the offers of assistance from around the world. That underscored the importance of collective action at the regional and global levels and the need for proper coordination. The United Nations system, particularly ESCAP in the Asian and Pacific region, represented the best framework for such coordination.

42. The tsunami disaster response had to be considered in the context of other natural disasters. Drought and the related problem of access to drinking water were some matters that required concerted and

collective action. Action was needed to improve energy use, conserve energy and promote the use of renewable energy sources.

43. Peace, development and security were mutually dependent. Additionally, collective efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals should be given high priority. In that regard, Thailand fully supported the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council as a relevant high-level forum for international collective action on global development, in close cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions.

44. Thailand welcomed the theme topic of the sixty-first session, "Implementing the Monterrey Consensus in the Asian and Pacific region: achieving coherence and consistency". He urged developed countries to live up to their pledge to allocate 0.7 per cent of their GNP to development assistance. Developing countries had to make tangible efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Monterrey Consensus. The international community had to explore effective and innovative financial mechanisms to ensure adequate financing for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Policy issues for the ESCAP region

Policy statement by the Executive Secretary

45. The Executive Secretary observed that 2005 had begun with attention focused on the tsunami catastrophe of 26 December 2004, in which the United Nations had played a central role in coordinating relief and recovery. Countries in the region had also suffered from other natural disasters, such as earthquakes, typhoons, floods and drought, reinforcing the need for improvements in disaster preparedness and management. Those natural disasters had proved to be a constraint on economic development as a result of the destruction of human, social and physical capital, as well as infrastructure. The tsunami and other natural disasters highlighted the extreme vulnerability of disadvantaged sectors of poor communities and were also strong testimony to the urgent need to address the risk of common threats caused by natural hazards which might impede sustainable development in the Asian and Pacific region.

46. Despite the tsunami and other disasters, ESCAP economies had achieved an impressive economic performance in 2004, with the highest growth rate since 2000. The broad-based economic growth in the region had been accompanied in most cases by low inflation and driven by increased exports, as well as strong domestic demand, including a revival in capital expenditure and FDI. That impressive economic performance had reaffirmed the resilience of the regional economy in the face of a series of ongoing and new challenges, and the record rises in nominal crude oil prices, which had contributed to a reversal in inflationary pressures. Prospects for 2005, however,

indicated a slowdown in the economic growth of developing countries in the region as the external environment was expected to weaken. Inflation and interest rates were likely to rise as higher oil prices made their impact felt in the general economy. Trade prospects were expected to be less bright. Countries would have to respond to the changing economic environment.

47. In the area of social development, the Executive Secretary highlighted the extent of ageing in the Asian and Pacific region. Ageing was expected to increase at a faster rate in the next 50 years. By 2050, nearly a quarter of the population in the region would be aged over 60. However, a number of countries lacked adequate social security systems for the elderly. Apart from welfare issues, the economic impact of ageing in terms of labour productivity, savings and investment, and economic growth could be severe if there was no advance planning. ESCAP was expected to pay special attention to that issue in the context of the Macau Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific.

48. The theme study for 2005, *Implementing the Monterrey Consensus in the Asian and Pacific Region: Achieving Coherence and Consistency*, was timely since the General Assembly was preparing for the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development to be held in New York in June 2005. The study provided the regional perspective on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. It noted that, despite high economic growth and the accumulation of vast foreign reserves, there was a staggering financing gap, especially in the physical and social infrastructure. The study recommended greater reliance on South-South regional cooperation, especially in finance, trade and investment, to reduce regional disparities. It also included a recommendation that a feasibility study be carried out regarding the establishment of an Asian Investment Bank, along the lines of the European Investment Bank, to meet the region's urgent need for infrastructure development.

49. The Executive Secretary indicated that the Shanghai Declaration adopted at the sixtieth session of the Commission was guiding the activities of ESCAP. The secretariat continued to focus attention on assisting the member countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In connection with the forthcoming meeting of world leaders at United Nations Headquarters to review the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the second regional report on the Goals, being undertaken jointly by ESCAP, UNDP and ADB, was expected to highlight challenges in the delivery of basic services to the poor and how regional cooperation could be further strengthened to assist poor countries in achieving the Goals by 2015. The report, which would present the Asian and Pacific perspective at the meeting in New York, was expected to be launched in Manila in August 2005.

50. Under the theme of managing globalization, ESCAP had organized the fifth Ministerial Conference

on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in Seoul in March 2005. The Conference had charted an important course towards sustainable development for the region for the next five years. Bearing in mind the region's diversity, the Conference, under the overarching theme "Achieving environmentally sustainable economic growth (Green Growth) in Asia and the Pacific", had adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005, the Regional Implementation Plan and the Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth (Green Growth). The challenge was not to limit growth but to make it environmentally sustainable and create a win-win synergy between the environment and the economy, so that environmental sustainability could be promoted as an opportunity rather than a constraint.

51. In the area of trade, the ESCAP region had witnessed the rapid proliferation of regional and bilateral trade agreements, making an important contribution to development and poverty reduction. However, it was imperative that regional and bilateral initiatives not undermine, but rather complement, the multilateral trading system. The proactive role played by various Asian and Pacific countries in the current negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda would help to contribute to a successful outcome of the Doha Round with tangible results before the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference, which was scheduled to be held in Hong Kong, China, in December 2005. In preparation for the Conference, ESCAP planned to organize a high-level policy dialogue for Asian and Pacific senior trade officials, the private sector and other stakeholders later in 2005. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission of the productive and fruitful meeting of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2005 during the current Commission session, attracting more than 400 participants from Governments, businesses, academic circles and civil society.

52. As requested by the Commission at its sixtieth session, the secretariat continued to play its coordinating role in the regional preparations for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Tunis in November 2005. In cooperation with various stakeholders, it had initiated a number of activities aimed at formulating a regional action plan towards an information society and the required infrastructure development for the Asian information highway. The plan emphasized the need to create an enabling ICT policy environment and build regional capacity, especially in human resources, to fully use the digital opportunities provided by ICT for sustainable development.

53. In a similar vein, the Executive Secretary noted that ESCAP was working towards the formulation of an integrated international intermodal transport system, which could make a significant contribution to advancing economic and social development. Nine countries in the region had already ratified the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway

Network, which was expected to enter into force in July 2005. A similar agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway was being negotiated. In parallel with that work, the secretariat was working closely with member countries and other partners to promote the facilitation of international road transport.

54. In the area of emerging social issues, ESCAP continued to undertake activities in follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Biwako Millennium Framework. A continuing concern was the HIV/AIDS epidemic, with 9 million people in the region battling the disease. In 2004 alone, 1.2 million persons had been infected. Further action and a higher level of commitment of effort and resources were required to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS in the ESCAP region.

55. The Executive Secretary concluded by saying that one of the main goals of the secretariat was to make ESCAP a “knowledge organization”. In order to achieve that, the secretariat was committed to working with other agencies, namely, UNDP, ADB and the World Bank, to consider the possibility of establishing in the longer term a regional knowledge resource centre that would be shared by the four organizations. Work had begun on the new system to enable the secretariat to attain its three-pronged objective of managing globalization, reducing poverty and addressing emerging social issues. In that way, the secretariat hoped to add value to its services to member countries.

Implications of recent economic and social developments

56. The Commission had before it the document entitled “Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues” (E/ESCAP/1331) and the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2005* (ST/ESCAP/2349), which provided the Commission with an opportunity to take stock of the current social and economic situation in the region and look for possible ways to address the emerging issues that the region was facing. The Commission expressed appreciation of the comprehensive nature and excellent quality of the documentation prepared by the secretariat.

57. The Commission noted with appreciation that developing economies of the ESCAP region had shown an impressive economic performance in 2004, with GDP growth being the highest since 2000. That remarkable economic growth had been driven, to a great extent, by increased intraregional trade and stronger domestic demand in various economies. Capital expenditure had revived in many countries and FDI inflows into the region had increased sharply. However, the disparity in economic performance between different subregions and between developing and developed countries remained extensive across the region. Many least developed, landlocked, and Pacific island countries were not achieving the economic growth rates that were needed to meet their development challenges.

58. The Commission observed that the globalization process had touched both the rich and the poor, but in different ways. The opportunities it afforded were not shared equally owing to the inequalities in the global economic system. The developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, were at a serious disadvantage owing to their inadequate technology and infrastructure. In the light of those practical difficulties, to enable them to respond to the opportunities created by globalization, the least developed countries needed support from their development partners in the form of market access, simplification and relaxation of the rules of origin and technical assistance in trade and technology for the development of the agricultural sector and the removal of bottlenecks to trade in services.

59. The Commission acknowledged that the Pacific island countries remained economically disadvantaged owing to their small scale and narrow economic base, geographical isolation, difficulty in accessing international markets and high vulnerability to natural disasters. Those countries faced enormous challenges in integrating their economies into the global and regional economies and were unable to capitalize on the opportunities provided by globalization. The Commission therefore expressed support for the secretariat’s initiative in organizing a Pacific leaders summit during the sixty-second session of the Commission with the main objective of discussing ways and means of integrating Pacific island economies into the economic dynamism of the Asian region.

60. The Commission recognized the importance of the macroeconomic policy reforms pursued by many developing countries in the region. Those reforms comprised a wide array of measures aimed at expanding the role of the private sector and strengthening the regulatory responsibilities of Governments. Alongside structural reforms, conducive fiscal and monetary policies, improved governance in service delivery and greater transparency in public decision-making were among the main instruments that promoted confidence among business and consumers.

61. The Commission observed that, despite the unprecedented economic growth and progress achieved in recent years, the ESCAP region was still home to approximately two thirds of the world’s poor people. The looming scenario was that a number of countries would probably miss their target of halving the incidence of poverty by 2015, as envisaged in the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration. Meeting the target for poverty reduction would entail working in a more cohesive and concerted manner to help the region’s poor to gain access to a better quality of life. Overcoming poverty required a comprehensive set of social and economic policies and programmes with an equity orientation, supported by good governance and the rule of law.

62. The Commission noted the importance of economic growth for sustained poverty reduction.

However, GDP growth per se was not sufficient to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. It was necessary to ensure that economic benefits reached the vulnerable groups in society, including women, children, young people, older persons and persons with disabilities. To achieve that, an effective mechanism was required for developing social protection and safety nets and promoting human resources development in both the public and the private sectors. Competitive, private markets were indispensable because they allocated resources efficiently, disseminated innovative practices and made information available to consumers and producers. The State had an essential role to play in promoting economic growth. Moreover, it was responsible for providing public goods and social safety nets to protect the most needy, and for enacting policies to ensure adequate investment in health and education.

63. The Commission noted that the demographic transition in most countries of the region could result in older people constituting an increasingly large proportion of the population. The implications for national social and health services would necessitate an advance response from countries. The Commission called for an assessment of the future impact of population dynamics, particularly ageing, on the region's economies. It observed that the majority of the ageing populations in the region were poor and many countries lacked adequate facilities to address the health and social needs of older people. In that regard, the Commission requested the secretariat to consider the role of traditional support systems and identify ways to strengthen those systems and weave them into broader national programmes to support ageing populations and formulate forward-looking strategies for financing social security schemes and pensions.

64. The Commission recognized that natural calamities, together with potentially fatal diseases such as SARS and avian influenza, continued to pose challenges to the global and regional economies. It further recognized the debilitating effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic as one of the many challenges to development faced by least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. The Commission acknowledged that more efforts had to be made to achieve the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, including those related to maternal and child health, community health, HIV/AIDS and basic health infrastructure and services. It called for coordinated efforts by all stakeholders, including Governments, donors and civil society, and underscored the need for increased budgetary allocations for public health.

65. The Commission noted that human resources development was crucial to tackling poverty and long-term social, economic and political development. It urged that special measures be promoted to enhance access to livelihoods and the skills development and education of women, in particular women heading

households and those with disabilities. Policy measures to increase women's income by improving their sources of livelihood in agriculture and livestock production, in particular, were underlined as an important part of poverty reduction strategies.

66. The Commission urged promotion of the full implementation of the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goal contained in the Millennium Declaration that related to gender equality and the empowerment of women. It highlighted, as important areas to be addressed, increasing women's political participation and economic opportunities and eliminating violence against women and the trafficking of women and children. It requested the secretariat to undertake studies to examine the best practices of countries that had effective programmes to combat human trafficking and issues related to international migration.

67. The Commission recommended that the secretariat take stock of previous policies, programmes and projects on poverty reduction, reviewing those which worked and setting aside those which did not. Through that stocktaking exercise, member countries could be guided by the best practices and lessons learned from the region. The secretariat should examine multi-stakeholder innovative poverty reduction practices, especially those involving the private sector and civil society. In that regard, it was vital to avoid duplication with other international and regional organizations.

68. Drawing attention to the proclamation by the General Assembly of 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit, the Commission emphasized the role of microfinance and microcredit in poverty reduction. It recognized the importance of microfinance as a critical tool for improving livelihoods and an effective financial instrument for mitigating the vulnerability of the poor and empowering them through job creation and income generation, especially in the case of women. It requested the secretariat to play a leading role in promoting microfinancing initiatives in the Asian and Pacific region, including facilitating studies of best practices in member countries and sharing information on appropriate microcredit strategies.

69. The Commission called upon the secretariat to strengthen its efforts in fostering regional and subregional cooperation to facilitate environmentally sound sustainable development, in which the secretariat had been playing a key role. It noted that the cooperation in the field of energy in North-East Asia had attracted interest among the countries of the subregion. It observed that desertification and land degradation needed to be addressed as a regional issue with the support of the international community. There was also a need to increase investment to improve water resources and sanitation, for the attainment of the relevant internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration.

70. The Commission attached importance to the regional projects on the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks in the context of the regional implementation of 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. In general, it recognized that reducing transport costs would be one of the major challenges for the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island countries of the region, as well as those with economies in transition. In that regard, the connection of those countries with the regional cross-border road and rail network and port facilities would contribute to the increased competitiveness of their products in global and regional markets.

71. The Commission stressed the importance of regional cooperation in science and technology and especially ICT. It pointed out that human resources development in ICT was a prerequisite for the efficient use of ICT for sustainable economic and social development. In that regard, it welcomed with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host APCICT as a subsidiary body of ESCAP to meet the region's requirements in the field of human resources development in ICT. The Commission was informed that the Government would allocate \$10 million for the operation of APCICT during its first five years.

Implementing the Monterrey Consensus in the Asian and Pacific region: achieving coherence and consistency

72. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1332, entitled "Implementing the Monterrey Consensus in the Asian and Pacific region: achieving coherence and consistency". It found the theme study to be of high quality, timely and useful for member countries not only to take stock of their progress towards implementing the Monterrey Consensus, but also to exchange views on the modalities of the proposed follow-up conference as agreed in the Consensus and in preparation for the United Nations summit for the review of the Millennium Declaration, to be held in September 2005.

73. The Commission noted that the Monterrey Consensus, adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002, served as a global guideline on development financing issues. The Consensus confirmed the significance of a new partnership between developed and developing countries with an emphasis on the primary responsibility of developing countries to implement sound economic policies, good governance and the rule of law.

74. The Commission observed that the Monterrey Consensus recognized the essential role played by ODA in the development process, especially for those

countries with the least capability to attract foreign private capital flows. For many countries, particularly the least developed countries, ODA remained crucial in achieving the internationally agreed development goals. Several members urged developed countries to enhance their ODA to 0.7 per cent of their GNP. The effective utilization of aid resources on the part of the recipient countries was considered important in order to maximize their positive impact.

75. The Commission expressed some concern at the difficulties experienced by recipients of ODA, including the diverse procedures and conditionalities adopted by donor countries and the lack of predictability of ODA amounts. It recommended that a genuine partnership be forged between the donors and the recipients and efforts made to harmonize donors' lending policies and procedures so as to enhance the effectiveness of ODA and maximize its positive impact on recipient countries.

76. The Commission suggested that countries requiring assistance in development financing should undergo a comprehensive assessment to determine their specific needs. It noted that a number of countries had already produced progress reports on their implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. That confidence-building exercise could encourage closer development cooperation between developed and developing countries.

77. Given the limited amount of assistance from developed countries, developing countries needed to embrace the concept of self-help to mitigate the shortfalls in financing for development. The Commission noted that the self-help mechanism could be created through the modality of South-South cooperation, which should be strengthened. Developing countries should increase intraregional trade and investment since economic competitiveness could be enhanced through greater regional integration. Through South-South cooperation, countries in the region could pool their resources to address common issues. The Commission requested the secretariat to provide a forum for the exchange of experience in the areas of resource mobilization, finance and trade. Furthermore, development cooperation between ESCAP and regional and international financial institutions should be enhanced.

78. As to the mobilization of domestic resources, the Commission noted that the Asian and Pacific region had the world's highest savings rate, which meant that savings could be channelled towards investments related to economic and human development. It noted the recommendation in the theme study that Governments should develop and strengthen the stock and bond markets. A well-developed Asian Bond Market could help to cushion the region from the volatility of global capital markets and also help to prevent another financial crisis. In order to assist countries in coping with disruptive capital flows, it was recommended that regional cooperation be strengthened through the Chiang Mai Initiative.

79. The Commission noted that sustainable debt financing was an important element in mobilizing resources for investment, as emphasized in the Monterrey Consensus. It welcomed the cancellation of the eligible debt of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries and the debt relief provided to some tsunami-affected countries.

80. The Commission observed that infrastructure development was key to sustained economic growth and poverty reduction and that steps must be taken to meet the demand for enhanced infrastructure. It noted that the magnitude of the infrastructure investment and financing requirements of developing countries was substantial and that a significant challenge lay in improving the access of the poor to infrastructure services, particularly in rural areas.

81. The Commission noted that, owing to weak infrastructure, many countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, had not been able to attract investment, including FDI, which was fundamental for growth and development. In that regard, several delegations found the proposal to prepare a feasibility study for a possible Asian Investment Bank, modelled after the European Investment Bank, to be worth considering.

82. Several delegations took the view that ESCAP should support a study to look into the issues related to infrastructure financing needs and resource options. Several delegations suggested that the study should address the need for financing infrastructure in vulnerable countries, including least developed and landlocked developing countries. Several other delegations held the view that the study should take into account the complementarity between the proposed Asian Investment Bank and ADB and the existing regional financial initiatives, such as the Asian Bond Market and the Asian Bond Fund. One delegation observed that the note by the secretariat on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus contained some suggestions for cooperation at the regional level to fill the resource gaps. Several delegations, while welcoming greater cooperative efforts in the region, felt that it would be inappropriate for any study on infrastructure needs and financing to prejudge the issue of whether the creation of an Asian Investment Bank or any other new institution was a necessary or appropriate solution. One delegation suggested a cautious approach in establishing new institutions at the regional level from the viewpoint of efficiency and successful work by ADB.

83. The Commission noted that trade and investment were engines of economic growth that had served as important sources of financing for development. It also noted that a universal, open, predictable, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system was a key component of development. Several delegations took the view that all countries should work collectively and flexibly, in particular with regard to such concerns as agriculture and special and

differential treatment, so that the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference made a positive contribution to the Doha Round and its completion. It requested the secretariat to continue to accord high priority to capacity-building activities in multilateral trade issues.

84. The Commission noted the difficulties that some developing countries were facing as a result of the phasing out of the Multifibre Arrangement. It also noted the efforts undertaken to expand market access for least developed countries. Enhanced market access, through additional measures, could trigger economic growth and reduce poverty. Several delegations held the view that those measures included binding duty- and quota-free market access for products from least developed countries; simplification and relaxation of rules of origin; liberalization of trade in services, in particular of unskilled and semi-skilled service providers; and trade- and investment-related supply-side capacity-building. The Commission urged the secretariat to pay particular attention to the technical assistance needs in trade and investment of least developed countries, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

85. The Commission noted that many members and associate members were not yet members of WTO and urged the secretariat to strengthen its efforts to facilitate their accession, *inter alia*, through the development of a regional action plan.

86. The Commission emphasized the importance of subregional and regional cooperation in trade and investment and noted the rapid growth in the number of bilateral and regional trade agreements. It held the view that such agreements could promote regional trade and investment but stressed the need for the agreements to evolve in a manner consistent with the principles and rules of the multilateral trading system. The Commission expressed appreciation to the secretariat for its continued support for such initiatives as the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation and the Bangkok Agreement, and requested the secretariat to continue to provide support for the expansion of South-South cooperation in trade and investment.

87. The Commission held the view that FDI could make an important contribution to economic development and stressed the need for countries to improve their business and investment climate, which included streamlining and simplifying regulations and procedures, implementing good governance and establishing e-government. It requested the secretariat to prepare a study on best practices in attracting FDI and promoting the sharing of successful experiences.

88. The Commission observed that the ESCAP region needed a specific action plan to facilitate the provision of financial resources for development, based on strategies and methods of mobilizing domestic and international financial resources for development. Economic reforms undertaken in many developing countries of the region had not resulted in a significant increase in the flow of financial resources.

89. The Commission noted the importance of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises for poverty reduction. It emphasized the importance of microcredit, especially for women, and recommended that the secretariat promote microfinancing initiatives in the region, such as that undertaken by the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh.

90. The Commission expressed appreciation to the secretariat for having effectively organized the second Asia-Pacific Business Forum, which had fostered a region-wide dialogue with the business community and other stakeholders. It recommended that the Forum be held on a regular basis.

91. The fulfilment of the Monterrey commitments required a global partnership for development, to ensure coherence and consistency between monetary, financial and trading systems to support development. The Commission urged the secretariat to take the leading role in that endeavour.

92. The Commission recommended that ESCAP mainstream various areas of the Monterrey Consensus into its programme of work and identify activities to enhance the regional implementation of the Consensus. Regional coherence and consistency in policies should also be promoted.

Emerging issues in response to tsunamis and other natural disasters

93. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1333, which reviewed the economic and social losses incurred as a result of the tsunami and other recent disasters in the region. The document summarized national and regional experiences in disaster management and preparedness, discussed emerging issues in regional cooperation in natural disaster reduction and recommended a regional strategy on disaster risk management. It included measures for building community resilience in response to tsunamis and other natural disasters in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission highlighted the severe and tragic impact on the least developed and developing countries affected and drew the attention of Governments to the importance of regional cooperation in disaster reduction.

94. The Commission noted with appreciation the generous support of the international donor community and the United Nations in assisting the people and Governments of earthquake- and tsunami-affected countries. As continued support in the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts was crucial, the Commission recommended the establishment of an effective mechanism to coordinate all support efforts.

95. The Commission recognized the importance of integrating risk management into national socio-economic development processes. It called for the strengthening of regional partnerships for disaster preparedness, including the sharing of information and

experience. It underlined the importance of such partnerships in helping to minimize vulnerability to natural disasters. It called for more efforts to be devoted to capacity-building by the respective government agencies to enable more effective approaches to disaster management. In that regard, the Commission noted the particular vulnerability of small island developing States.

96. The Commission noted the efforts of the member countries to develop national early warning systems for disasters. It also noted with appreciation the efforts to develop a regional early warning system, including the provision of technical assistance for the design of such a system, and requested the international community to enhance technical cooperation in that regard.

97. The Commission called on the secretariat to continue to play a catalytic role in promoting South-South cooperation. It recognized the importance of regional cooperation in natural disaster reduction and recommended that the secretariat organize workshops to facilitate the sharing of information, experience and lessons learned with regard to risk assessment, detection, warning and contingency planning. It requested the secretariat to conduct studies, in collaboration with relevant international bodies, such as the International Coordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific, on the feasibility of enhancing detection and warning systems.

98. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host a regional centre on disaster management in Asia and the Pacific and to bear the expenses associated with its establishment.

Key developments and activities at the regional level

Poverty reduction

99. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1334. It endorsed the recommendations made at the first sessions of the Subcommittees on Poverty Reduction Practices and on Statistics. It observed that while the recommendations were comprehensive, some prioritization should be done in terms of the areas on which the secretariat needed to focus.

100. The Commission noted that, despite the significant progress made in reducing poverty over time, it continued to be a major challenge in Asia and the Pacific. The tsunami catastrophe and other natural disasters that had struck the region in 2004 had had a negative impact on the process of poverty reduction, national development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration in the affected countries. The poor were exposed to a variety of risks, and poverty reduction measures should address the mitigation of vulnerabilities.

101. The Commission acknowledged that poverty had a social dimension in addition to the economic one. Poverty was characterized not just by inadequate income, but also by poor health and lack of basic education, skills and employment opportunities. Poverty reduction strategies would not succeed if the needs of marginalized social groups were not addressed.

102. The Commission observed that poverty reduction was one of the most important elements of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration. It noted that those goals were to be achieved voluntarily and nationally. However, addressing that complex and multifaceted issue required cooperation at the global level. Success and failure in the fight against poverty might ultimately rest on the ability to harness collective partnerships.

103. The Commission deliberated on various strategies for reducing poverty, including pro-poor growth, human resources development through the provision of education, health and other basic services, development of physical infrastructure, good governance, creation of abundant employment opportunities, promotion of SMEs, and an expanded social security system and smoothly functioning social safety nets to protect vulnerable social groups. The importance of microfinance in generating self-employment and reducing poverty was highlighted.

104. The Commission called for coherent policies and strategies along with broad consensus, political will and a sense of purpose about the range of actions that needed to be taken to reduce poverty. It called for greater collaboration between government, the private sector, civil society and the international community, so that stakeholders could play their vital roles in advocacy, planning and implementation of poverty reduction programmes. It urged that concrete steps be taken to support women's economic activities and called for comprehensive strategies and policies aimed at employment creation, community empowerment, capacity-building and social protection.

105. The Commission stressed the necessity of enabling and empowering the poor to utilize their assets and resources in a sustainable manner. Community-based approaches, particularly at the local level, were essential in reducing poverty. Such approaches included substantial investments in basic infrastructure and services and the provision of assets to the poor through microfinance and the development of SMEs. The Commission noted the need to localize the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration in both rural and urban areas and recognized the roles that regional networks, such as the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements, could play in promoting those goals among local governments in Asia and the Pacific.

106. The Commission underscored the secretariat's role in promoting regional cooperation, exchange of information and experience and capacity-building in

assisting members in reducing poverty and promoting good governance. It emphasized that one very effective methodology was the identification, documentation and transfer of good practices. It appreciated the past and ongoing activities of the secretariat on the identification, testing and replication of good practices, including *Saemaul Undong* in the Republic of Korea and secretariat programmes such as the Human Dignity Initiative and Housing the Poor in Urban Economies. The Commission drew attention to several other good examples of poverty reduction and good governance and invited the secretariat to explore their replicability. It also invited the secretariat to continue its efforts to build the capacity of governments at the national, subnational and local levels.

107. The Commission appreciated the efforts of the secretariat in building the capacity of the member countries to deal with poverty. In that regard, the secretariat's work in the areas of evaluating the impact of targeted poverty reduction programmes and the Human Dignity Initiative were highlighted. The Commission stressed the need for financial support and technical assistance for national capacity-building in developing countries in various areas, including the development of SMEs.

108. The Commission called upon the secretariat to place more emphasis on the development of the agricultural and rural sector since the prevalence of poverty and the so-called "hard-core poor" tended to be highest in that sector. As agricultural productivity had not increased, rural industrialization could be considered an alternative approach to poverty reduction in rural areas.

109. There was support for the realignment of CAPSA. It was suggested that secondary crops be looked at in the international context since they were sometimes primary crops in the developed countries. That issue had to be addressed in the context of agricultural trade liberalization if secondary crops in developing countries were to contribute to poverty reduction.

110. The Commission discussed the role of the tourism sector in reducing poverty and stressed that tourism could be an effective tool for poverty reduction, offering labour-intensive and small-scale business opportunities.

111. The Commission highlighted the need for good governance at the national, subnational and local levels. It noted the need to promote transparency, equity, efficiency and the rule of law. The promotion of good governance required strengthening and capacity-building in governmental institutions, particularly at the subnational and local levels.

112. The Commission observed that the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development constituted the financing vehicle for achieving the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, in which the reduction of absolute poverty was a major goal. In that

context, it was further observed that although each country had the primary responsibility for its own development, national efforts could only succeed if complemented by a conducive and nurturing international environment.

113. The Commission noted that developing countries could not depend on domestic markets with low purchasing power to enhance their economic and social development. They needed to trade with developed countries and with each other to boost their incomes. A fair, rules-based and equitable multilateral trading system to provide developing countries with opportunities for income generation, employment and improved livelihoods was essential. The Commission stressed the importance of achieving a level playing field for all countries in order to make progress in poverty reduction. It was well known that subsidies and other forms of support, as well as protection of agriculture in the developed countries, had displaced millions of farmers worldwide in the developing countries, where agriculture was the main sector of the economy. That exacerbated the poverty situation in many countries. Although the issue was under intense negotiation in WTO, progress was slow. The Commission requested the secretariat to continue to follow, analyse and report on the issue.

114. The Commission noted the importance of ODA in assisting developing countries in achieving the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, including poverty reduction. In that regard, some members of the Commission urged developed countries to allocate 0.7 per cent of their GNP for official development assistance.

115. The Commission noted that external debt and debt servicing constituted a serious problem for many developing countries. Therefore, debt relief would certainly help the cause of poverty reduction in those countries. Against that background, the secretariat was requested to examine innovative ways to address the chronic debt problem in the developing countries of the region.

116. The Commission observed that success and failure in the fight against poverty might ultimately lie in the ability to harness collective partnerships to reduce it. The adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000 had constituted a major reaffirmation of a mutual commitment between and among developed and developing countries. Among developing countries, the Commission felt that assistance from middle-income countries was important and, in that context, the promotion of South-South cooperation was very effective.

117. The Commission noted the importance of building national capacity for data collection and analysis, utilizing geographical information systems and other appropriate technologies, so that each country could engage in sound policy formulation and programme planning. For that purpose, it called on the

secretariat and the specialized agencies of the United Nations to continue to provide technical and financial support to developing countries.

118. The Commission noted that the revision of the international standards on consumer price indices and household income and expenditure surveys, which the Subcommittee on Statistics had welcomed, would improve the accuracy of poverty measurement in the region. As household income and expenditure surveys were the most important instruments for collecting poverty data, the Commission recognized the need for them to be well designed and conducted in a manner that would permit poverty to be better understood.

119. The Commission commended the efforts by the secretariat to develop its revised plan of action for poverty statistics and to strengthen the statistical capacity of the national and sectoral agencies of ESCAP members, especially the capacity necessary to measure achievements towards the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration.

120. When developing statistical measures of poverty, the Commission felt that it was important to account not only for gender concerns but also for other socially vulnerable groups, such as children, older persons and persons with disabilities. Valid and reliable statistical data would help to develop sound economic and social policies that benefited various social groups and ensured social equity.

Managing globalization

121. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1335-1338. It commended the secretariat on the quality and comprehensiveness of the documents.

122. The Commission noted that globalization had increased the flow of trade, investment and information across borders, stimulating development and creating many opportunities. At the same time, many countries had not been able to benefit fully from the growth opportunities brought by globalization, and uncertainty remained.

123. The Commission called upon the secretariat to continue to assist members and associate members in enhancing and strengthening regional development cooperation and managing globalization more effectively.

124. The Commission recognized the importance of intersectoral projects in helping countries to enhance capacity-building for the facilitation of trade and transport, formulating coherent trade and environment policies, promoting trade more effectively through knowledge management and integrating information and communication technologies into the development process.

125. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the progress made in implementing the resolutions

relating to the theme of managing globalization, as reflected in document E/ESCAP/1336.

Selected cross-cutting issues

126. The Commission welcomed the secretariat's intersectoral project on institutional capacity-building in international trade and transport for landlocked and transit countries. It requested the secretariat to undertake similar projects with a view to enhancing the capacity of landlocked developing and least developed countries.

127. In particular, the Commission noted with appreciation the initiatives taken by the secretariat for the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action and the Almaty Programme of Action to address the problems and concerns of the small island developing States, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and transit countries and requested the secretariat to further intensify such initiatives.

128. In considering the regional and global importance of transporting oil and gas products by pipeline between ESCAP member countries, the Commission requested the secretariat to review the possibility of developing a regional agreement on trans-Asian pipeline networks.

129. The Commission noted that several countries affected by the recent tsunami and earthquakes had been making great efforts to cope with the catastrophic impact on their economies and the lives of their people. It took note of their reports on national activities related to various aspects of disaster reduction and risk management and rehabilitation activities in various economic sectors. It urged the consolidation and coordination of all international and regional initiatives on disaster prevention and mitigation, including the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, which had been adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005.

130. The Commission proposed that a detailed strategic plan be prepared with the cooperation and involvement of key regional and subregional decision makers in order to minimize the socio-economic impact of natural disasters, with the secretariat playing a fundamental role. In that context, it welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish a natural disaster management centre and its willingness to bear the expenses associated with the establishment of the centre in that country. The Commission was informed by the secretariat that member countries had responded positively to the proposal made at several major conferences organized by ESCAP since April 2004, including the first session of the Subcommittee on Information, Communications and Space Technology, held in Bangkok from 13 to 15 October 2004, the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications

Programme for Sustainable Development, held in Bangalore, India, on 21 and 22 October 2004 and the South and Southwest Asia Conference on Follow-up to the First Phase and Preparation for the Second Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Kathmandu from 1 to 3 March 2005.

131. The Commission noted the importance of information, communication and space technology in supporting effective disaster prevention and reduction. It expressed appreciation for the offers made by China, Japan and Thailand to share their satellite and other information resources with countries of the region for the purpose of disaster prevention and reduction. It encouraged the secretariat to continue its role in facilitating the development of an appropriate regional cooperative mechanism with a view to helping countries to benefit from such resources.

132. The Commission noted that one delegation had expressed concern over the high cost of the software needed for the proposed national early warning system on natural disasters, which was hampering the creation of such a system, and requested the secretariat to facilitate the resolution of that issue. It noted with gratitude the assistance provided by the international community to the tsunami-affected countries.

133. The Commission noted the adoption of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership at the recent Asia-Africa Summit, which had been co-sponsored by Indonesia and South Africa and held in Jakarta on 22 and 23 April 2005. It requested the secretariat to support that partnership process so that the initiative would complement and strengthen the multilateral and other regional mechanisms in place and similar processes involving the ESCAP region.

Sectoral issues and developments

Trade and investment

134. The Commission commended the trade and investment capacity-building programmes and advisory services of the secretariat, in particular those related to capacity-building in the negotiation, conclusion and implementation of WTO agreements. While WTO provided technical assistance, it noted the importance of the trade-related programmes of other organizations, such as ESCAP, especially those undertaken in partnership with WTO. The Commission therefore requested the secretariat to continue and intensify those activities.

135. The Commission noted that many ESCAP members and associate members were not yet members of WTO. It requested the secretariat to strengthen its assistance to those countries seeking accession to WTO and prepare a regional plan to facilitate and accelerate their accession.

136. The Commission took note of the progress under way in the Doha-mandated negotiations towards realizing equitable and freer global trade rules and

emphasized the importance of the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference, to be held in Hong Kong, China, in December 2005, in that process. It also took note of the need for all WTO members to work constructively towards a common agreement in all areas of negotiation and to be flexible with regard to development concerns.

137. The Commission accorded high priority to the secretariat's initiative in organizing a regional high-level policy dialogue prior to the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference, which would provide a useful opportunity for government officials, business sector representatives and policy analysts in the region to exchange views. The Conference would contribute to the regional implementation of the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus. The Commission requested that the secretariat, in organizing the meeting, incorporate issues of development concern, such as agriculture and special and differential treatment.

138. The Commission took note of the view that globalization and trade liberalization had not always resulted in the reduction of poverty or income inequalities and that the social impact of those processes, including increased job insecurity, had proved daunting in some cases. It noted that development strategies should focus not only on economic growth but also on achieving human security and social justice. It took note of the view that there was a need for flexibility to take account of development concerns, particularly to ensure food and livelihood security. It recommended that trade policies be mainstreamed into overall development policies and strategies and requested the secretariat to assist countries in that endeavour to enable them to maximize the benefits of globalization and market access while strengthening their capacity to deal with the challenges.

139. The Commission took note of the importance of supply-side capacity-building, including trade facilitation, investment promotion and the promotion of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and requested the secretariat to continue and intensify its technical assistance in those areas, with a focus on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. In particular, it requested the secretariat to assist those members and associate members negatively affected by the phasing out of the Multifibre Arrangement in improving their trade competitiveness in textiles and clothing.

140. The Commission noted that a balance needed to be maintained between global, regional and bilateral trade and investment liberalization efforts and emphasized that regional and bilateral trade agreements should evolve in conformity with the principles and rules of the multilateral trading system. It expressed appreciation for the work of the secretariat aimed at creating a mutually supportive dynamic between multilateralism, on the one hand, and regionalism and bilateralism, on the other, and requested the secretariat to continue its analytical work in that area.

141. The Commission welcomed the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade and recommended that it be developed further as a useful vehicle for enhancing policy-related decision-making and promoting regional cooperation in trade research analysis and information-sharing.

142. Realizing the importance of trade facilitation and information, the Commission requested the secretariat to assist member countries in their trade facilitation efforts, including simplification, streamlining and harmonization of trade procedures.

143. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue to organize policy dialogues in the context of managing globalization, not only among policymakers but also between government and private sector representatives. It noted with appreciation the initiative of the secretariat in organizing the International Conference on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Managing Globalization, to be held in Moscow from 28 to 30 September 2005.

144. The Commission commended the secretariat for convening the second Asia-Pacific Business Forum as a side event during the current session. It expressed the hope that the Forum would help to implement the United Nations Global Compact and the Monterrey Consensus.

145. The Commission recognized the importance of a liberal, transparent and investor-friendly policy for the promotion and attraction of FDI. It took note of the initiatives of various countries in that area and requested the secretariat to continue its technical assistance activities.

146. The Commission also recognized the important role of SMEs in triggering economic growth and reducing poverty and requested the secretariat to accord high priority to delivering technical assistance with a focus on trade facilitation, investment promotion and technology transfer as well as improving access to finance and linking SMEs to global supply chains with a view to ensuring their long-term sustainability. It noted with appreciation the support of the World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises in that regard.

Transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism

147. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network would enter into force on 4 July 2005, thereby contributing to the improvement of transport infrastructure in participating countries. Mongolia had recently ratified the Agreement and other countries, including Indonesia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, were in the process of ratification.

148. The Commission noted that the Republic of Korea would install Asian Highway route signs in compliance with the Agreement and that Indonesia was studying the actions required following ratification.

149. The Commission stressed the importance of the ongoing process of identifying investment needs and priorities for the development of the Asian Highway network and related intermodal connections. It requested the secretariat to continue to promote the development of the network and mobilize financial and technical assistance. It took note of the activities of a number of countries in the area of road maintenance.

150. Taking note of General Assembly resolution 58/289 of 14 April 2004 on improving global road safety, the Commission welcomed information on the initiatives taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the improvement of road safety.

151. The Commission recognized the progress achieved at the Regional Meeting to Draft an Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, held in Bangkok in November 2004, and expressed support for the agreement. In that regard, the Commission requested the secretariat to convene an intergovernmental meeting to finalize the intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway network in 2005 with a view to its adoption at the sixty-second session of the Commission and the organization of a signing ceremony during the ministerial conference on transport to be held in 2006. It stressed the importance of the active participation of all countries in the region involved in the negotiation process.

152. The Commission took note of the efforts of countries to develop their railway infrastructure and recognized the importance of demonstration runs of container block trains. In particular, noting the efforts of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea to reconnect their railway networks, the Commission requested the secretariat to work towards the organization of demonstration runs of container block trains to and from the port of Busan, Republic of Korea, through the railway network on the Korean peninsula. In that regard, the Commission requested the secretariat to address related issues during the third meeting of the Steering Committee on the Planning and Implementation of Container Block Trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor.

153. The Commission noted that further runs would be organized on a number of corridors, including the Korean peninsula to Central Asia, the North-South Corridor (Russian Federation-Islamic Republic of Iran-India) and between Bandar Abbas and Almaty (in conjunction with the opening of the Bafq-Mashad railway line, Islamic Republic of Iran, in the first half of 2005).

154. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue to work towards the development of an integrated, international intermodal transport network in the region. It requested the secretariat to undertake capacity-building activities with regard to intermodal transport development and planning and noted specific requests for assistance made by Indonesia and Thailand.

The Commission noted with appreciation that Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam had received support in the form of a series of subregional and national workshops designed to enhance their skills and knowledge in implementing multimodal transport and logistics.

155. The Commission took note of the progress made in trade and transport facilitation in member countries, including the trade and transport facilitation programme of Pakistan, which aimed at providing access to Afghanistan, China and Central Asian countries through the new port of Gwadar.

156. The Commission emphasized the important role of tourism in socio-economic development and poverty alleviation and eradication and expressed strong support for the work of the secretariat in the area of tourism. It recommended that capacity-building for sustainable development in tourism be accorded high priority.

157. The Commission welcomed the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the Intergovernmental Meeting on Sustainable Tourism Development in Bali from 7 to 9 December 2005 and invited all members and associate members to participate. The representative of Indonesia reaffirmed the plan to hold an exhibition on tourism and transport as a side event at the Meeting.

158. The Commission endorsed the proposal by the Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism at its first session that the following issues be included in the draft agenda of the Intergovernmental Meeting: (a) enhancing the role of tourism in socio-economic development and poverty alleviation; (b) facilitation of travel and development of transport and other tourism-related infrastructures; (c) sociocultural and environmental management of tourism; and (d) human resources development in the tourism sector. Noting that the tsunami in December 2004 had severely affected tourism in several countries in the region, the Commission requested the secretariat to assist those countries in addressing the impact of the crises.

159. The Commission also endorsed the proposal by the Subcommittee for a second phase of the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region (2006-2012) and the recommendation that the items on the draft agenda be included as focus areas to be addressed during the second phase.

Information, communication and space technology

160. The Commission expressed full support for the efforts of the secretariat to provide countries in the region with assistance in capacity-building and the sharing of good practices and experiences in e-commerce, distance education, e-government, the establishment of community e-centres in rural and remote areas and the promotion of public-private partnerships.

161. The Commission expressed appreciation for the secretariat's role in leading and coordinating the regional preparations for the first and the second phases of the World Summit on the Information Society. In particular, it expressed broad support for outcomes of the subregional conferences organized by the secretariat, in collaboration with the host Governments, the International Telecommunication Union and the Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme, in Fiji, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal. It also expressed support for the formulation of a draft regional action plan towards the information society and called for the early implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action and Declaration of Principles.

162. The Commission welcomed with appreciation the hosting of the High-level Asia-Pacific Conference for the World Summit on the Information Society by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran from 31 May to 2 June 2005 and called upon all countries to participate actively in the event. The Commission took the view that the regional action plan to be finalized at that Conference should take fully into account the need to bridge the digital divide by providing rural areas with Internet access and empowering socially disadvantaged groups.

163. The Commission expressed the hope that the discussions at the High-level Conference would result in the development of regional common principles to help to define the meaning and scope of Internet governance. In that regard, one delegation suggested the following definition of Internet governance:

Governance consists of the collective rules, procedures, processes and related programmes that incorporate the expectations, practices and interactions of all stakeholders, resulting in practices and operations that are consistent with the sovereign rights of States and the social and market interests of end-users and operators. It takes into account agreements, including international agreements, on standards, policies, rules and enforcement as well as dispute resolution procedures.

In that connection, the Commission requested the secretariat to conduct a study of the principles common to Internet governance at both the international and domestic levels. While there was general agreement that all stakeholders, especially Governments, had a significant role to play in Internet governance, the view was expressed that the current system of Internet management was effective and sufficient and that no major involvement by Governments was required.

164. The Commission noted that, while ICT could present a tremendous opportunity for sustainable development, it might also result in the globalization of crime through the use of modern technology, especially the Internet.

165. The Commission held the view that, in financing ICT for development, countries in the region had employed different tools and mechanisms, resulting in many successes. It welcomed regional consultations on the issue and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the secretariat in compiling case studies of existing financial mechanisms. It noted that partnership among all stakeholders, including Governments, the private sector and civil society, was the most effective way of raising funds and financing ICT for development and that the private sector could take the lead in such a partnership.

166. The Commission noted the increasing role of the private sector in providing services based on space technology. It requested the secretariat to conduct studies of success stories with a view to advocating public-private partnerships that would help member countries to benefit from such services.

167. The Commission expressed appreciation for the offer made by Japan to enhance cooperation with the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum in the field of space technology.

168. The Commission noted with satisfaction that many countries had implemented ICT application programmes, including the development of community information centres. It took note of the activities carried out by the World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises in the use of ICT.

169. The Commission adopted resolution 61/6 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development in the Republic of Korea, which would contribute to the ESCAP programme of work in the area of training in ICT.

Environment and sustainable development

170. The Commission noted with appreciation the activities of the secretariat related to environment, energy and water resources, including its essential role in achieving the internationally agreed goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and sustainable development.

171. The Commission recommended that the secretariat continue to play an active role at the regional level in the promotion of environmentally sustainable economic growth by strengthening the national capacity of countries in the areas of environment, energy and water resources.

172. The Commission expressed appreciation for the efforts of the secretariat to promote and enhance regional cooperation aimed at promoting sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific effectively, an example being the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Seoul from 24 to 29 March 2005. It endorsed the major recommendations of the Conference as

reflected in the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005, the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2006-2010 and the Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth (Green Growth).

173. The Commission expressed support for the environmentally sustainable approach to economic growth (Green Growth) as a relevant and appropriate regional response in attaining the internationally agreed goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, for poverty reduction and environmental sustainability, and recommended that the secretariat play a catalytic role in creating a conducive environment for sustainable economic growth and environmental conservation, involving all divisions of the secretariat.

174. The Commission expressed support for the implementation of the Seoul Initiative through the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth and called on the members and associate members to participate in the Network.

175. The Commission adopted resolution 61/9 on the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific.

176. The Commission expressed support for the efforts of the secretariat to implement a project to demonstrate pro-poor public-private partnerships for the delivery of basic services, including energy, water, biodiversity and health services, which also provided a good starting point for the promotion of corporate social responsibility.

177. Noting the energy supply challenges stemming from the dynamic growth of the region, the Commission stressed the importance of intraregional cooperation in support of sustainable energy development. In that regard, it expressed appreciation for the efforts of the secretariat to facilitate dialogue on energy cooperation in North-East Asia in order to make optimum use of energy resources in the subregion.

178. The Commission underlined the importance of strengthening subregional cooperation on the environment, including nature protection and the mitigation of dust and sandstorms through various programmes, such as the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Protection, and commended the efforts of the secretariat in that regard.

179. In the light of rising oil prices, the Commission emphasized the need for joint efforts to reduce the use of fossil fuels and promote the use of alternative energy sources, including renewable energy. It requested the secretariat to strengthen its efforts to build national capacity and awareness among members and associate members in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

180. The Commission expressed support for the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, and requested the secretariat to take action

to strengthen cooperation in managing water resources in an integrated manner, particularly in order to reduce the effects of water shortages and drought. It encouraged the secretariat to take an active part in the preparations for the Fourth World Water Forum, to be held in Mexico City in March 2006, which could be linked to the regional efforts in connection with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with regard to water resources management.

181. The Commission expressed support for the secretariat's taking an active role in providing a forum for and facilitating discussions at the regional level on a thematic cluster of issues, encompassing energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution and climate change, as a modality for the regional preparations for the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Emerging social issues

182. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1339, on key issues relating to emerging social issues, E/ESCAP/1340, containing a report on the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum on HIV/AIDS and Development, E/ESCAP/1341, containing the report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes, and E/ESCAP/1358, containing the Regional Framework for Strategic Action: Promoting Health and Sustainable Development.

183. The Commission expressed appreciation of the comprehensive, informative and focused documentation as contained in the documents and commended the secretariat for its efforts to address emerging social issues.

184. The Commission broadly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations made at the first session of the Subcommittee on Socially Vulnerable Groups, held in Bangkok from 13 to 15 September 2004.

185. The Commission called for continuous efforts to meet the goals and commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development, held in 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, held in 2000, especially in the three major areas of poverty reduction, employment expansion and social integration. Further, it urged that the social impact of globalization and the interlinkages between economic and social policies be examined. It requested the secretariat to seek ways to assist members and associate members in achieving the internationally agreed development goals and commitments, particularly with regard to the social integration of disadvantaged groups, the strengthening of cross-generational linkages and social protection and security.

186. The Commission expressed concern over the devastation wrought by the recent tsunami, which had led

to widespread destruction and loss of life in countries of the region. The Government of Indonesia expressed appreciation of the international contributions and support that it had received and sought their continuation in the post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction phases.

187. The Commission emphasized the need to mainstream issues relating to youth, the family, ageing and disability into national development, particularly national poverty reduction strategies. Further, it encouraged the adoption of socially oriented economic policies that reflected interlinkages among poverty reduction, social security, migration and the empowerment of women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

188. The Commission drew special attention to issues related to family development, the goals of the International Year of the Family and the outcome of the Doha International Conference for the Family, held in November 2004. It called for assistance and protection to be extended to the family in recognition of its role as a fundamental unit of society, an untapped resource for economic and social development and a source of support for older members.

189. Noting the importance of partnerships in addressing challenges to social development, the Commission welcomed the efforts of the secretariat to reach out to diverse actors and sectors of society. It requested the secretariat to enhance its capacity to engage all stakeholders in effective partnerships to promote social development, especially at the national level.

190. The Commission noted that international migration was a consequence of globalization and had an impact on the development process of both sending and receiving countries. It urged the adoption of policies and strategies that would facilitate the management of international migration. It noted with concern the plight of migrant workers; in some countries, the majority of those workers were women. One delegation called on member States that had not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

191. The Commission stressed that population ageing posed economic and social challenges to many countries in the region and reaffirmed its commitment to the goals and objectives of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific.

192. The Commission commended the secretariat for its activities in support of the commitments made within the framework of the Shanghai Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific. Several delegations informed the Commission of the laws, social protection policies and other plans in their countries aimed at reducing the risk of poverty in old age and assisting older persons in coping with risks pertaining to health, income security, dependency,

disability and well-being. Further, initiatives had been taken by countries to support intergenerational solidarity, community-based services and family in-home care provision with financial/tax incentives and training.

193. The Commission called on the secretariat to continue to assist members and associate members in addressing the issue of population ageing through technical assistance, advisory services and policy-oriented research and analysis, including an assessment of the future impact of population ageing on social services expenditure, pensions and long-term health-care and investment trends.

194. Several delegations also requested secretariat assistance in tracking progress, exchanging practical information and formulating interventions for improving old-age pensions and safety nets to better address health and social needs. Some delegations also requested the secretariat to strengthen international and regional cooperation in the implementation of programmes for older persons and promote active ageing through better social and economic integration.

195. The Commission requested the secretariat to develop regional projects on fostering enabling and supportive environments, in order to promote intergenerational support and reciprocity between older persons and their families.

196. The Commission noted the progress made since 2003 in implementing the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. It commended the secretariat on its ongoing efforts to promote a paradigm shift from a charity-based approach to a rights-based approach, which had a positive influence on disability policies and programmes at the national and local levels.

197. Several delegations described the policies, programmes and projects that their countries were implementing to eliminate discrimination against people with diverse disabilities and empower disabled citizens and their organizations. In that regard, the Commission recommended that the secretariat hold a high-level intergovernmental meeting in 2007 on the mid-point review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012.

198. The Commission noted some discrepancies in the reporting on the prevalence of disability, which resulted from the conceptual framework adopted and the lack of common definitions and classifications. It urged the secretariat to continue its efforts to develop a common and standardized system for defining and classifying disability.

199. The Commission also noted the close link between poverty and disability and emphasized the importance of introducing disability-sensitive, pro-poor development strategies.

200. Some countries in the region had been participating actively in the regional and international process of elaborating an international convention on the

rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, including participation in the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, which had been established to draft the text. In that regard, the Commission commended the secretariat on the activities that it had organized in the region in support of the process. It reaffirmed its members' continuous support for, and active participation in, the drafting process relating to the convention.

201. The Commission recommended that the secretariat assist in following up on the proposal to establish an ASEAN disability commission at the subregional group meeting of ASEAN delegations during the high-level intergovernmental meeting of ASEAN delegations held as part of the ESCAP-sponsored High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, held in Otsu, Japan, from 25 to 28 October 2002.

202. The Commission broadly endorsed the recommendations contained in the Regional Framework for Strategic Action: Promoting Health and Sustainable Development, which had been adopted by the Subcommittee on Health and Development at its first session, held in Bangkok from 1 to 3 December 2004. The Commission recognized the high value of the Regional Framework as a basis for increased cooperation.

203. WHO commended ESCAP highly for its efforts to bring health into the regional development agenda at its forums for high-level policy deliberations. WHO considered the Regional Framework to be an extremely important document that provided common ground for multisectoral collaboration for health in national development policies and strategies. It reiterated its commitment to working with ESCAP and extending technical support on various health issues.

204. The Commission noted that, in the implementation of its resolution 60/2 of 28 April 2004 on a regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health, the secretariat had collaborated with WHO and pursued multi-stakeholder consultations. The Regional Framework was the main implementation outcome. The Commission drew attention to the importance of capacity-building in public health to meet the increased demand for HIV/AIDS-related services, particularly with regard to the antiretroviral treatment target as established by WHO in its "3 by 5 Initiative".

205. The Commission also noted that globalization had emerged as a powerful force that had to be managed well if its benefits were to be optimized. It requested the secretariat to provide assistance in engaging civil society and the business sector in partnerships to tackle emerging social issues related to globalization. In that regard, the Government of Thailand offered to work closely with ESCAP and share its experience in strengthening its health system and managing the health implications of globalization, including its involvement in the efforts of

ASEAN to strengthen health services in response to the challenges posed by trade liberalization.

206. Some delegations, in noting the challenges that remained in achieving the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, drew attention to outbreaks of SARS and avian influenza and the impact of the tsunami disaster. Serious concern was expressed over the emergence of non-communicable diseases and injuries as a leading cause of death which was rapidly overtaking communicable diseases in the Asian and Pacific region. The Commission requested enhanced secretariat action on the promotion in the region of financing of health for development.

207. The delegation of Japan informed the Commission that the Japanese Government would host the High-level Forum on the Health Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific in Tokyo on 21 and 22 June 2005. It would welcome high-level representation at the Forum from ESCAP member States. Other delegations informed the Commission of their national initiatives to provide more equitable access to health services for the rural poor and government provision of population-wide health services.

208. The Commission expressed concern over the continuous spread of HIV/AIDS and its linkages with poverty, which constituted a challenge to the region's socio-economic development. For effective prevention, care and treatment, it emphasized the need for multisectoral responses involving all stakeholders and leaders at all levels. It expressed appreciation of the fact that some Heads of Government had assumed leadership of national AIDS councils.

209. The Commission noted the need for increased technical and financial assistance in enhancing preventive efforts targeted at vulnerable populations, including youth, women, drug users, migrants and those working in the entertainment industry. It also urged that regional collaboration in addressing HIV/AIDS be increased.

210. The Government of Thailand congratulated ESCAP on the successful implementation of the health component of the pro-poor public-private partnership project in Bangkok. That pilot project demonstrated the benefits for hospital staff and HIV-positive patients of actively involving people living with HIV/AIDS in hospital care delivery financed through collaboration between people living with HIV/AIDS and the private sector.

211. The Commission acknowledged its important role in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action. In that regard, it referred to the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which had reaffirmed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and acknowledged the Bangkok Communiqué adopted by the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes, held in Bangkok from 7 to 10 September 2004.

212. In highlighting the cross-cutting nature of gender concerns, the Commission noted the importance of integrating those concerns into national development policies and action plans, as well as measures to achieve the internationally agreed development goals. In that regard, it recognized the need for fundamental changes in macro-level planning processes to ensure their gender-responsiveness. In expressing its concern over the particular vulnerability of women and girls and the feminization of poverty, in the aftermath of the tsunami, the Commission drew attention to the need for post-disaster relief and recovery to be gender-responsive.

213. The Commission noted the importance of gender-sensitive health information and services for gender equality and for the reduction of maternal mortality, HIV infection and poverty. Noting with appreciation the many government initiatives to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, it recognized the effectiveness of partnership with civil society organizations. It also recognized measures for empowering women in decision-making and in economic participation, including through the use of ICT for the development of knowledge.

214. Several delegations described legislation that had been enacted, policies and action plans adopted and coordination mechanisms established or strengthened to promote women's empowerment and gender equality. The delegation of Malaysia informed the Commission of the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on the Advancement of Women, which had been held in Putrajaya from 7 to 10 May 2005, and the Putrajaya Declaration and Programme of Action on the Advancement of Women in Member Countries of the Non-Aligned Movement. The delegation of Malaysia also informed the Commission that the Meeting had agreed to establish a centre for the advancement of women in Kuala Lumpur and looked forward to future collaboration with ESCAP.

215. The Commission stressed the strategic role and responsibilities of national machineries for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. It requested the secretariat to provide technical assistance in strengthening the capacity of the national machineries.

216. The Commission welcomed the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host a workshop for national machineries for gender equality and women's empowerment in Jakarta in December 2005. The Government requested the secretariat to provide substantive assistance for the successful convening of the workshop.

217. The Commission reaffirmed the urgent need to combat the spread of violence against women, which violated women's human rights and hindered development. Violence against women, including human trafficking, was particularly challenging as it was transnational in nature and required international cooperation and concerted efforts by all stakeholders. To counter such violence, the Commission requested the secretariat to provide assistance in strengthening national

mechanisms for women's empowerment and initiatives that integrated gender equality.

218. The Commission emphasized the importance of the renewed commitment to combating the commercial sexual exploitation of children expressed at the Post-Yokohama Mid-term Review of the East Asia and Pacific Regional Commitment and Action Plan against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Bangkok in November 2004. It noted the follow-up and action plans that the Mid-term Review had catalysed and requested the secretariat to promote and coordinate regional initiatives on combating trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls.

219. The Commission highlighted trafficking in persons as a priority issue of concern. It was proposed that attention be given to intensifying the dissemination of information for preventing trafficking and violence against women and children; capacity-building for developing interventions; strengthening stakeholder partnerships for reproductive health; and combating violence against women and undertaking studies on violence, trafficking and gender-responsive judicial and non-judicial approaches. The Commission noted that the issues of trafficking and the exploitation of women and girls needed to be addressed in strategies to combat HIV/AIDS.

220. The Commission stressed the need for the participation of all concerned, including Governments, NGOs, international organizations and United Nations agencies, in collaborative efforts to combat human trafficking. It sought the secretariat's support in organizing initiatives at the regional level, including the implementation of the programme activities of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

221. The Commission adopted the following resolutions relating to social issues: 61/7 on regional cooperation for the protection of vulnerable people through the promotion of economic and social aspects of human security as a follow-up to the Shanghai Declaration, 61/8 on the mid-point review of the 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, 61/10 on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and 61/12 on a regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health.

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

222. The Commission had before it the report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its seventh session (E/ESCAP/1342) and heard an oral report on secretariat

activities concerning the Pacific island developing countries. It noted the relevant and substantive outcomes of the seventh session of the Special Body and many of the countries endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in its report, specifically those on (a) achieving the internationally agreed development goals as contained in the Millennium Declaration in the least developed and landlocked developing countries, through trade, debt relief and aid, and (b) information, communication and space technology (ICST) for meeting development challenges.

223. The Commission stressed the importance of ICST policies and programmes for the development of education, health, business, commerce and disaster prevention. It requested the secretariat to continue to assist its members in the use of ICST to enable them to attain the internationally agreed development goals.

224. The high cost of transporting goods across national boundaries affected the conduct of international trade in landlocked developing countries adversely. To ensure expansion of the economies in the region and secure their integration into the global economy, the Commission urged landlocked developing countries, transit developing countries and donor countries to deepen their cooperation in economic infrastructure development, trade facilitation and regional cooperation. In that regard, 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 provided the framework for partnership for the development of transit transport. The Commission took note of the activities initiated by its members to develop international transport linkages, especially under the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway, and to facilitate the movement of people and goods across borders.

225. One delegation, noting that island developing countries were economically disadvantaged owing to their small-scale and narrowly-based economies, geographical isolation, difficulty of access to international markets and vulnerability to natural disasters, reiterated the importance of strengthening governance and the need for capacity-building initiatives in those countries. The Commission commended the efforts of the secretariat to revitalize UN-EPOC so that it served the needs of Pacific island developing countries effectively and expressed appreciation of the steps taken to establish the subprogramme on the development of Pacific island developing countries and territories.

226. The Commission noted with appreciation the secretariat's efforts in assisting its members and expressed support for its programme of work. It also recognized the useful role of technical cooperation in supporting the efforts of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries. Since "people" were the focus of development, aid programmes and delivery should focus on furthering their well-being through

poverty reduction and addressing their basic needs. The representative of Thailand announced that his Government would offer technical assistance to the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries under their bilateral programmes as well as through other modalities, including regional and trilateral cooperation with donor communities. The delegation of Indonesia announced that its Government, in cooperation with ESCAP, had conducted an international training programme on remote sensing and geographic information systems which had also been attended by participants from some least developed and landlocked developing countries in the region, and extended its invitation to other member countries to participate in its next training programme, to be conducted in July 2005. The representative of Japan made reference to the triennial Pacific island summits which had been hosted by Japan since 1997 and, in particular, the Okinawa Initiative: Regional Development Strategy for a More Prosperous and Safer Pacific, based on the human security concept, which had, as its priorities, security, education and capacity-building, environment, health and sanitation, and trade and economic development.

227. The Commission noted that the global mid-term review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 was scheduled to be held in 2006. The regional mid-term review of the Programme of Action should be undertaken as the basis for an input from the Asian and Pacific region to the global review.

228. A number of Pacific island country delegations urged the secretariat to convene the ninth session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries as scheduled in 2006, as that would enable discussions on (a) follow-up to the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and (b) generation of income and employment opportunities for vulnerable groups in the Pacific.

229. The Commission also expressed support for the secretariat's initiative in organizing a Pacific leaders summit during the sixty-second session of the Commission to assess the progress made towards attainment of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits and to discuss ways and means of integrating Pacific island economies into the economic dynamism of the Asian region. It noted that the summit would also discuss the role of the Commission in the process of integrating regional policies and goals, such as those contained in the Pacific Plan, with international agreements.

230. The Commission adopted resolution 61/11 on the implementation of 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.

Management issues

Implementation of Commission resolution 58/1: mid-term review of the revised conference structure

231. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1343, containing a report on the implementation of Commission resolution 58/1 of 22 May 2002 prepared in compliance with paragraphs 4 and 6 of that resolution, in which it had requested the Executive Secretary to explore innovative ways to bring about greater ministerial participation and more active exchanges among representatives at the sessions of the Commission and to report to the Commission at subsequent sessions on the implementation of the resolution. It had also called for a mid-term review to be conducted during the sixty-first session concerning the functioning of the conference structure, especially in terms of improving efficiency and attracting higher and wider representation from members and associate members.

232. The Commission noted with appreciation the progress which the secretariat had made with the conference restructuring and the successful completion of one full meeting cycle of the subsidiary bodies.

233. The Commission noted the preliminary reviews of the functioning of the conference structure carried out by ACPR members and the secretariat. It acknowledged the feedback from the reviews that the conference structure had resulted in a high frequency of meetings and high costs. It also noted that meeting fatigue had been another outcome of the conference structure. It noted, however, that even if the number of meetings were reduced, the number of days would increase and members would still be burdened.

234. The Commission noted the views of some delegations that fewer and more focused meetings, reasonably spaced out, would be preferable, more efficient and reduce costs. It recognized that the allocation of adequate resources to the substantive areas of work produced direct benefits to members.

235. The Commission noted various proposals and options for modification of the conference structure. It also noted the reservations expressed concerning any major changes at the mid-term review point. A compromise solution was therefore considered to be necessary and possible. One delegation noted that any changes in the conference structure should be allowed a reasonable time span in which to operate before another change was considered.

236. The Commission noted that specific options for changing the conference structure, with the aim of reducing meetings and related costs, were contained in a draft resolution submitted by the Government of Japan for consideration by the Commission. It noted the support for the resolution and expected that a consensus would be reached on mid-term changes to the conference structure.

237. The Commission adopted resolution 61/1 on the mid-term review concerning the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission.

Programme planning and evaluation

Draft programme of work for the period 2006-2007

238. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1344, containing the draft programme of work for the period 2006-2007.

239. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the draft programme of work reflected the response of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly mandate to strengthen the United Nations by aligning the new strategic framework with the biennial programme budget, included a new subprogramme on Pacific island developing countries and fully incorporated the planned activities of the regional institutions into the relevant subprogrammes. The draft programme of work for 2006-2007 followed the format of the two-year strategic framework that had been endorsed by the Commission at its sixtieth session and approved by the General Assembly in December 2004. The draft programme of work had been reviewed by ACPR in early 2005.

240. The Commission endorsed the draft programme of work, 2006-2007, and commended the secretariat for addressing the priority needs of members and associate members. It noted that the draft programme of work reflected the strategic framework endorsed by the Commission and expressed full support for the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement in the programme.

241. The Commission expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the establishment of subprogramme 3, Development of Pacific island countries and territories, thus recognizing the special needs of Pacific island economies. It acknowledged the efforts undertaken by the secretariat to strengthen UN-EPOC and the usefulness of the technical assistance provided to Pacific island countries under South-South cooperation. However, it noted the continuing need and desire of Pacific island economies to access that technical assistance.

242. The Commission urged all development partners to support the implementation of the programme of work and encouraged the secretariat to coordinate its work with other United Nations agencies to avoid possible duplication of work and achieve greater cost-effectiveness. It encouraged further enhancement of the evaluation component, especially in terms of assessing the quantitative and qualitative aspects of indicators, by taking into account the views of relevant stakeholders.

243. The Commission noted that the focus of the draft programme of work was on regional cooperation and suggested that the Shanghai Declaration adopted at the sixtieth session of the Commission should provide

the road map for ESCAP activities. The importance of poverty reduction and trade and investment were highlighted as two interrelated issues of primary importance that could be addressed through regional cooperation.

244. One delegation pointed out that the least developed and landlocked developing countries faced the danger of being marginalized and that ESCAP should therefore pay special attention to their interests in order that they might fully benefit from globalization.

245. One delegation proposed that, in the area of technical cooperation, best practices in addressing environment and sustainable development issues in the region should be identified and used as case studies for further capacity-building activities.

246. One delegation highlighted issues to which ESCAP should give priority in implementing the programme of work, including post-disaster reconstruction in tsunami- and earthquake-affected areas, development of early warning systems, infrastructure development, development of SMEs, health and development, reducing the digital divide and making globalization beneficial for all.

247. One delegation suggested additional studies on mitigating poverty in large cities, technical cooperation projects on small-area poverty statistics, expansion of the informal employment project to include additional subregions and countries, inclusion of other socially vulnerable groups in the development of statistical standards, technical cooperation projects using small-scale and micro-industries for rural income generation, and a field project to support tourism expansion as an export and poverty reduction tool. It was also suggested that the 2006-2007 performance measure target for strengthening transboundary collaboration on sustainable development be increased from five to seven.

Review of the work of the ESCAP regional institutions

248. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1345-1348, containing the reports of the regional institutions, namely, APCTT, APCAEM, CAPSA and SIAP.

249. The Executive Secretary, in his introduction, pointed out that, during the second phase of the fifty-ninth session, the Commission had reviewed the results of the evaluation of the regional institutions and had recommended realignment of their work to contribute to the expected accomplishments of the relevant ESCAP subprogrammes. He informed the Commission that the statutes of all the regional institutions had now been harmonized so that their workplans were subject to the established intergovernmental review and approval process.

250. The Commission noted with satisfaction the achievements made by the four regional institutions over the course of the year.

251. The Commission welcomed the ongoing efforts to realign the regional institutions, including the revision of their statutes, and noted the importance of further strengthening coordination between the regional institutions and all stakeholders, including relevant United Nations entities and other international organizations.

252. One delegation deemed it important to maintain well-defined channels of communication, reporting and consultations between member States and the secretariat on such issues as the priorities of the institutions, the appointment of staff and the implementation of the programme of work. It expressed the view that the governing councils of the institutions should be given adequate support to fulfil their functions.

253. One delegation expressed the belief that the work of the ESCAP regional institutions was of paramount significance in the delivery of results-based development projects in the region and that it was important to further enhance their role through well-targeted activities in line with their respective mandates. That would require an integrated management vision as well as continuous support from donors and development partners. That delegation noted with concern the problems faced by some regional institutions in terms of adequacy and sustainability of financial resources and welcomed the efforts of the secretariat to incorporate such resources into the ESCAP programme budget proposal for 2006-2007.

254. The Commission recommended that the technical assistance activities of APCTT include the areas of ICT, biotechnology and nanotechnology and that APCTT promote information exchange and collaboration among researchers in member countries.

255. One delegation recommended that APCTT conduct joint research projects in material technology, metrology (including support for a tsunami early warning system) and space technology.

256. Another delegation recommended that APCTT further promote technology transfer support services, including the establishment of a regional databank network, for SMEs.

257. The delegation of India expressed support for new activities by APCTT, in particular for the promotion of national innovation systems, and mentioned that it had contributed \$100,000 to APCTT for the purpose. It also requested member countries to show their support for the Centre by contributing experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis.

258. Recognizing the importance and relevance of national innovation systems in a knowledge-based globalizing economy, one delegation recommended that the training programme on innovation system network management be one of the priority areas of the Centre's technology transfer programme, in addition to technology transfer support services for SMEs and emerging technologies.

259. The following countries indicated their candidacy for the APCTT Governing Council: Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

260. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the statute of the Centre, along with the host country, India, the Commission elected the following countries to the Governing Council of the Centre for the period 2005-2008: Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

261. One delegation noted that, following the concerted efforts of ESCAP and the Government of China, APCAEM had been in operation for over a year and the Government of China had shown commitment and flexibility in supporting not only the institutional cost of the Centre but also specific activities, including co-sponsorship by the Chinese Academy of Engineering and APCAEM of international fruit and vegetable expositions in Yantai, China. That delegation expressed the hope that ESCAP would continue to give substantial support to the activities of APCAEM to ensure the sustained development of the Centre.

262. One delegation stressed the need to expand the future activities of APCAEM to include implementing regional joint projects and/or pilot projects at the national level, exchanging views and experiences and conducting studies and research to identify problems and the capabilities and key practices required to promote regional agricultural mechanization activities.

263. One delegation noted that the scope of the work of APCAEM covered technical cooperation among the members and associate members of ESCAP through extensive exchange of information and technology transfer in post-harvest technologies, the processing of fruit and other produce and the enhancement of research and development in agricultural engineering. All those areas required the use of modern agricultural machinery developed in technologically advanced countries, which could be adapted and applied to food safety processing systems in the Asian and Pacific region. Such work could help to increase the income of farmers, eventually leading to poverty reduction.

264. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced his Government's willingness to play a more active role in APCAEM and its support for the programme of activities of APCAEM for 2005 as reflected in document E/ESCAP/1346, including the production of a catalogue of commercially successful machinery and dissemination of information to members through an information network on the APCAEM website. The representative expressed appreciation for the efforts of APCAEM in organizing regional workshops and requested it to continue providing facilities for experts from the Islamic Republic of Iran to benefit from such workshops.

265. A number of delegations urged all ESCAP members to support the strengthening of CAPSA,

including increased financial support, to ensure that the Centre was adequately resourced for the effective implementation of its work programme.

266. One delegation noted the importance of poverty reduction through secondary crop development given the prevalence of subsistence farming and extreme poverty in the region. It also noted the need to avoid duplication of work through cooperation with related organizations.

267. The representative of Indonesia announced his Government's strong support for CAPSA and its role in supporting poverty reduction in the region and informed the Commission that the Government of Indonesia had increased its voluntary contribution to CAPSA to 767 million rupiahs in 2004, in addition to assisting in the refurbishment of the CAPSA premises. The delegation of Indonesia also noted the successful convening of the first session of the Governing Council of CAPSA at the Centre's premises in April 2005.

268. One delegation expressed the view that ESCAP should continue to strengthen its financial and institutional support for CAPSA to ensure its relevance and benefit to ESCAP member countries.

269. The delegation of Japan announced the intention of the Government of Japan to provide SIAP with a cash contribution of \$1,682,580 and an in kind contribution equivalent to \$1,819,400. The Government of Japan, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, also intended to provide 73 participants with fellowships for SIAP courses.

270. The delegation of Japan expressed appreciation for the contributions to SIAP made by ESCAP member countries and other international organizations, including UNDP, and recognized the efforts made by the Director of SIAP in seeking that support. However, it urged ESCAP members to provide SIAP with further support through increased cash contributions or in kind support, such as the provision of experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis.

271. The following countries indicated their candidacies for the SIAP Governing Council: Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Thailand.

272. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the statute of the Institute, the Commission elected the following countries to join Japan, the host country, as members of the SIAP Governing Council for the period 2005-2010: China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea and Thailand.

273. The Commission adopted the following four resolutions relating to the regional institutions: 61/2 on the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, 61/3 on the statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, 61/4 on the statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and 61/5 on the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific. In addition,

the Commission adopted resolution 61/6 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development as a new ESCAP regional institution.

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its audit of the regional commissions

274. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1349, containing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on its audit of the regional commissions (A/58/785), and document E/ESCAP/1350, containing a summary of key recommendations and actions taken by ESCAP on the OIOS audit report.

275. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the Fifth Committee had considered the OIOS report and requested that it be submitted to the intergovernmental bodies of the regional commissions. He stated that the focus of the ESCAP portion of the audit had been limited to the issue of extrabudgetary resource mobilization and that ESCAP had already implemented the recommendations concerned.

276. The Commission expressed support for the audit report and welcomed the implementation by ESCAP of the audit recommendations. It urged the secretariat to further enhance its collaboration with other United Nations organizations and requested it to continue providing information, through ACPR, on the results of actions related to the audit report recommendations.

277. One delegation noted the recommendation that focused on fewer, larger-sized extrabudgetary projects. It noted with appreciation the adoption by ESCAP of a policy on larger-scale multidisciplinary projects by using results-based planning as a means of creating a greater impact in its technical cooperation work.

278. One delegation noted the usefulness of the OIOS report, in particular the chapter on the management of the governance structures of the regional commissions. It also noted that considerable improvement had been achieved in that field in the Asian and Pacific region. It emphasized the need to further improve the quality of ESCAP publications so that they were more succinct, avoided duplication and attached importance to the dissemination of information to member countries.

279. One delegation emphasized the importance of transregional cooperation in the process of globalization. Priority should be given to promoting interaction between experts at the interregional level, particularly in such sectors as transport and ICT. The same delegation noted the importance of establishing a databank for regional projects to facilitate mobilization of resources from the public and private sectors as well as regional and international funds. It felt that ESCAP

could play a key role in managing the transfer of best practices on South-South cooperation within the region. In expressing appreciation for the preparation of ESCAP publications, it also requested the secretariat to disseminate information through appropriate instruments, such as the ESCAP website.

Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

280. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1351, containing an overview of the secretariat's technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions in 2004.

281. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that, in 2004, the secretariat had continued to implement its reform efforts, in line with its technical cooperation strategy. The primary goal of the reform was to increase the impact of ESCAP technical cooperation work. The trend towards longer-term, integrated, multidisciplinary and more catalytic projects had continued in 2004. Partnerships with United Nations and other multilateral agencies, Governments and civil society had also been strengthened.

282. The Executive Secretary reported that, in 2004, the secretariat had continued its efforts in programme and project monitoring and evaluation and had conducted four major mid-term reviews and one in-depth external evaluation.

283. In the context of the reform of the Secretariat, United Nations bodies and agencies were expected to realign all efforts to focus on the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. In that connection, the Executive Secretary indicated that the overarching aim of the ESCAP technical cooperation programme was to assist its members and associate members in attaining those development goals through capacity-building.

284. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that ESCAP projects focused mainly on five of the eight goals in the Millennium Declaration, in areas where the secretariat had strong comparative advantages, namely, Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women; Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability; and Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development. Equally important, ESCAP also supported countries in the region in implementing the outcomes of major United Nations conferences, both regional and global.

285. The Executive Secretary reported to the Commission that the contributions received by the secretariat in 2004 for technical cooperation activities, from sources both within and outside the United Nations, totalled approximately \$11.5 million. However, that amount did not include additional

multimillion dollar contributions, the allocation of which had had to be deferred to 2005 owing to a delay in the conclusion of the final details of the relevant agreements. That was expected to significantly raise the level of extrabudgetary contributions to ESCAP for its technical cooperation work in 2005 and subsequent years. In terms of delivery, the volume of ESCAP technical cooperation activities in 2004 totalled approximately \$11.3 million.

286. The Commission commended the secretariat for the comprehensive report on technical cooperation activities in 2004. It expressed appreciation for the technical cooperation work carried out by ESCAP in support of the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals. It called for larger-scale technical cooperation projects to increase the impact of ESCAP technical cooperation work and reduce transaction costs. It noted the need to further increase partnership with other agencies and international organizations to avoid duplication of work. Some member countries stressed the need to accord priority to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island countries and the importance of training in the context of South-South cooperation.

287. The Commission noted the contributions pledged by members and associate members for 2005 as described below.

288. *Brunei Darussalam.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Brunei Darussalam would make the following contributions:

	\$
Pacific Trust Fund	1 000
SIAP	15 000

289. *Cambodia.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Cambodia would make the following contributions:

	\$
ESCAP programme of work	1 000
SIAP	1 000

290. *China.* The representative of China indicated the Government's strong support for the work of ESCAP in technical cooperation and noted that China had taken an active part in those activities. China reconfirmed its pledge of \$3.8 million in cash and in kind support in the amount of Y11 million over five years for institutional support for APCAEM, as well as a \$20,000 regular annual contribution to APCAEM. It also indicated that it was considering contributions in other areas. China recalled the support it had provided at the sixtieth session of the Commission, held in Shanghai in 2004. The representative of China announced the following contributions:

	\$
China-ESCAP Trust Fund	150 000
SIAP	40 000

In addition to the \$150,000 contribution, China would contribute Y1 million for the China-ESCAP Trust Fund; other contributions were possible.

291. *India.* The representative of India had indicated the following contributions at an earlier meeting:

	\$
APCTT	200 000 (equivalent in rupees)
CAPSA	10 000
SIAP	15 000
APCAEM	15 000

292. *Indonesia.* The representative of Indonesia expressed appreciation for the secretariat's reform efforts aimed at increasing the impact of the technical cooperation work through a result-based approach, larger-scale, multi-year technical cooperation projects and increased partnership with other agencies. Indonesia expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by ESCAP through the pro-poor public-private partnership project on renewable energy in a village in West Java which provided electricity for the rural communities and an additional source of income for the people. The delegation highlighted the specific South-South cooperation training programmes in such areas as remote sensing and geographical information system technologies for integrated land and water resources management. Indonesia invited the secretariat to explore possible joint projects with the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation, based in Jakarta. Indonesia requested the secretariat to design specific technical cooperation activities for regions affected by tsunamis and earthquakes. Indonesia announced its intention to provide the same level of contributions as in previous years.

293. *Islamic Republic of Iran.* The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran noted the key role that the ESCAP secretariat played in the development and implementation of regional development activities. ESCAP was requested to announce training opportunities to member countries well in advance in order to ensure greater participation, as well as to increase the involvement of subregional organizations, such as the Economic Cooperation Organization, in ESCAP technical cooperation activities. Finally, the delegation noted the need for ESCAP to create a mechanism for furthering the participation of all countries in activities related to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals. The following contributions were announced:

	\$
ESCAP programme of work	20 000
SIAP	10 000
APCTT	10 000

294. *Japan.* The representative of Japan expressed appreciation for the technical cooperation activities implemented by ESCAP and its role in facilitating the internationally agreed goals. Japan announced a contribution of \$250,000 for the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund. Japan would also contribute to SIAP at a level similar to that of the previous year. Japan intended to expand the provision of funds for technical cooperation activities of the secretariat through the Human Security Trust Fund, which focused on the empowerment of individuals at the community level. Finally, the representative of Japan requested the secretariat to continue to enhance its monitoring and evaluation work, as well as to strengthen its coordination with other relevant international organizations and NGOs.

295. *Lao People's Democratic Republic.* The representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic expressed appreciation for the technical cooperation work of ESCAP and announced that the Lao People's Democratic Republic would make contributions at the same level as in 2004.

296. *Macao, China.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Macao, China, would make a contribution of \$12,000 for SIAP.

297. *Malaysia.* The representative of Malaysia reiterated the continued commitment of the Government to promoting the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and noted that Malaysia had benefited from advisory services, fellowships and training. Malaysia confirmed its intended contributions as follows:

	\$
APCTT	15 000
SIAP	10 000
CCOP	50 000

298. *Mongolia.* The delegation of Mongolia indicated that its Government was considering a contribution to the technical cooperation activities of the secretariat. Mongolia greatly appreciated the ESCAP technical cooperation activities, which played an important role in the economic development of the country and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals. The representative of Mongolia requested that the secretariat's technical cooperation programme also help to integrate least developed countries and landlocked developing countries into mainstream development processes.

299. *Myanmar.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Myanmar would make the following contributions:

	\$
ESCAP programme of work	2 000
CAPSA	1 000
SIAP	1 000

300. *Pakistan.* The Government of Pakistan would contribute \$15,000 for SIAP.

301. *Republic of Korea.* The delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed its Government's gratitude to ESCAP for its technical cooperation activities. The Republic of Korea supported the integrated programme approach in the context of results-based management. The Republic of Korea would promote technology cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region and had funded the post of the Director of APCTT.

302. *Samoa.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Samoa would make a contribution of \$1,000 for SIAP. It had also been indicated that the Government had established its own South-South cooperation facility and would no longer need to use the secretariat's supplementary fund.

303. *Sri Lanka.* The representative of Sri Lanka stressed the importance of ESCAP work in technical cooperation and stated that Sri Lanka had benefited from those activities, including training in environmental management and third-party training programmes in the context of South-South cooperation. Sri Lanka announced the following intended contributions, subject to final budgetary approval:

	\$
SIAP	10 000
APCAEM	5 000
APCTT	5 000

Other contributions were also under consideration.

304. *Thailand.* The representative of Thailand announced the following contributions:

	\$
APCAEM	15 000
APCTT	15 000
CAPSA	10 000
SIAP	20 000
Trust fund for the participation of the disadvantaged economies in transition and Mongolia	2 000
Pacific Trust Fund	1 000

Thailand would also contribute \$40,000 and 1,550,043 baht to CCOP, \$12,000 to the Typhoon Committee and \$2,000 to the Tropical Cyclones Trust Fund.

305. *Viet Nam.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Viet Nam would make contributions at the same level as in 2004 to the ESCAP programme of work, APCAEM, APCTT and SIAP.

306. In his concluding remarks, the Executive Secretary expressed gratitude to all donor and developing countries, funding agencies within the United Nations system and other organizations for their generous contributions in 2004 and their strong support for the ESCAP technical cooperation programme. He also acknowledged with appreciation the pledges of

intended contributions by members and associate members for 2005. He noted that the changes introduced in project planning and design would further concentrate the secretariat's technical cooperation activities in fewer and larger-scale multi-year projects to produce a greater impact.

307. The Executive Secretary stressed that the future looked bright for ESCAP in the field of technical cooperation. Several funding agreements were close to conclusion for multimillion dollar contributions. For instance, the Republic of Korea had informed the secretariat of its intention to provide a \$1 million contribution for tsunami-related technical cooperation activities. In addition, Thailand had pledged a \$10 million contribution for the establishment of a voluntary trust fund under the management of ESCAP in support of a regional tsunami early warning system and the Republic of Korea had made a five-year \$10 million pledge for a proposed regional ICT centre.

308. The Executive Secretary assured the Commission that the secretariat would continue to accord importance to activities related to the implementation of Commission resolution 60/3 of 28 April 2004 on the work of ESCAP in implementing its technical cooperation projects. The secretariat would also exert its best efforts to further enhance the effectiveness of its technical cooperation programme to respond to the needs of the developing members and associate members in attaining the goals as contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular the needs of the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Finally, he expressed appreciation for the third-country training programmes offered by India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand, in the context of South-South cooperation.

Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

309. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1352 and Add.1 containing the report of ACPR, which was introduced by the representative of China, the ACPR Rapporteur.

310. In keeping with its terms of reference, ACPR had maintained close cooperation between the members and the secretariat of the Commission, advised the Executive Secretary on issues related to the work of ESCAP and reviewed relevant documents prior to their submission at the Commission session. ACPR had played a valuable role in keeping the representatives of member States in other United Nations forums informed of the problems and concerns of the region in general and of the secretariat in particular. Likewise, the Executive Secretary had briefed ACPR at each regular session on his recent official missions.

311. Since the sixtieth session of the Commission, ACPR had held 10 regular sessions, 6 Informal Working Group meetings, 1 special session, 1 informal session and 1 retreat. At its special session, ACPR had reviewed in detail the draft programme of work for 2006-2007. At the informal session, it had had the occasion to meet with representatives of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on 8 June 2004. At its regular sessions, ACPR had considered a number of issues related to programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, including the implementation of the programme of work for 2004-2005, and the proposed calendar of meetings and training programmes for the period January to December 2005. A monthly briefing by the secretariat on ongoing ESCAP initiatives enabled ACPR members to comment on projects and issues during their implementation.

312. ACPR had been actively involved in reviewing the outcomes of recent sessions of the Commission, in particular the report on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the Commission at its sixtieth and previous sessions. It had also worked with the secretariat in planning for the sixty-first session of the Commission and reviewing initial plans for the sixty-second session. In addition, ACPR had reviewed and discussed the preparations for and outcomes of many other recent, key meetings organized by the secretariat, including the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes, held in Bangkok from 7 to 10 September 2004, the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Seoul from 24 to 29 March 2005, the first sessions of the Governing Council and Technical Committee of CAPSA, held in Bogor, Indonesia, from 4 to 7 April 2005, and the seventh session of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Bangkok on 10 and 11 May 2005. Other meeting reviews had covered the outcomes of the first sessions of the seven subcommittees and preparations for the mid-term review of Commission resolution 58/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission. From 4 to 6 November 2004, ACPR had held a retreat in Hua Hin, Thailand, to discuss results-based management and budgeting.

313. ACPR had also reviewed the format of the résumé of discussions at ACPR sessions, the report on the OIOS audit of the regional commissions and the outcome of the review of the ESCAP strategic framework for 2006-2007 by the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

314. The Commission took note of the vital role of ACPR in advising the secretariat and the Executive Secretary on matters related to programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, as well as on the content of legislative and other intergovernmental meetings. It expressed appreciation to the secretariat for performing effectively and efficiently and providing outstanding services. It encouraged ACPR to constantly revitalize

itself with a view to advising the Executive Secretary more effectively on matters related to the mandate of ESCAP and its programme of work. It remarked that ACPR would need to continue to play a crucial role in making concrete and pragmatic proposals and collaborating closely for the benefit of the region.

315. The Commission noted with appreciation the constructive dialogue between the secretariat and ACPR. It underscored the considerable consultations on the mid-term review of the revised conference structure. The secretariat was requested to sustain the momentum by continuing to effectively implement resolutions adopted by the Commission and to inform ACPR of the outcome of its work, including missions and meetings and the implementation of the programme of work.

316. One delegation expressed continued support for ACPR and made recommendations to enhance its work. It also expressed the hope that all members and associate members would participate actively in the revitalization of ESCAP. The secretariat should seek ways to further improve its services and products, taking into account the views of the permanent representatives, and ACPR should conduct its sessions innovatively, inter alia, by including interesting topics, programmes and activities in its agenda.

317. The Commission expressed appreciation to both the Rapporteur for presenting the summary of ACPR activities and the secretariat for its hard work and recognized the important role of ACPR in enhancing the work of ESCAP.

318. The Commission requested the secretariat to rephrase paragraph 14 of document E/ESCAP/1352/Add.1 as follows:

A report was presented to ACPR on the successful outcome of the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Seoul from 24 to 29 March 2005. The Conference had promoted the theme of "Green Growth" and confirmed strong support for improving environmental sustainability by promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, with developed countries taking the lead. The members also agreed and adopted the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2006-2010, and the Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth.

Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia

319. The Commission had before it the report of CCOP, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1353).

320. The Commission noted that CCOP had devoted itself to promoting capacity-building, technology transfer, exchange of information and institutional linkages for sustainable resource development, management of geo-information, geo-hazard mitigation and protection of the environment. A total of 29 technical meetings/workshops had been successfully completed and attended by around 800 participants from the member countries and consisted of 23 activities in the geo-resources sector, 2 in the geo-environment sector and 4 in the geo-information sector. In the geo-resources sector, the petroleum policy and management project supported by the Government of Norway, with case studies in Cambodia, China, Indonesia and the Philippines, had continued. The series of dedicated bilateral seminars held through the International Programme for Petroleum Management and Administration on specialized topics in the petroleum sector and the Global Mineral Resource Assessment Project, supported by the United States Geological Survey, had continued. The Government of Denmark had approved a three-year project, for the period from 2005 to 2007, on capacity-building in the petroleum sector of CCOP member countries, which had commenced in January 2005.

321. The Commission noted that, in the geo-environment sector, the project on the development of techniques on landslide hazard assessment supported by the Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources had continued with workshops and visits by experts to some member countries. The training of young scientists involved in volcanic hazard mitigation had been carried out in the first field workshop conducted in Japan, supported by the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology and the Geological Survey of Japan. Two coastal zone programmes, the integrated geological assessment of deltas in South-East Asia in conjunction with the International Union of Geological Sciences/International Geological Correlation Programme DeltaMAP Scientific Project No. 475 and the Strategy for Coastal Environment Management of the Asian Delta Region, both supported by Japan, were undertaken. In the geo-information sector, with the support of UNESCO and the International Centre for Training and Exchanges in the Geosciences in France, work on the translation of 6,000 geoscientific terms for a multilingual thesaurus in the national languages of CCOP member countries was in progress, as was the development of the South-East Asian network for a geoscience bibliography, which was currently available on the Web. A training course on the goal-oriented project planning technique supported by the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany was conducted with the application of the technique in a case study.

322. The Commission took note of the initiatives of CCOP in response to the 26 December 2004 tsunami, particularly the organization of an international seminar on tsunamis in cooperation with the Department of

Mineral Resources of Thailand and the project planning workshop on tsunamis, which had resulted in the development of a project document on a multinational and collaborative programme on geo-hazards, particularly tsunamis. It also took note of the request of CCOP for a partnership to enable the immediate and timely implementation of the project. It further took note of the request of member countries for the provision of continued support for geoscience as a tool for sustainable development, natural disaster risk assessment, mitigation and rehabilitation and to strengthen cooperation with CCOP in the implementation of its geoscientific programmes.

323. The Commission noted the high level of the activities conducted by CCOP for the benefit of its member countries. It also noted the strong commitment of the member countries and the enhanced level of support from cooperating countries and organizations. It noted with satisfaction the close cooperation between CCOP and ESCAP in undertaking joint activities and information exchange.

324. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of China to host the forty-second annual session of CCOP from 13 to 18 September 2005 and the forty-sixth meeting of the Steering Committee of CCOP on 19 and 20 September 2005, in Beijing.

325. The Commission noted with appreciation the assistance extended by the cooperating countries and organizations for CCOP activities. It also noted with appreciation the support given by the Government of Thailand through its Department of Mineral Resources in providing excellent facilities for its smooth operation in Bangkok.

Mekong River Commission

326. The Commission had before it the report of the Mekong River Commission (MRC), transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1354).

327. The Commission noted that the year 2005 marked the tenth anniversary of the signing of the 1995 Agreement on Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin, and took note of the tangible and important achievements made in all areas of the work of MRC over the previous 10 years. It took special note of the important achievements and progress made by MRC in 2004 in the implementation of its core, support and sector programmes, which had progressed well with strong support from the donors and partners.

328. The Commission noted the effective dialogue between the four downstream riparian countries of MRC and the two upstream co-basin countries, China and Myanmar, and particularly the fruitful discussions at the Ninth Dialogue Meeting, held in August 2004.

329. The Commission considered that, in the years to come, cooperation among the Mekong riparian countries would become more important, given that all of those countries were entering new stages of development, which, in order to be sustainable, would require reasonable, equitable use and sound management of the water-related resources in the basins. It noted the challenges for MRC to mobilize financial resources for its Basin Development Plan, phase 2, the Navigation Programme, the Data and Information Management Programme, the Hydropower Programme and the Tourism Programme.

330. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the effective collaboration between MRC and the secretariat in various areas, especially integrated water resources management and related capacity-building, and requested the secretariat to continue its support for MRC, including that related to technical and managerial training.

Typhoon Committee

331. The Commission had before it the report of the Typhoon Committee, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1355).

332. The Commission noted the significant achievements and progress made by the Committee in 2004, in particular in strengthening regional cooperation, in its operations as a subregional organization dealing with disaster prevention and preparedness and in mobilizing financial resources to support its activities. The Commission took note of the important increase in support extended by several countries and organizations for the activities of the Committee in 2004, especially the contribution of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan and the Ministry of Construction and Transportation of the Republic of Korea.

333. In the area of strengthening regional cooperation, the Commission noted the decision of the Typhoon Committee to adopt a new structure for itself and its subsidiary bodies, including the Typhoon Committee Secretariat. The Commission noted the new terms of reference of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary of the Committee as well as those of the various working groups, including the newly established Advisory Working Group to oversee the planning and budgeting process, the Working Group on Meteorology and the Working Group on Disaster Prevention and Preparedness, following the important achievements of the Working Group on Hydrology. It also noted the decision of the Committee to hold its thirty-eighth session in Hanoi in November 2005, at the invitation of the Government of Viet Nam.

334. The Commission noted with appreciation the strong commitment and firm support of all the members of the Committee for its work. The continued cooperation of ESCAP with WMO in supporting the Committee was also noted.

Panel on Tropical Cyclones

335. The Commission had before it the report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1356).

336. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress achieved by the Panel in 2004 under the meteorological, hydrological, disaster prevention and preparedness, training and research components of its programme of work. It noted the significant progress made in the installation of point-to-point circuits required for the connection of the countries to the Global Telecommunication System of WMO. It also noted with satisfaction that the members of the Panel had continued to cooperate well in the exchange of hydrological data on international river basins for the further improvement of flood forecasting services.

337. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Panel at its thirty-second session, held in New Delhi in February 2005, had organized a technical conference on water-related disasters with special reference to storm surges and tsunamis and related early warning systems as part of an effort to integrate possible regional activities related to tsunamis into the existing framework of cyclone-related disaster preparedness. It also noted with appreciation the Panel's plan to contribute to the strengthening of the coordination of national, regional and international efforts to establish an integrated early warning system. In that regard, it noted with satisfaction the decision of the Panel to continue its efforts to implement an effective regional early warning system on storm surges in the Panel area in the near future.

338. The Commission expressed appreciation for the long-standing cooperation between ESCAP and WMO in supporting the Panel in the preparation for, and mitigation of, disasters caused by tropical cyclones. It acknowledged the important contribution of the Indian Institute of Technology at Kharagpur to the building up of the technical capacity of all Panel members in storm surge warning and that of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre in New Delhi with regard to the issuance of advisories on tropical cyclones.

339. The Commission invited the secretariat and WMO to continue their support for the activities of the Panel.

Date, venue and theme topic for the sixty-second session of the Commission

340. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1357. It welcomed the generous offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the sixty-second session from 20 to 26 April 2006.

341. The Commission endorsed "Enhancing regional cooperation in infrastructure development, including that related to disaster management" as the theme topic for the sixty-second session.

342. One delegation expressed the desire that the issue of the management of international migration for development be considered as a possible subtopic for the sixty-second session of the Commission.

Ministerial Round Table on Financing for Development

343. The Ministerial Round Table on Financing for Development was divided into two sessions. The first session consisted of presentations by the Executive Secretary on the theme topic "Implementing the Monterrey Consensus in the Asian and Pacific region: achieving coherence and consistency" and by Mr. Suman K. Bery, Director-General, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, on "Development, investment requirements and resource mobilization issues of the region", which were followed by an interactive open discussion.

344. The second session consisted of presentations by Mr. Narongchai Akrasanee, Chairman, Seranee Holdings Co. Ltd., and former Minister of Commerce and Senator of Thailand, on the theme "Domestic resource mobilization: role of the private sector" and by Mr. Y.C. Park, Research Professor and Director, Center for International Trade and Finance, Graduate School of International Studies, Seoul National University, on the theme "An Asian Investment Fund: what it will do and why needed", followed by an interactive open discussion.

345. The Ministerial Round Table was opened by the Chairperson of the sixty-first session of the Commission. In his opening statement, the Chairperson commended ESCAP for preparing the study. He stated that, in following the Monterrey Consensus, no effort should be spared to eradicate extreme poverty. In that regard, he emphasized the need to increase the volume of all financial resources, including domestic and international resources and ODA. He drew the attention of the Round Table to the importance of addressing underlying systemic issues, including achieving coherence and consistency between monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development.

346. The Executive Secretary stated that, through the theme study, ESCAP had analysed the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus from the Asian and Pacific perspective to take account of the diverse needs of the region. That perspective included domestic resource mobilization, FDI, international trade, ODA and technical assistance, external debt and systemic issues in the region's monetary, financial and trading systems.

347. The Asian and Pacific region was currently the locomotive of world growth but also a region of wide disparities. The challenge lay in galvanizing the resources and savings of the region to serve better its diverse needs and sustain its economic performance.

348. The Executive Secretary held the view that coherence and consistency were important aspects of the Monterrey Consensus that were relevant to the region, particularly in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis. Coherence and consistency between policies at all levels were important to ensure compatibility and non-discrimination. That meant that policies and programmes should not act at cross purposes but rather complement and reinforce each other. In that regard, the region's monetary, financial and trading systems should move in tandem to exploit synergies for reaping the benefits of globalization, as well as to avoid any recurrence of a financial crisis.

349. A recent study by ADB, the World Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation showed that the region needed more than \$200 billion per year for investment in infrastructure; however, the resources available from official and private sources for all areas amounted to around \$50 billion, creating a large financing gap. Private sector investment in infrastructure had been on the decline since the Asian financial crisis in 1997. The challenge lay in further engaging the private sector in infrastructure investment and promoting balanced growth.

350. One option to consider was an Asian Investment Bank, modelled on the successful European Investment Bank, dedicated to infrastructure development in the region. It could also promote savings mobilization and investment, and help the region to transform its economic position so as to face global competition.

351. The proposed Asian Investment Bank should collaborate with other regional funds and development banks to galvanize synergies for regional development. The Executive Secretary stressed that the proposed Bank was not a substitute for the Asian Bond Fund or ADB, but rather a complementary institution that could play a catalytic role in broadening regional cooperation. It should focus more on large and higher-risk infrastructure projects, including those that were regional in character, which ADB or the Asian Bond Fund might not be able to finance.

352. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the outward flow of FDI from developing countries in the region was increasing. Against that background, action was needed to strengthen South-South cooperation to channel more FDI to the region's poor countries.

353. International trade was a key engine of growth in the Asian and Pacific region. To further strengthen the gains from trade, South-South cooperation could be used as a mechanism for harmonizing bilateral trade agreements and free trade agreements. The challenge lay in stimulating intraregional trade that also benefited poorer countries. ESCAP was already working in that area through the Bangkok Agreement, which would be further strengthened.

354. Mr. Bery held the view that improved domestic financial intermediation was important for growth and equity and that there was a need for

intermediaries willing and able to back the entrepreneurial talent of the region. However, improved domestic financial intermediation by itself would not solve the problems of infrastructure finance. While public sector provision had its own problems, public-private partnerships raised tricky issues of risk-sharing and regulation. Clever financial engineering and correct risk-reward relationships were necessary to exploit opportunities.

355. He suggested that ESCAP could help by stimulating more work on domestic financial markets. Given the financial talent in the region, ESCAP could also develop programmes with the private sector on efficient techniques for financial engineering in infrastructure projects.

356. Mr. Narongchai's presentation focused mainly on the role of the private sector in domestic resource mobilization. While the private sector appeared to be more efficient in resource mobilization than the public sector, the country experiences differed depending upon how the market mechanism was administered and allowed to operate.

357. A well-functioning financial market was essential for domestic resource mobilization. That would require appropriate prudential regulation, supervision and adequate competition. It was important that the degree of market competition or liberalization be considered in line with the country's capability in prudential supervision. A proper balance between the two was required to enable the private sector to play a productive role in domestic resource mobilization. He cautioned that liberalization of financial markets in the absence of appropriate prudential regulation and supervision could lead to financial crises.

358. Mr. Park's presentation focused mainly on the financing of SMEs and infrastructure investment, for which there were no specialized financial institutions in the region. For that purpose, he proposed the establishment of an Asian Investment Fund along the lines of the European Investment Fund and the International Finance Corporation. The proposed Fund would function as a multilateral financial institution dedicated to the development of SMEs in the region through the guarantee of SME bonds, lending and equity investment and the financing of physical infrastructure by guaranteeing project bonds.

359. Mr. Park held the view that the proposed institution should be market-driven in terms of business scope, pricing and meeting the needs of its clients. It should also have a high credit rating and paid-in capital should be large enough to meet its business needs and obtain a high credit rating in order to reduce lending costs. He stressed that the proposed Fund should be an independent organization managed by a professional team.

360. The proposed Fund could be structured either as a multilateral development institution with capital contributions from countries in the region, or as a public-private partnership with multiple shareholding,

as in the case of the European Investment Fund. It could also participate in reinsurance activities in other advanced economies to reduce concentration risks, the provision of SME loans through local financial institutions and the establishment of local financial institutions as subsidiaries. It could also enter into co-investment agreements with other multilateral agencies.

361. The Round Table commended the panellists for their substantive and issue-oriented presentation on the various aspects of the Monterrey Consensus. In that regard, the importance of both domestic and international resources was emphasized. Better mobilization of savings as well as efficient use of investment were considered key to achieving development goals. The Round Table recognized the crucial role of foreign investment and international trade for augmenting domestic resources.

362. The Round Table noted that an outward export-oriented growth strategy that paid due attention to employment creation and poverty concerns could be beneficial to developing countries. With regard to attracting foreign investment in developing countries, the role of enabling domestic macroeconomic policies and the importance of infrastructure facilities were highlighted.

363. The Round Table observed that, under the Monterrey Consensus, ODA was considered a crucial resource for development in countries that were not able to attract foreign investment, especially least developed countries and landlocked developing countries.

364. The Round Table discussed the financing requirements of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. There had been a major increase in global ODA in recent years. Moreover, ODA to least developed countries had increased significantly in recent years. The Monterrey Consensus reiterated that developed countries should make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of their GNP as ODA to developing countries, out of which 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP should be allocated to least developed countries. However, the current ODA flows to those countries remained far below the target. Several delegations urged the developed countries to further raise ODA flows to the least developed countries.

365. Turning to infrastructure financing, the Round Table recognized that there was a gap between the amount of investment needed for infrastructure financing and the resources available, but a better assessment of the extent of the financing gap was required. Several delegations expressed support for the proposal of the secretariat to carry out a feasibility study on the establishment of an Asian Investment Bank with a focus on using the large savings and foreign exchange reserves available in the countries of the region to finance infrastructure investments. Several other delegations suggested that the study be

the result of an inclusive process addressing the special needs of vulnerable countries, such as least developed and landlocked developing countries. Some delegations suggested that the study deal with the relationship of the proposed Bank with national investment banks, ADB and the Asian Bond Market. However, several delegations felt that the study should comprehensively analyse the issues of infrastructure needs and financing without prejudging whether the creation of an Asian Investment Bank or any other new institution was a necessary or appropriate solution. One delegation suggested a cautious approach in establishing new institutions at the regional level from the viewpoint of efficiency and successful work by ADB.

366. Several delegations suggested that a cautious approach be taken and that every possible aspect associated with the issues related to the proposal be carefully analysed and examined. The issues to be addressed included the extent of the shortfall in financing, the reasons for the lack of private sector investment in infrastructure and the role of national policies. There was also a suggestion that the proposal of the secretariat be discussed at the working level as time for evaluating it was short.

367. The development of financial infrastructure, such as financial instruments and credit institutions, was required to promote savings in the region. However, the Round Table noted that examples for improving domestic savings were limited to self-help and microfinance. Microfinance had been successful in mobilizing domestic resources but had not yet been fully integrated into national financial frameworks and could therefore only be a compartmentalized example. Effective domestic intermediation would very much rely on the willingness of countries to establish microfinance frameworks that were fully integrated into national systems. South-South cooperation and creating competition in capital markets were both considered important aspects in mobilizing resources.

368. It was pointed out that a balance between financial liberalization and prudential supervision was required, as financial liberalization in the absence of prudential regulation and supervision could lead to financial crises. The Round Table recognized that good accounting and legal systems were prerequisites for prudential regulation.

369. It was pointed out that, although domestic savings were available in large quantities in a number of countries, they were channelled to other regions in the form of high foreign exchange reserve holdings. Some reasons cited for that included insufficient investment opportunities in the region, weak financial systems and lack of innovative financial instruments. Some delegations emphasized that there was an urgent need to bring back savings invested outside the region for the benefit of the countries of the region, while some others expressed the view that holding large reserves was a policy choice of Governments.

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS SIXTY-FIRST SESSION

61/1. Mid-term review concerning the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission¹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987, 47/3 of 10 April 1991, 48/2 of 23 April 1992, 51/3 of 1 May 1995 and 53/1 of 30 April 1997 on the conference structure of the Commission,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 on the pattern of conferences, in which the Assembly decided that United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved,

Recalling Commission resolution 58/1 of 22 May 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and in particular paragraph 6 thereof on a mid-term review to be conducted during the sixty-first session,

Recalling also its resolution 60/6 of 28 April 2004 on revitalization of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, and in particular paragraphs 1 and 2 thereof regarding the terms of reference of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries and the establishment of an Advisory Council for the Centre,

Recalling further its resolution 60/5 of 28 April 2004 on the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific, by which it revised the statute of the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific and changed the name of the Centre,

Taking into account its resolutions 61/2 of 18 May 2005 on the statute of the Statistical Institute for

Asia and the Pacific, 61/3 of 18 May 2005 on the statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery and 61/4 of 18 May 2005 on the statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, in which it revised the statutes of the respective regional institutions, as well as its resolution 61/6 of 18 May 2005 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development as a follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (all of the above-mentioned institutions being collectively referred to hereunder as “the regional institutions”),

Taking note of the report by the Executive Secretary on the implementation of Commission resolution 58/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission submitted to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session,

Taking note also of the report by the Executive Secretary on the implementation of Commission resolution 58/1: mid-term review of the revised conference structure submitted to the Commission at its sixty-first session,

Recognizing that a complete meeting cycle of the thirteen subsidiary bodies of the Commission was concluded at the end of 2004, which makes it possible at the current session of the Commission to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the new conference structure established in accordance with Commission resolution 58/1, while bearing in mind that the new conference structure only came into effect in 2003,

Recognizing also the need for the reporting process under the conference structure to be more streamlined so that the Commission can take timely action on the reports of its subsidiary bodies,

Taking note of the evaluations and recommendations of members and associate members concerning the outcomes of sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies held under the new conference structure, which provide a useful basis for the mid-term review,

Reiterating its support for keeping the work of ESCAP focused on three key thematic areas, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues,

Aware of the need for the conference structure to be kept in line with the process of overall reform of the United Nations,

¹ See paragraphs 231-237 above.

1. *Notes with appreciation* that, since the adoption of its resolution 58/1 on 22 May 2002, a new conference structure has been established in accordance with the pattern set out in paragraph 1 of that resolution;

2. *Commends* the Executive Secretary for his efforts to prepare and organize the conferences and meetings under the new structure in an effective and efficient way and to make them correspond more fully to the three key thematic areas, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues;

3. *Also commends* the Executive Secretary for having completed the reorganization of the secretariat as requested in paragraph 2 of resolution 58/1;

4. *Decides* that, as a result of the mid-term review of the functioning of the conference structure, the following points should override or be integrated into the present pattern of its conference structure, as prescribed in paragraph 1 of resolution 58/1 and, where relevant, the respective terms of reference annexed to the resolution:

(a) *Subsidiary structure*

The thematic committees shall be retained to keep the work of ESCAP focused on three key thematic areas, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues. The work of the subcommittees shall be subsumed under the respective thematic committees from 2006 onwards as a means of strengthening their integration within their respective thematic contexts;

To ensure that the key sectoral issues formerly dealt with by the subcommittees can be addressed more effectively within a thematic framework, the format of the thematic committee sessions shall include segments as follows:

(i) Committee on Poverty Reduction: Poverty Reduction Practices and Statistics;

(ii) Committee on Managing Globalization:

Part I: International Trade and Investment, and Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism;

Part II: Information, Communication and Space Technology, and Environment and Sustainable Development;

(iii) Committee on Emerging Social Issues: Socially Vulnerable Groups, and Health and Development;

To ensure timely review of emerging issues as well as reporting to the Commission, the thematic committees, including parts I and II of the Committee on Managing Globalization, shall meet separately and annually after the Commission session for a maximum duration of five days for each session, with the duration depending on the agenda of the committee in question;

The segments under three of the above committees shall be convened either consecutively or simultaneously. The segments under one of the above committees shall be convened consecutively. The secretariat will provide interpretation services in the working languages of the Commission;

(b) *Special bodies*

The Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall hold its sessions prior to the Commission sessions, in alternate years with the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries. The maximum duration of the sessions of each of the special bodies will be two days;

The Advisory Council of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, comprising representatives of the Governments of Pacific island developing countries and territories, and also of Australia and New Zealand, shall meet biennially for a maximum duration of one day at the venue of the relevant session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries to provide advice on the Centre's work programme priorities;

(c) *Regional institutions of ESCAP*

The regional institutions of ESCAP shall continue to function under the terms of reference stipulated in the relevant resolutions, namely, 60/5, 61/2, 61/3, 61/4 and 61/6;

The programmes of work of the regional institutions shall be aligned with the thematic priorities of ESCAP under the strategic framework;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that the thematic committee sessions are conducted in a results-oriented manner that yields concrete outcomes aimed at strengthening the focus and impact of the work of ESCAP;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 58/1, to report to the Commission at subsequent sessions on the implementation of the present resolution, focusing in particular on whether the conference structure has served the purpose of improving efficiency and attracting higher and wider representation from members and associate members, which would serve in particular as the basis for the comprehensive review to be conducted during the sixty-third session concerning the functioning of the conference structure;

7. *Decides* to review the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, and to consider the possibility of further revising its structure at its sixty-third session.

*5th meeting
18 May 2005*

61/2. Statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 50/5 of 13 April 1994 and 51/1 of 1 May 1995 on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific,

Also recalling the host country agreement signed between the Government of Japan and the United Nations on 14 April 1995,

Noting with appreciation the significant financial and in kind resources that have been provided to the Institute, since its establishment, by the Government of Japan,

Taking into account the recommendations in the evaluation of the Institute carried out in 2003 and the need to integrate the work of the Institute into the ESCAP programme of work,

Taking note of the report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific to the Commission at the current session,

Adopts the revised statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution.

*5th meeting
18 May 2005*

Annex

STATUTE OF THE STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Establishment

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

2. Participation in the training and other activities of the Institute is open to all members and associate members of the Commission.

3. The Institute has the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objectives

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

Functions

5. The Institute will achieve the above objectives by undertaking such functions as:

(a) Training of official statisticians, utilizing existing centres and institutions for training available in member States;

(b) Networking and partnership with other international organizations and key stakeholders;

(c) Dissemination of information.

Status and organization

6. The Institute shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”), a Director and staff. ESCAP shall keep separate accounts for the Institute.

7. The Institute is located in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Japan.

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

Governing Council

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

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

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

² See paragraphs 248-273 above.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Director and staff

18. The Institute shall have a Director and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post. The Director and Professional staff shall be appointed for a total term, in principle, not exceeding five years. All appointments shall be for a fixed duration and shall be limited to service with the Institute.

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

Resources of the Institute

20. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Institute. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund for the Institute, as referred to in paragraph 6, in

which these contributions shall be deposited and utilized solely for the activities of the Institute, subject to paragraph 22 of the present statute.

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

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

Amendments

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

Matters not covered by the present statute

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

Entry into force

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

61/3. Statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

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

Also recalling the agreement between the Government of China and the United Nations regarding the headquarters of the Centre, signed on 19 November 2003,

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

Taking note of the report on the Centre to the Commission at the current session,

1. *Adopts* the revised statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

³ See paragraphs 248-273 above.

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to seek regular budget resources for the Centre, including posts, within the proposed ESCAP programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, to strengthen the research and analytical capacity of the Centre, while recognizing the primary role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee in this regard, and also recognizing the principle that the technical assistance activities of the Centre should be funded by voluntary contributions;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to seek additional voluntary resources to strengthen the financial stability of the Centre.

*5th meeting
18 May 2005*

Annex

STATUTE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASIAN AND PACIFIC CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING AND MACHINERY

Establishment

1. The Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, established on 22 May 2002 pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 58/5 of the same date, shall continue in existence under the title "United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery" (hereinafter referred to as "UNAPCAEM" or "the Centre") and under the terms of the present statute.

2. The membership of UNAPCAEM 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 States Members of the United Nations, through extensive exchange of information and sharing of commercially successful machinery and technology, and to promote research and development and extension of agricultural engineering, including machinery and rural industry for poverty reduction in the region.

Functions

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

(a) Assistance in the improvement of agricultural engineering, mechanization, automation, biotechnology and genetic engineering;

(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 technology transfer through networking of focal point national institutes in UNAPCAEM 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) Dissemination and exchange of commercially successful machinery and drawings of appropriate tools, machines and equipment;

(h) Training workshops and advisory services on food safety standards and sanitary and phytosanitary issues under the World Trade Organization agricultural trade mandate;

(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, a Deputy Director subject to availability of funds, 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, a Deputy Director subject to availability of funds, 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 and 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. Members and associate members elected to the Governing Board of the Centre at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission will serve as members of the Centre's Governing Council until the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2006.

61/4. Statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 243 (XLI) of 29 March 1985 on the statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology,

Also recalling the agreement regarding the headquarters of the Centre signed between the Government of India and the United Nations on 11 April 1994,

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

Taking into account the recommendations in the evaluation of the Centre carried out in 2003,

Taking note of the report on the Centre to the Commission at the current session,

1. *Adopts* the revised statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to seek regular budget resources for the Centre, including posts, within the proposed ESCAP programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, to strengthen the research and analytical capacity of the Centre, while recognizing the primary role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee in this regard, and recognizing also the principle that the technical assistance activities of the Centre should be funded by voluntary contributions;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to seek additional voluntary resources to strengthen the financial stability of the Centre.

*5th meeting
18 May 2005*

Annex

**STATUTE OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC CENTRE
FOR TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY**

Establishment

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

2. The membership of APCTT is identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as “ESCAP” or “the Commission”).

3. APCTT has the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objectives

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

Functions

5. The Centre will achieve the above objective by undertaking such functions as:

(a) Research and analysis of trends, conditions and opportunities;

(b) Advisory services;

(c) Dissemination of information and good practices;

(d) Networking and partnership with international organizations and key stakeholders;

(e) Training of national personnel, particularly national scientists and policy analysts.

Status and organization

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

7. The Centre is located in New Delhi.

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

Governing Council

9. The Centre shall have a Governing Council consisting of a representative designated by the Government of India and no fewer than eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary or his/her representative shall attend meetings of the Council.

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

11. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and

⁴ See paragraphs 248-273 above.

specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

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

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

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

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a 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 and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members of the Technical Committee shall be appointed by the Director in consultation with the Executive Secretary.

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, and 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.

61/5. Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific⁵

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

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

⁵ See paragraphs 248-273 above.

Noting with appreciation the significant financial resources that have been provided to the Centre, since its establishment, by the Government of Japan and the facilities that have been provided by the Government of Indonesia,

Taking note of the report on the Centre to the Commission at the current session,

Recalling in particular its resolution 60/5, in which the Commission adopted a revised statute for the Centre including revised functions that strengthen the role of the Centre in coordinating research and analysis on secondary crops,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to seek regular budget resources for the Centre, including posts, within the proposed ESCAP programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, to strengthen the research and analytical capacity of the Centre, while recognizing the primary role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee in this regard, and also recognizing the principle that the technical assistance activities of the Centre should be funded by voluntary contributions;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to seek additional voluntary resources to strengthen the financial stability of the Centre.

*5th meeting
18 May 2005*

61/6. Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development⁶

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the particularly rapid development in information and communication technology and its applications, and their implications for economic and social development, which have posed unprecedented challenges for developing countries in need of efficient, informed and timely access to information, information services, tools, best practices and other information and communication technology-related resources,

Expressing grave concern over the prevailing digital divide between countries and within countries and communities, and its implications for development and the persistence of poverty,

Acknowledging the importance of information and communication technology for development and for building inclusive knowledge societies, as well as the role of the United Nations in promoting regional cooperation through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted on 12 December 2003 at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, which called for capacity-building with an emphasis on creating a critical mass of qualified and skilled information and communication technology professionals and experts, the promotion of regional cooperation in the field of capacity-building by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and fostering effective international and regional cooperation among Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, including international financial institutions,

Also recalling the Tokyo Declaration adopted on 15 January 2003 by Governments of the Asian and Pacific region as the region's input to the World Summit, which identified information and communication technology development, capacity-building and fostering of partnerships as priority areas for action in advancing the region's information society,

Reaffirming its resolution 57/4 of 25 April 2001 on regional cooperation in information and communication technologies for development, and recalling General Assembly resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration and resolved, inter alia, to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, were available to all, and 57/144 of 16 December 2002 on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit,

Also recalling General Assembly resolutions 57/295 of 20 December 2002 on information and communication technologies for development and 56/189 of 21 December 2001 on human resources development, in which the Assembly made several references to information technologies,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 57/270 of 20 December 2002 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Noting with appreciation Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/2 of 19 July 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, including the establishment of a subcommittee on information, communications and space technology,

Noting with satisfaction the outstanding success achieved by a number of countries in the region in the long-term development of their information and communication technology sectors and in harnessing new technologies for their national development,

Noting also with satisfaction the work of such international organizations as the International

⁶ See paragraphs 160-169 and 273 above.

Telecommunication Union and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity,

Acknowledging, in particular, the important work of the Telecommunity in facilitating capacity-building in information and communication technologies based on demand by its member States,

Recognizing the advantages of regional resource centres on information and communication technology development issues in Asia and the Pacific that may optimize the sharing of expertise on information and communication technology in the region and further improve the effectiveness of regional capacity-building activities and the sharing of tools and processes,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its offer to host the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and to bear its institutional and operational costs,

Cognizant of the need to avoid any possible duplication between the work of the Centre and the human resources development work of the Telecommunity and other concerned international organizations,

1. *Decides* to establish the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, which will contribute to the ESCAP programme of work in the area of training in information and communication technology;

2. *Adopts* the statute of the Centre, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, as the basis for its operation;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for the prompt establishment of the Centre, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations and other international organizations and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations in the field concerned, to provide support to the Centre and cooperate in the implementation of its work programme;

5. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to establish mechanisms for close coordination between the Centre and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity in its human resources development work programme, and to avoid possible duplication with the Telecommunity in the formulation of the Centre's workplans;

6. *Invites* all members and associate members to participate actively in monitoring and evaluating the work of the Centre in order to ensure that its activities do not duplicate those of other institutions and agencies in the region;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report annually to the Commission on the progress made

by the Centre in (a) capacity-building to bridge the digital divide, (b) creating a sustainable institutional framework for the training of trainers in the field of information and communication technology and (c) enhancing regional cooperation in human resources development in that field;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report in 2008 on the performance of the Centre, in particular regarding the complementary and value-added contribution of its work to that of other relevant international organizations, which would serve as the basis for a mid-term review by the Commission at its sixty-fourth session, in 2008;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a comprehensive report on the Centre's work based on the findings of the mid-term review, including an assessment of its financial sustainability and the complementary and value-added contribution of its work to that of other concerned international organizations, which would serve as the basis for a comprehensive review by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session, in 2010;

10. *Decides* to assess the performance of the Centre, on the basis of the findings of the comprehensive review, at its sixty-sixth session and to determine whether to proceed with the operation of the Centre thereafter.

5th meeting
18 May 2005

Annex

STATUTE OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC TRAINING CENTRE FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Establishment

1. An Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (hereinafter referred to as "APCICT") is established, with a membership identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP" or "the Commission").

2. APCICT shall have the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objective

3. The objective of APCICT is to build the capacity of members and associate members of ESCAP through training programmes in the use of information and communication technology (ICT) for the purposes of socio-economic development.

Functions

4. In pursuance of the objective stated in paragraph 3, APCICT shall have such functions as:

(a) Enhancing knowledge and skills in ICT for policymakers and ICT professionals;

(b) Enhancing the capacity of ICT trainers and ICT training institutions by providing for training-of-trainers programmes and exchanges of trainers and experts;

(c) Providing advisory services on human resources development programmes to members and associate members;

(d) Undertaking analytical studies related to human resources development in ICT, including identifying training needs and sharing best practices on human resources development programmes and training methods.

Status and organization

5. APCICT shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”), a Director and staff.

6. APCICT shall be located in the Republic of Korea.

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

Governing Council

8. APCICT shall have a Governing Council consisting of a representative nominated by the Government of the Republic of Korea and eight representatives of members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The Council 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. An interim Council shall be elected by ESCAP and constituted upon the adoption of the present statute. The Council shall be reconfirmed at the sixty-second session of the Commission.

9. The Director of APCICT shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

10. 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.

11. 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.

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

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. The Council shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the work programme. The Council shall review the administration and financial status of APCICT 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

16. APCICT 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.

17. The Director shall be appointed for one year and be eligible for reappointment. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of APCICT and the implementation of its programme of work.

Resources of the Centre

18. The operation of APCICT shall not involve additional regular budget resources of ESCAP. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution, on a voluntary basis, to the operations of APCICT. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

19. APCICT will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

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

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

Amendments

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

Matters not covered by the present statute

23. 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 11 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

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

61/7. Regional cooperation for the protection of vulnerable people through the promotion of economic and social aspects of human security as a follow-up to the Shanghai Declaration⁷

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 60/1 of 28 April 2004, by which it adopted the Shanghai Declaration, and in particular paragraph 17 (g) thereof regarding the promotion of human security in the region through greater regional cooperation, especially for vulnerable people,

Noting that not all members and associate members have agreed on a definition of the term “economic and social aspects of human security”,

Noting also that concepts relating to economic and social aspects of human security are being applied in the context of international development assistance, inter alia, in community-building and human development, especially for vulnerable groups,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to seek means to support the secretariat’s technical cooperation work in the area of community-building and human development to protect and enhance the capabilities of vulnerable people, inter alia, through the use of available United Nations trust funds and other extrabudgetary contributions, as appropriate;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to it at its sixty-second session on measures to support regional cooperation for the protection of vulnerable people through the promotion of economic and social aspects of human security as a follow-up to the Shanghai Declaration.

*5th meeting
18 May 2005*

61/8. Mid-point review of the 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 Pacific⁸

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its 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, by which it requested all members and associate members to support the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework at the national level and through international cooperation and partnership,

Noting that a mid-point review of the Biwako Millennium Framework should be conducted in 2007, on the basis of which the current targets and strategic plans may be modified, in order to formulate an updated set of targets and strategies for the second half of the Decade, 2008-2012,

Noting also that the ESCAP Regional Workshop on Monitoring the Implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework was held in October 2004,

Noting further the progress made at the international level in the process towards an international convention on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities through the organization of five sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001,

Noting with appreciation the contributions by Governments in the ESCAP region to the development of support for the consideration and elaboration of an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities,

Observing that the Asian and Pacific Decades of Disabled Persons have influenced developments at the international level and have been replicated by the African Decade of Disabled Persons (2000-2009) and the Arab Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2012),

Welcoming Papua New Guinea and Turkey as the forty-fourth and forty-fifth signatories of the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region, in December 2003, and Timor-Leste as the forty-sixth signatory of the Proclamation, in January 2004,

⁷ See paragraphs 182-221 above.

⁸ See paragraphs 196-200 and 221 above.

Noting the series of joint activities with the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability, as an ESCAP partner, in ensuring the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework,

Noting with appreciation the continuous contributions by Governments in the region to the technical assistance trust fund for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons,

1. *Calls upon* members and associate members to renew their commitment to the 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 in advance of the mid-point review;

2. *Encourages* all members and associate members to further strengthen their efforts to achieve the priorities, targets and strategies of the Biwako Millennium Framework with particular emphasis on the following actions, to be taken in advance of the mid-point review:

(a) Consideration of holistic and comprehensive approaches to policies and programmes that are disability-inclusive and responsive;

(b) Support for capacity-building in respect of persons with disabilities and their organizations;

(c) The mainstreaming of disability into overall national development plans, programmes and projects for poverty alleviation;

(d) The promotion of community approaches as an important component of empowerment and an effective poverty alleviation strategy;

(e) The promotion of disability-inclusive international and regional cooperation;

3. *Calls upon* members and associate members to continue to support and contribute to the ongoing work of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, with a view to further promoting equal rights for persons with disabilities and protecting those rights;

4. *Invites* Governments in the region and other stakeholders to continue contributing to the ESCAP technical assistance trust fund for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, in order to ensure the achievement of the goals of the Biwako Millennium Framework at the regional level;

5. *Invites* Governments in the region that have not yet done so to consider signing the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To provide Governments in the region with technical support for the continued monitoring of

the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework in advance of the mid-point review in 2007;

(b) To hold in 2007, within existing resources, a high-level intergovernmental meeting of three working days' duration on the mid-point review of the Decade;

(c) To support the inclusion of disability in the regional preparations for the first five-year review of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and related outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits;

(d) To further strengthen the partnership between ESCAP and the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability in order to promote the empowerment of persons with disabilities;

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

5th meeting
18 May 2005

61/9. Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific⁹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting with satisfaction the successful organization of the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005, held in Seoul from 24 to 29 March 2005, which adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005, the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2006-2010, and the Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth (Green Growth),

Recognizing that reducing poverty is one of the greatest challenges facing Asia and the Pacific and that sustained economic growth is essential not only for poverty reduction but also for sustainable development, particularly in the developing countries,

Realizing that increasing stress on the carrying capacity of the region resulting from unsustainable economic growth can be alleviated through the integration of economic development, social development and environmental protection, the three mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development,

Considering that, in the interest of present and future generations, there is a need to shift the development orientation from a "Grow now and clean up later" approach to an environmentally sustainable or Green Growth approach,

⁹ See paragraphs 172-175 above.

Realizing that Green Growth is an approach which harmonizes economic growth with environmental sustainability,

Recognizing the need for an integrated and multisectoral approach to promoting Green Growth in Asia and the Pacific,

Also recognizing the interest of members and associate members of the Commission in the regional and subregional cooperation activities that will be carried out as a follow-up to the Ministerial Conference,

1. *Notes* the outcomes of the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005, including the various options and alternatives set forth in the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005, the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2006-2010, and the Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Growth (Green Growth), and encourages all members and associate members to work towards their early realization;

2. *Requests* all members and associate members of the Commission to participate actively in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference:

(a) To ensure the formulation of programmes and strategies to implement the Regional Implementation Plan at the national, regional and subregional levels, acknowledging that the major role in the implementation of the Plan lies with Governments, individually and collectively;

(b) To encourage Governments, the private sector and civil society to participate in activities forming part of the Seoul Initiative, including the establishment of the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth;

(c) To provide information on such programmes and activities to assist the ESCAP secretariat in conducting the necessary review and assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

3. *Invites* all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned, multilateral financial institutions, donor countries and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, to contribute technical and financial resources to implement the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

4. *Calls upon* the members of the Thematic Working Group on Environment and Development under the Regional Coordination Mechanism to play an effective role in the implementation of the Regional Implementation Plan, as well as its regional initiatives, including the Seoul Initiative;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To mobilize both human and financial resources to the greatest possible extent for the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

(b) To assist countries in the region by providing technical assistance in the realization of the Regional Implementation Plan and relevant national strategies and action;

(c) To ensure effective coordination and joint pursuit of the activities of concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in facilitating the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

(d) To encourage the active participation of all stakeholders in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

(e) To undertake a periodic review of progress made in the implementation of the Regional Implementation Plan based on information provided by members and associate members on a voluntary basis, and to include an assessment of the results in the agenda of the sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, to be held by the year 2010.

5th meeting
18 May 2005

61/10. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly¹⁰

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming the call for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as set forth in the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recalling its resolution 57/3 of 25 April 2001 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 59/168 of 20 December 2004, in which the Assembly recognized that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rested primarily at the national level, that strengthened efforts were necessary in that respect and that enhanced international cooperation was essential,

¹⁰ See paragraphs 211-221 above.

Cognizant of the Declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, in which the Commission reaffirmed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Welcoming the holding of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes in Bangkok from 7 to 10 September 2004,

Taking note of the report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting,

Emphasizing that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the promotion of gender equality and of women's empowerment and participation, together with the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, can make an important contribution to advancing the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions,

Encouraged by the progress made towards gender equality since the Fourth World Conference on Women, and concerned that the Asian and Pacific region faces major challenges and obstacles in achieving the economic and political empowerment of women,

Recognizing the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, and encouraging further participation on their part,

Recognizing that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries, have accelerated the feminization of poverty,

1. *Reaffirms* the important role of the Commission in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

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

(a) To undertake further action to ensure the full and effective implementation of the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

(b) To strengthen efforts to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective, inter alia, into the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes, especially in poverty reduction efforts, including the strengthening of national machineries and other institutional mechanisms, as appropriate, that work towards the advancement of women and gender equality;

(c) To ensure linkages and enhance complementarities among policies, institutional frameworks and operational programmes;

(d) To continue to implement economic policies that are designed and monitored with the full and equal participation of women within the overall framework of achieving sustainable development, and enhance women's entrepreneurial potential by providing them with access to and control over resources, including knowledge and skills training, trade opportunities and technologies, and also promote the protection of women in disaster areas and enhance the active role of women in disaster management;

(e) To contribute to collaborative approaches and strategies aimed at protecting and promoting the rights and welfare of women migrant workers, and forge international understanding and cooperation to combat trafficking in women;

(f) To strengthen and improve the collection, processing and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics at the local, national, regional and international levels for the effective monitoring and assessment of gains and gaps;

(g) To forge partnerships in further studying the positive and negative impacts of globalization on women and formulate a comprehensive and integrative strategy to address its effects on women;

3. *Encourages* members and associate members, as well as agencies, regional and international financial institutions and the private sector, to provide countries in the Asian and Pacific region, particularly the least developed countries, with financial and technical support in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to promote the implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, specifically to intensify efforts to build a database, to be updated regularly, in which all programmes and projects carried out in their respective regions by organizations or bodies of the United Nations system are listed, and to facilitate the dissemination of information on such programmes and projects, as well as the evaluation of their impact on the empowerment of women through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

(b) To mainstream gender assessments into all programmes, as a means for assistance to member countries, enabling them to involve women in economic, social and political decision-making;

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

*5th meeting
18 May 2005*

61/11. Implementation of 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 Countries¹¹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, in which Heads of State and Government recognized the special needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries, and urged both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to that group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems, and resolved to create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which was conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 58/201 of 23 December 2003, in which the Assembly endorsed 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 and the Almaty Declaration,

Recalling further the communiqué adopted at the High-level Meeting on the Role of International, Regional and Subregional Organizations for the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, convened by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 29 to 31 March 2005,

Taking note of the report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its seventh session,

Aware that twelve of the thirty-one landlocked developing countries are in Asia,

1. *Reaffirms* its continued support for the full and effective implementation of the specific actions to be undertaken in the five priority areas agreed upon in 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;

2. *Stresses* that efficient transit transport systems can be established through genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels;

3. *Also reaffirms* that successful implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action depends on shared responsibility and strengthened partnerships, including civil society and the private sector, and, in this regard, invites all members and associate members and international, regional and subregional organizations to support the efforts of the landlocked and transit developing countries in Asia;

4. *Reaffirms further* its full support for the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in its endeavour to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all stakeholders for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, which, inter alia, forms a basis for regional cooperation to assist landlocked developing countries by establishing efficient transit transport systems in both landlocked and transit developing countries;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close coordination with the Office of the High Representative, to integrate the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action into the relevant programmes of work of the secretariat, particularly those relating to poverty reduction, managing globalization, including transport and tourism, and emerging social issues as appropriate, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/245 of 22 December 2004;

6. *Welcomes* the signing on 26 April 2004 of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network and the expected entry into force of the Agreement, invites relevant member States which have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Agreement as soon as possible and urges that, in implementing the Agreement, special attention be given to the special needs of landlocked developing countries, while taking into account the interests of transit developing countries, consistent with the Almaty Programme of Action and that priority attention also be given to the completion of missing links in the Asian Highway;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the excellent work carried out by the ESCAP secretariat in preparing a time/cost methodology for indicators to monitor progress in establishing efficient transit transport systems;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake the necessary measures to further expand its programme, as appropriate, to support the landlocked and transit developing countries in their efforts to improve their transit transport systems, and invites development partners to provide appropriate financial support in that regard, as called for in paragraph 47 of the Almaty Programme of Action;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its sixty-third session on the

¹¹ See paragraphs 222-227 and 230 above.

implementation of the present resolution and on the progress made in establishing efficient transit transport systems in Asia.

*5th meeting
18 May 2005*

61/12. Regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health¹²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 60/2 of 28 April 2004,

Also recalling the internationally agreed goals as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, and other outcomes of United Nations summits and conferences, in particular the health-related development goals,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 58/3 of 27 October 2003 and 59/27 of 23 November 2004 on enhancing capacity-building in global public health,

Noting that in those resolutions the General Assembly, inter alia, invited the regional commissions to cooperate closely with Member States, the private sector and civil society in their capacity-building in public health, as well as in regional cooperation to diminish and eliminate the deleterious impact of major infectious diseases,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution S-26/2 of 27 June 2001 and noting Commission resolution 59/1 of 4 September 2003 on regional action in follow-up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,

Noting with concern that more than nine million people already live with HIV/AIDS in the Asian and Pacific region and that HIV in the region is likely to continue to spread rapidly,

Welcoming the joint declaration of the “3 by 5 Initiative” by the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS,

Mindful that the fight against severe acute respiratory syndrome, the first severe infectious disease to emerge in the twenty-first century, and other epidemics, is far from over,

Noting the outbreak of avian influenza in the poultry population and recognizing its impact on human health as well as on the economy,

Also noting the need to strengthen regional cooperation to prevent any potential outbreak of other preventable diseases,

Noting with concern the serious damage and loss of life caused by the earthquake and tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean rim countries, including the negative impact on human health and development,

Appreciating the generous contribution and assistance to the affected countries from Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and citizens of the world, especially the timely health aid for emergency relief,

Noting with particular concern that non-communicable diseases, and injuries, are rapidly overtaking communicable diseases as the leading causes of death in Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing that Governments have the primary responsibility for the provision of social services,

Recognizing also the constraints that many countries face in improving health systems and interventions because of their limited human and financial resources for health and insufficient development of the capacity to plan and manage human resources to respond to changes in priorities,

Welcoming the initiative of the World Health Organization Regional Committee for the Western Pacific at its fifty-fifth session, held in Shanghai, China, from 13 to 17 September 2004, to enhance close cooperation between the World Health Organization and ESCAP in response to health and development issues,

Recalling the pioneering contributions of the Asian and Pacific region to the development and implementation of the primary health-care approach to health for all promoted by the World Health Organization,

Welcoming, in this connection, the plan to hold the Sixth Global Conference on Health Promotion in Bangkok from 7 to 11 August 2005,

1. *Urges* members and associate members in the region:

(a) To scale up their investments in the health sector through resource mobilization strategies;

(b) To further integrate public health into their economic and social development strategies, inter alia, through the establishment and improvement of effective public health mechanisms, in particular systems of disease surveillance, response, control, prevention, treatment and information exchange, and the recruitment and training of public health personnel;

(c) To raise professional and public awareness of the importance of public health and mobilize the participation of educational institutions, civil society and the mass media in promoting good public health practices;

(d) To unite in securing a regional commitment to strengthening cooperation on capacity-building in public health;

¹² See paragraphs 202-210 and 221 above.

(e) To improve regional public health preparedness and response systems, including systems for the prevention and monitoring of infectious diseases, to better cope with major diseases, inter alia, in cases of global or regional outbreaks of diseases;

2. *Encourages* donors, including Governments, the private sector, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and regional and international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, to continue to support countries in the Asian and Pacific region through such means as:

(a) Providing funding and technical support to countries, especially those that face significant risk, in their efforts to combat infectious diseases and epidemics;

(b) Facilitating South-South and North-South cooperation to benefit the Asian and Pacific region, as part of an integral response aimed at building effective public health institutions and practices;

(c) Considering integrating health dimensions into their strategies, work programmes, budget plans, projects and activities, to strengthen regional public health capacity-building, as a priority for the fulfilment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in the Asian and Pacific region;

(d) To consider participating in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to coordinate closely with the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations:

(a) To assist members and associate members in their capacity-building by mainstreaming health concerns into diverse development sectors in support of the fulfilment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in the region, inter alia, in the programme of work of ESCAP;

(b) To promote coordinated regional action in strengthening capacity-building in public health through the Subcommittee on Health and Development and other health-related institutions of ESCAP, including expanding human resources development in public health, and supporting primary health care and intersectoral actions to address critical health and development issues in accordance with the Regional Framework for Strategic Action: Promoting Health and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Subcommittee on Health and Development at its first session, held in December 2004;

(c) To undertake advocacy on a healthy public policy to create enabling environments for health promotion that strengthens physical, mental and spiritual health resilience and well-being, with an emphasis on community, school and workplace participation, towards a “healthy Asia-Pacific”;

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

5th meeting
18 May 2005

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON TSUNAMI RECOVERY DEVELOPMENT

1. The High-level Panel on Tsunami Recovery Development was held at the outset of the ministerial segment. The Commission was provided with brief information on the overall socio-economic impact of the tsunami in the region, the overall status of the post-tsunami recovery plans, the general situation with regard to financial resource mobilization, the challenges to a rapid tsunami recovery and the development of a regional multi-hazard and multi-nodal early warning system and the need to establish regional mechanisms for coordination and information-sharing on disaster preparedness and management. The Commission was also informed of the progress made by six tsunami-affected countries, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand, in the recovery process.

2. The Commission noted the presentations by the panellists from the six affected countries, namely, H.E. Mr. E.V.K.S. Elangovan (Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, India), H.E. Ms. Sri Mulyani Indrawati (State Minister for National Development Planning and Chairperson of the National Development Planning Agency, Indonesia), H.E. Mr. Mustapa Mohamed (Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia), Mr. Hussain Niyaaz (Assistant Director General, Ministry of Planning and National Development, Maldives), Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera (Deputy Minister of Urban Development and Water Supply, Sri Lanka) and H.E. Mr. Chaturon Chaisang (Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand).

3. The Commission noted with satisfaction that, in most countries, the major relief and humanitarian operations had been carried out effectively and, to a great extent, successfully, under the overall coordination of the United Nations. However, in some areas humanitarian work was continuing. In that regard, it noted with satisfaction the overwhelming response in terms of finance and other forms of support from the international community, including that provided by some affected countries to other affected countries.

4. The Commission was informed that assessments of medium- to long-term needs had been completed with the respective Governments and all the affected countries had, to varying extents, begun the rehabilitation and reconstruction processes. In that connection, the costs of damage and reconstruction needs had been calculated. National recovery plans and coordination mechanisms had been established, including the development of standards, guidelines and frameworks of assistance for the recovery effort. Importantly, countries had taken specific steps to integrate recovery plans with national development plans and the internationally agreed development goals.

The Commission noted the intention of the tsunami-affected countries to attach importance to community-driven approaches and environmental concerns in the recovery process.

5. The Commission noted that the pace and nature of rehabilitation and reconstruction work varied widely in the affected areas. In some areas, basic social and physical infrastructure that had been destroyed was being rebuilt and good progress was being made. In other areas, rehabilitation and reconstruction work was proceeding more slowly. The Commission was informed that the tsunami-affected countries were approaching the recovery process from a multi-hazard risk management perspective.

6. The Commission noted the importance of overall coordination of the recovery process. The need for coordination was heightened by the complexity of the process, including the diversity of funding sources, the large number of agencies involved, the multiplicity of community needs, the limited capacity of the affected communities to absorb major rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes and the need to have effective governance systems to facilitate the work.

7. The Commission noted that a large number of government agencies, NGOs and bilateral and multilateral development agencies had been involved in the recovery efforts. It recognized that those partners would continue to play a crucial role in rehabilitation and reconstruction by ensuring that assistance programmes were in line with community needs and long-term development objectives.

8. The Commission also noted with appreciation the constructive role of the private sector in providing relief and assistance in rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts to tsunami-affected countries and requested the secretariat to develop mechanisms for the more systematic involvement of the private sector in future disaster relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

9. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the tsunami-affected countries attached importance to good governance in order to facilitate the flow of financial resources and enhance the effectiveness of coordination. It recognized that countries must have full ownership of the recovery effort and integrate the recovery work into their respective national socio-economic development processes.

10. The Commission underlined the need to establish an effective regional tsunami early warning system, as recognized by the General Assembly. It noted that several international initiatives had since been launched, many of them under the auspices of the

United Nations, including the International Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and UNDP. It also noted that good progress had been made on early warning systems at the national level in several countries. It noted the readiness of some countries to establish a regional, multi-hazard and multi-nodal early warning system and to link such a system to their respective national systems as appropriate. However, it noted with concern the limited capacity of small and less developed countries to effectively meet the disaster preparedness needs and therefore agreed that more urgent efforts should be made to enhance disaster preparedness in the region.

11. In that regard, the Commission noted with appreciation the proposal of Thailand to establish the Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia and its pledge of \$10 million as seed money for the Fund, to be administered by the secretariat. It also noted the generous offers of assistance from, among others, Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore and the United States, not only specifically towards the early warning system and disaster preparedness work but also for long-term tsunami recovery.

12. Concern was expressed over the increasing frequency and scale of natural disasters and their impact on countries and communities in the region. The Commission highlighted the need to enhance regional cooperation for disaster preparedness, including the establishment of regional monitoring and early warning mechanisms. The United Nations was called upon to support all national efforts in creating regional and multi-nodal systems whereby the rapid response

capacities of States could be strengthened to save lives and reduce economic loss. In particular, the Commission endorsed the following recommended areas for priority activities to be undertaken by the secretariat: (a) conducting regional assessments of socio-economic impacts by sector; (b) organizing technical cooperation activities in natural disaster preparedness and management; (c) assisting the Typhoon Committee in identifying ways to enhance its work on disaster preparedness; (d) supporting national and regional efforts to link recovery to risk management for sustainable development and community resilience; (e) promoting the application of space technology to disaster management; and (f) promoting a regional standby arrangement for disaster relief.

13. The Commission noted with appreciation that China, in conjunction with ESCAP, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, ADB and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, was sponsoring an Asian disaster reduction conference in September 2005 to identify priority fields for cooperation among Asian countries in disaster reduction for the next 10 years.

14. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer made by India to cooperate with other countries by sharing data and information for disaster management.

15. The Commission noted with appreciation the commitment and efforts of UNDP and other United Nations bodies and agencies, and their collaboration with ESCAP, in post-tsunami recovery and urged that such collaboration be strengthened.

Annex II

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

1. With respect to resolutions 61/3 on the statute of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, 61/4 on the statute of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and 61/5 on the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific, the secretariat provided an oral statement drawing the attention of the Commission to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/248 of 21 December 1990 in the section on the procedures for administrative and budgetary matters.

2. The resolutions listed below will have no additional cost implications for the regular budget of the United Nations and extrabudgetary resources will be sought for the implementation of the activities required under them: 61/1 on the mid-term review concerning the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission, 61/2 on the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, 61/6 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre

for Information and Communication Technology for Development, 61/7 on regional cooperation for the protection of vulnerable people through the promotion of economic and social aspects of human security as a follow-up to the Shanghai Declaration, 61/8 on the mid-point review of the 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, 61/9 on the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 61/10 on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, 61/11 on the implementation of 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 and 61/12 on a regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health.

Annex III

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

<i>Subsidiary body and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol of report^a</i>
<p>High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes</p> <p><i>Chairperson:</i> Ms. Habiba Sarabi (Afghanistan)</p> <p><i>Vice-Chairpersons:</i> Ms. Zahra Guileyava (Azerbaijan) Ms. Khurshid Zahan Haque (Bangladesh) Ms. Ing Kantha Phavi (Cambodia) Ms. Chen Xiurong (China) Ms. Adi Asenaca Caucau (Fiji) Ms. Kanti Singh (India) Ms. Nurlini Kasri (Indonesia) Mr. Aberoti Nikora (Kiribati) Ms. Bealean Carl-Worswick (Federated States of Micronesia) Ms. Asta Laxmi Shakya (Nepal) Ms. Imelda M. Nicolas (Philippines) Ms. Eun-hee Chi (Republic of Korea) Mrs. Yu-Foo Yee Shoon (Singapore) Mr. Nelson Kehe Kile (Solomon Islands) Mr. Sora-at Klinpratoom (Thailand) Ms. Ha Thi Khiet (Viet Nam)</p> <p><i>Rapporteurs:</i> Ms. Yoriko Meguro (Japan) Ms. Luagalau Foisagaasina Eteuati Shon (Samoa)</p>	Bangkok 7-10 September 2004	E/ESCAP/1341
<p>Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific</p> <p><i>Chairperson:</i> H.E. Mr. Kwak Kyul-Ho (Republic of Korea)</p> <p><i>Vice-Chairpersons:</i> H.E. Mr. Mohammad Saifur Rahman (Bangladesh) H.E. Mr. Nado Rinchhen (Bhutan) Pehin Dato Mr. Awang Hj. Ahmad Haji Jumat (Brunei Darussalam) H.E. Mr. Mok Mareth (Cambodia) H.E. Mr. Pan Yue (China) H.E. Mr. Joji N. Banuve (Fiji) H.E. Mr. Namu Narain Meena (India) H.E. Ms. Kazuko Nose (Japan)</p>	Seoul 24-29 March 2005	E/ESCAP/1337

^a Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions New York Office at United Nations Headquarters.

<i>Subsidiary body and officers</i>		<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol of report^a</i>
<p>Hon. Martin Puta Tofinga (Kiribati) H.E. Mr. Temirbek A. Akmataliev (Kyrgyzstan) H.E. Mr. Bountiem Phissamay (Lao People's Democratic Republic) H.E. Dato Seri S. Samy Vellu (Malaysia) Hon. Abdullah Kamaludeen (Maldives) H.E. Mr. Ulambayar Barsbold (Mongolia) H.E. Mr. Fredrick W. Pitcher (Nauru) H.E. Mr. Tahir Iqbal (Pakistan) Hon. Tuisugaletaua A.S. Aveau (Samoa) H.E. Mr. Yaacob Ibrahim (Singapore) Hon. Abdul H.M. Fowzie (Sri Lanka) H.E. Mr. Abduvokhit Karimov (Tajikistan) Hon. Paul Barthelemy Telukluk (Vanuatu) Sir Geoffrey Henry (Cook Islands) Hon. Toke T. Talagi (Niue)</p> <p><i>Rapporteur:</i> Mr. W.R.M.S. Wickramasinghe (Sri Lanka)</p>			
<p>Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries</p> <p><i>Chairperson:</i> Mr. Ram Krishna Tiwari (Nepal)</p> <p><i>Vice-Chairperson:</i> Mr. Marciano Octavio Garcia da Silva (Timor-Leste)</p> <p><i>Rapporteur:</i> Mr. Jiro Usui (Japan)</p>		Seventh session Bangkok 10-11 May 2005	E/ESCAP/1342

Annex IV

**DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION
(LISTED BY AGENDA ITEM)**

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Symbol</i>
1	Provisional agenda	E/ESCAP/L.159
	Annotated provisional agenda	E/ESCAP/L.160 and Corr.1
2 (a)	Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues	E/ESCAP/1331
2 (b)	Implementing the Monterrey Consensus in the Asian and Pacific region: achieving coherence and consistency	E/ESCAP/1332
2 (c)	Emerging issues in response to tsunamis and other natural disasters	E/ESCAP/1333
3 (a)	Key issues relating to poverty reduction	E/ESCAP/1334
3 (b)	Key issues relating to managing globalization	E/ESCAP/1335
	Summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of managing globalization	E/ESCAP/1336
	Report on the outcomes of the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific	E/ESCAP/1337
	Report on issues related to information, communication and space technology and preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society, 2005	E/ESCAP/1338
3 (c)	Key issues relating to emerging social issues	E/ESCAP/1339
	Regional Framework for Strategic Action: Promoting Health and Sustainable Development	E/ESCAP/1358
	Report on implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum on HIV/AIDS and Development	E/ESCAP/1340
	Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes	E/ESCAP/1341
4	Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its seventh session	E/ESCAP/1342
5 (a)	Implementation of Commission resolution 58/1: mid-term review of the revised conference structure	E/ESCAP/1343
5 (b)	Draft programme of work for the period 2006-2007	E/ESCAP/1344
5 (c)	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	E/ESCAP/1345
	Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery	E/ESCAP/1346

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Symbol</i>
	Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific	E/ESCAP/1347
	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	E/ESCAP/1348
5 (d)	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its audit of the regional commissions	E/ESCAP/1349
	Summary of key recommendations and actions taken by ESCAP on the report of OIOS on its audit of the regional commissions	E/ESCAP/1350
6	Overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions	E/ESCAP/1351
7	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	E/ESCAP/1352 and Add.1
8	Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	E/ESCAP/1353
	Report of the Mekong River Commission	E/ESCAP/1354
	Report of the Typhoon Committee	E/ESCAP/1355
	Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones	E/ESCAP/1356
9	Date, venue and theme topic for the sixty-second session of the Commission	E/ESCAP/1357

Annex V

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS AND ADVISORY SERVICES IN 2004

A. List of publications *

ESCAP towards 2020 (ST/ESCAP/2328) (E.04.II.F.37)

Poverty and development

Asia-Pacific Development Journal, vol. 11, No. 1, June 2004 (ST/ESCAP/2333) (E.04.II.F.41); No. 2, December 2004 (ST/ESCAP/2343) (E.04.II.F.48)

Bulletin on Asia-Pacific Perspectives 2004/05: Asia-Pacific Economies: Living with High Oil Prices? (ST/ESCAP/2341) (E.04.II.F.47)

Development Papers, No. 24, *Export Diversification and Economic Growth: The Experience of Selected Least Developed Countries* (ST/ESCAP/2314) (E.04.II.F.15); No. 25, *Integrating Economic and Environmental Policies: The Case of Pacific Island Countries* (ST/ESCAP/2273) (E.03.II.F.55)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2004: Asia-Pacific Economies: Sustaining Growth and Tackling Poverty (ST/ESCAP/2312) (E.04.II.F.20)

A Manual for Evaluating the Impact of Targeted Poverty Reduction Programmes (Revised Edition) (ST/ESCAP/2332) (E.04.II.F.40)

Meeting the Challenges in an Era of Globalization by Strengthening Regional Development Cooperation (ST/ESCAP/2319) (E.04.II.F.24)

Statistics

Asia-Pacific in Figures 2004 (ST/ESCAP/2352) (E.05.II.F.7)

Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, vol. XXXIV, No. 1, March 2004; No. 2, June 2004; No. 3, September 2004; No. 4, December 2004; Compendium (ST/ESCAP/2357) (E.05.II.F.11)

Statistical Newsletter, Nos. 132-135

Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2004 (ST/ESCAP/2337) (E.04.II.F.1)

Trade and investment

ESCAP Trade Facilitation Framework: A Guiding Tool (ST/ESCAP/2327)

Promoting Business and Technology Incubation for Improved Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Industries through Application of Modern and Efficient Technologies (ST/ESCAP/2323) (E.04.II.F.04)

Studies in Trade and Investment: 52. *Trade and Investment Policies for the Development of the Information and Communication Technology Sector of the Greater Mekong Subregion* (ST/ESCAP/2336) (E.04.II.F.42); 53. *Perspectives from the ESCAP Region after the Fifth WTO Ministerial Meeting: Ideas and Actions Following Cancún* (ST/ESCAP/2338) (E.04.II.F.44)

Traders' Manual for Least Developed Countries: Cambodia (ST/ESCAP/2320); *Bangladesh* (ST/ESCAP/2331)

Transport and tourism

Landlocked Developing Countries Series, No. 1: *Transit Transport Issues in Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries* (ST/ESCAP/2270) (E.03.II.F.53)

Report of the Second Regional Forum on Maritime Manpower Planning, Training, Utilization and Networking of Centres of Excellence (ST/ESCAP/2335) (E.04.II.F.38)

Environment and sustainable development

Energy Resources Development Series, No. 39, *End-use Energy Efficiency and Promotion of a Sustainable Energy Future* (ST/ESCAP/2295) (E.04.II.F.11)

Environment and Natural Resources News, vol. 4, No. 1, March 2004; No. 2, June 2004; No. 3, September 2004

Environment and Sustainable Development News, vol. 4, No. 4, December 2003 (previously *Environment and Natural Resources News*)

Water Resources Journal, December 2004 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/216)

Water Resources Series, No. 84, *Water Services for the Urban Poor: A Guide to the Planning and Provision of Water and Sanitation Services to the Urban Poor* (ST/ESCAP/SER.F/84) (E.04.II.F.33)

Information, communication and space technology

* Where applicable, United Nations publication sales numbers are shown in parentheses and start with the letter "E".

Compliance with Information and Communication Technology Related Multilateral Frameworks: Information Technology Enabling Legal Frameworks for the Greater Mekong Subregion (ST/ESCAP/2329) (E.04.II.F.39)

Towards Regional Cooperative Mechanisms for Managing Floods and Drought in Asia and the Pacific Using Space Technology (E/ESCAP/2318)

Implementing e-Government: Report of the Regional Workshop (ST/ESCAP/2342) (E.04.II.F.45)

Increasing Stakeholder Participation Using ICT: Report of the Regional Workshop (ST/ESCAP/2345)

Use of Space Technology Applications for Poverty Alleviation: Trends, Strategies and Policy Frameworks (ST/ESCAP/2309) **Available online only**

Social development, including emerging social issues

Asia-Pacific Population Journal, vol. 18, No. 4 (ST/ESCAP/ 2324) (E.03.II.F.97); vol. 19, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/2330) (E.04.II.F.99); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/ 2334) (E.04.II.F.98); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/2344) (E.04.II.F.97)

Asian Population Studies Series, No. 162, *Implementing the ICPD Agenda: Ten Years into the Asia-Pacific Experience: A Status Report* (ST/ESCAP/2339) (E.04.II.F.46)

Population Headliners, Nos. 298-302

Report on the Follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development: State and Globalization, Challenges for Human Development (ST/ESCAP/2326) (E.04.II.F.34)

Social Action Update, vol. 3, Nos. 1-3

Young People and Substance Use: Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation (ST/ESCAP/2315) (E.04.II.F.25)

B. List of meetings

Poverty and development

Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific: Governing Board, twenty-second session, Bogor, Indonesia, January; extraordinary meeting, Bangkok, March; Technical Advisory Committee, twenty-first session, Bogor, January

Training Course on the Saemaul Undong Methodology, Community Mobilization Strategies, Basic Survey Techniques, Participatory Mapping of Community Problems and Formulation of an Action Plan, Seoul, February; Training for National Counterpart Staff and Community Leaders, Vientiane and Phnom Penh, April; Kathmandu, June

Regional High-level Round-table Meeting on Spearheading Subregional Programmes and Cooperation for Eradication of Poverty and Food Security in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, February

Expert Group Meeting on Collecting, Documenting and Disseminating Innovative Practices in Pro-poor Public-private Partnerships, Chiang Mai, Thailand, March

National Seminars on Strengthening Income and Employment Generation Programmes for Poverty Eradication in Central Asian and Caucasus Countries: Baku, April; Almaty, Bishkek, Dushanbe and Yerevan, May; Tashkent, October

National Seminar on the Strategy of Poverty Reduction in Kazakhstan and the Asian and Pacific Region, Almaty, May

National Seminar on Strengthening the Social Passport System and Programmes for Poverty Eradication in Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek, May

Seventh Regional Consultative Meeting on Good Urban Governance, Bangkok, June

Regional Dialogue on Housing Rights, Bangkok, June

Regional Workshop on Capacity-building for External Debt Management in the Era of Rapid Globalization, Bangkok, July

ESCAP/Asian Development Bank Institute Regional Workshop on Contract Farming and Poverty Reduction: Issues and Research Methodology, Bangkok, August

Advisory Panel Meeting on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, September

Thematic Working Group on Poverty Reduction and Food Security, Bangkok, October

Meeting of Eminent Persons on Current and Prospective Economic and Social Performance in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, October

ESCAP/United Nations Human Settlements Programme/ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs/United Nations Population Fund Expert Group Meeting on Operational Definitions of Urban/Rural and Urban Agglomeration for Monitoring Urban Settlements, Bangkok, November

Subregional Workshop for South-East Asia on Capacity-building for Poverty Alleviation through Community-based Development in Areas Affected by

Environmental Degradation, Bangkok, November
Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, December

Statistics

Second Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices, Luang Prabang, Lao People's Democratic Republic, January
ESCAP/Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development/Asian Development Bank Workshop on Assessing and Improving Statistical Quality: Measuring the Non-observed Economy, Bangkok, May
Workshops for Improving Disability Statistics and Measurement, Bangkok, May and September
United Nations Statistics Division/ESCAP Regional Workshop on Poverty Statistics, Manila, October
Training Workshop on Data and Indicators to Monitor Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the Habitat Agenda, Bangkok, November
Expert Group Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses, Bangkok, December

Trade and investment

Seminar on Trade and Investment Policies for Development of the IT Sector of the Greater Mekong Subregion, Bangkok, February
National Training Workshops on Trade Finance Infrastructure Development: Bishkek, February; Tashkent, March; Baku and Astana, May; Dushanbe, September
National Conference on Negotiations in the World Trade Organization, Islamabad, February
Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement: twenty-first session, Bangkok, February; twenty-second session, Bangkok, July
Management Training Course on Trade Facilitation and Promotion for Greater Mekong Subregion Enterprises under the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship and GMS Business Forum, Bangkok, March
Seventh WTO/ESCAP Trade Policy Course on WTO Agreements and the Doha Development Agenda, Bangkok, March
International Seminar and Exhibition on Animal Feed Biotechnology, Beijing, March
Seminar on Implications of the Bangkok Agreement for Prospective Member Countries, Bangkok, March
Regional Policy Dialogue: Post-Cancún Regional Trading Environment, Bangkok, March

Regional Policy Dialogue: Facilitating the Accession of Developing Countries to the World Trade Organization, Bangkok, March-April

International Seminar and Exhibition on Information and Communication Technology Applications for Agriculture and Rural Industry and Agro-based Enterprise Development, Beijing, April

Asia-Pacific Business Forum: Exploring Emerging Business Opportunities, Shanghai, China, April

Meeting on Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum Corporate Governance, Bangkok, April

ESCAP/WTO Advanced Course on the Doha Development Agenda, Yerevan, May

Training Programme on Regional Dialogue on the Role of Regionalism and Multilateralism in Shaping the International Trading System, Tehran, May

WTO/ESCAP Regional Workshop on Trade in Services Negotiations for Asian and Pacific Economies, Dhaka, May

Expert Group Meeting on Enhancing Access to Information Sources for Negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda, Bangkok, June

First Meeting of Asia-Pacific Research Network on Trade Core Institutions, Bangkok, June

Training Programme on Institutional Processes and Initiatives for Developing Country Positions in WTO Negotiations, Seoul, June-July

WTO/ESCAP Regional Seminar on Trade and Development, Denpasar, Indonesia, June-July

Regional Expert Conference on Harmonized Development of Legal and Regulatory Systems for e-Commerce in Asia and the Pacific: Current Challenges and Capacity-building Needs, Bangkok, July

Round Table on Capacity-building Needs for e-Commerce Legal and Regulatory System Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, July

Seminar on UNCTAD XI, ESCAP and Thailand: Trade as an Engine of Development, Bangkok, July

Workshop on Improvement of the Investment Climate in the Western Region of China, Kunming, China, August

WTO/ESCAP Regional Training Workshop on Multilateral Negotiations on Agriculture, Colombo, September

Sixth International Fruit/Vegetable Exposition, Yantai, China, September

WTO/ESCAP Regional Seminar on Customs Valuation, Trade Facilitation and Rules of Origin, Yangon, September

WTO/ESCAP/Administrative State College of India Regional Seminar for Asian and Pacific Economies on Competition Policy, Development and the Multilateral Trading System, Hyderabad, India, October

Regional Workshop on Strategic Partnership in Promoting a Technology Incubations System for SMEs, Shanghai, China, October

Expert Group Meeting on the Role of Trade and Investment Policies in the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, Bangkok, October

First Consultative Meeting of Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network Research Institutions and Policy Makers, Bangkok, October

First Meeting of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council, Bangkok, October

ESCAP/OECD Global Forum on Trade: Trade and Structural Adjustment, Bangkok, November

Fifth Annual Meeting of the Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum, Sihanoukville, Cambodia, November

Technical Advisory Committee of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, third session, Hanoi, December

Governing Board of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, third session, Hanoi, December

Transport and tourism

ESCAP/German Agency for Technical Cooperation Seminar on Building a New City: Sustainable Transport in Bangkok, Bangkok, January

ESCAP/Asian Development Bank Workshop on Facilitation of Cross-border Transport in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Bangkok, February

Expert Group Meeting on a Public-private Partnership Readiness Assessment Framework for Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, March

Expert Group Meetings on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages: Almaty, March; Odessa, Ukraine, November

Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing Facilitation, ninth session, Almaty, March

Working Group on the Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Sector, fifteenth meeting, Chiang Mai, Thailand, March

ESCAP/Tourism Promotion Organization for Asian-

Pacific Cities Symposium on Trends of the Asia-Pacific Tourism Market and Countermeasure Strategy, Busan, Republic of Korea, May

Expert Group Meeting on Facilitation of International Road Transport among the Members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Urumqi, China, June

Executive Committee of the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism, tenth meeting, Suva, July

Seminar on Planning for Community Tourism Initiatives in Pacific Island Countries, Suva, July

Training Workshop on Development and Maintenance of Roads, Yangon, July

Negotiating Meeting on the Draft Intergovernmental Agreement on Facilitation of International Road Transport of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Urumqi, China, August

Training Seminar on the Management of Public-private Partnership Programmes and Projects, Performance Evaluation and Benchmarking, Bangkok, August

Subregional Policy-level Expert Group Meeting-cum-Study Tour on an Integrated International Transport and Logistics System for North-East Asia, Ulaanbaatar, September

Subregional Expert Group Meeting on Identifying Investment and Priorities for the Development of the Asian Highway Network and Related Intermodal Connections, Islamabad, September

Expert Group Meeting on Measuring and Assessing the Impact of Tourism Initiatives on Poverty Alleviation, Bangkok, October

Regional Meeting to Draft the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, Bangkok, November

Seminar on Maritime Container Traffic Forecasts, Bangkok, November

National Seminar on Enhancing the Role of Tourism in Socio-economic Development and Poverty Alleviation, Baku, November-December

Seminar on Free Trade Zone and Port Hinterland Development, Bangkok, November-December

Workshop on Information and Communication Technology Applications in Maritime and Intermodal Freight Transport: Asian and European Experiences and Cooperation Prospects, Bangkok, December

Environment and sustainable development

Joint ESCAP/United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Workshop on Land Degradation, Bangkok, February

- Second Joint Meeting of the Steering and Technical Committees for Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms in North-East Asia, Bangkok, February; third meeting, Beijing, September
- National Workshops on Application of Strategic Planning and Management Guidelines to Promote Water Resources Management: Islamabad, February; Manila, June-July; Colombo, July; Da Nang, Viet Nam, August; Nadi, Fiji and Yangon, September; Port Moresby, Ulaanbaatar and Beijing, October
- Capacity-building Workshop on Promoting Public Awareness of Water Conservation, Male, February
- First Technical Committee Meeting on Conservation of Biodiversity through Public-private Partnership, Islamabad, February
- Training Workshops on Strategic Planning and Management of the Energy Sector: Male, February; Apia, July
- WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, thirty-first session, Colombo, March
- Ninth Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, Moscow, March; tenth meeting, Okinawa, Japan, November
- Expert-level Group Training on the Clean Development Mechanism, Hayama, Japan, March
- Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of Cooperation in Dam Safety in Central Asia, Almaty, March
- Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific on Renewable Energies 2004, Bangkok, March
- Fourth Meeting on the Project on the Creation of the Chu-Talas River Commission, Almaty, March
- Subregional Workshop on the Clean Development Mechanism: Central Asia and Caucasus, Bishkek, April
- National Workshop on Stakeholder Involvement in Air Quality Management, Bangkok, April
- ESCAP/WMO Working Group on Review of the Operations and Structure of the Typhoon Committee, Bangkok, April
- Subregional Workshop on Application of Strategic Planning and Management Guidelines to National Case Studies on Water Resources in Central Asia, Tashkent, April
- National Stakeholder Awareness Seminar on Strategic Planning and Management, Dhaka, April
- Mid-term Review Meeting on the Project on the Conservation of Biodiversity through Public-private Partnership, Islamabad, May
- Thematic Working Group on Environment and Development, Bangkok, May
- Third Disaster Management Practitioners' Workshop for South-East Asia, Bangkok, May
- International Workshops on an Investment Strategy to Prevent and Control Dust and Sandstorms in North-East Asia: Mongolia, May; Beijing, July
- Regional Training Workshop on the Integration of Energy and Rural Development Policies and Programmes, Bangkok, May
- ESCAP/UNDP/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Workshop on Methodologies of Assessment of the Socio-economic Impacts of Disasters in Asia and their Application for Poverty Eradication and Economic Development, Bangkok, May
- Subregional Workshop on an Action Plan for Improvement of Particulate Abatement Systems of Coal-fired Power Plants in North-East Asia, Beijing, June
- Concluding Workshop on the Energy Component of the ESCAP Public-private Partnership Project, Jakarta, June
- ESCAP/International Water Management Institute/International Atomic Energy Agency Training Workshop on the Development of Effective Management and Decision-making Tools for the Mitigation of Contamination of Soils, Crops and Water in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Bangkok, June
- Regional Symposium on the Role of the Judiciary in Promoting Sustainable Development: Case Studies from Japan and Developing Countries in East Asia, Bangkok, June
- Training Workshop for Bhutan on National Capacity Self-assessment, Bangkok, June
- Asian Workshop on Crucial Issues in the Clean Development Mechanism, Bangkok, June
- Terminal Review Meeting on Regional Technical Assistance for Transboundary Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, Bangkok, July
- ESCAP/WMO Working Group on Hydrology, Bangkok, July
- Third Meeting of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network, Kitakyushu, Japan, August
- Stakeholders Consultation Workshop on Strategic Planning and Management of the Energy Sector, Kathmandu, August
- Consultative Meeting on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia: For the Promotion of Intergovernmental

Dialogue, Bangkok, September

ESCAP/WMO Regional Workshop on Living with Risk: Dealing with Typhoon-related Disasters as Part of Integrated Water Resources Management, Seoul, September

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Energy Services for Sustainable Development in Rural Areas, Bangkok, September

Subregional Preparatory Meetings for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005: South Asia, South-East Asia and North-East Asia, Bangkok, September; Central and North-West Asia, Istanbul; Pacific, Apia, October

Third Working Group Meeting on Nature Conservation in North-East Asia, Bangkok, September-October

Consultation Workshop on Formulation of a Strategic Plan for the Energy Sector, Male, October

National Workshops on the Integration of Energy and Rural Development Policies and Programmes: Kandy, Sri Lanka, October; Yangon, November; Phnom Penh, December

Regional Workshop on Energy Integrated Urban Planning, Bangkok, October

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Water-use Efficiency Planning, Bangkok, October

WMO/ESCAP Typhoon Committee, thirty-seventh session, Shanghai, China, November

Concluding Regional Workshop on Strategic Planning and Management of Natural Resources, Bangkok, November

Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific 2005, Bangkok, November

Pre-Workshop on Strategic Planning and Management of Natural Resources, Bangkok, November

Regional Consultation Workshop on the ASEAN Energy Manager Accreditation Scheme, Bangkok, November

Seminar on Facilitation of Technology Transfer for the Enhanced Utilization of Wind Energy, Beijing, November-December

Seminar on Small Hydropower Policies and Cooperation, Hangzhou, China, December

Seventh Thematic Seminar on the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Integrated Urban Environmental Management: Strengthening the Implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative, Bangkok, December

Information, communication and space technology

Workshop on the Use of Space Technology Applications for Disaster Management in South-East Asia, Singapore, January

Regional Training Workshop on Information Technology Enabling Legal Frameworks for the Greater Mekong Subregion, Bangkok, February

Governing Board of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology: eighteenth session, Manila, February; extraordinary meeting, Bangkok, April

ESCAP/International Telecommunication Union/Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Regional Inter-agency Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies, Bangkok, sixth meeting, March; seventh meeting, October

Subregional Seminar on Strengthening Institutional Capacity for the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights to Promote Investment and Transfer of Technology with Special Emphasis on Information and Communication Technologies, Tashkent, March-April

ESCAP/Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology Strategic Planning Workshop, Bangkok, April

Regional Workshop on Agricultural Drought Monitoring and Assessment Using Space Technology, Hyderabad, India, May

ESCAP/International Telecommunication Union Regional Training Workshop on Enabling Policies and Regulatory Frameworks for Information and Communication Technology Development in the Asia-Pacific Region, Bangkok, May

Regional Workshop on Implementing e-Government, Bangkok, May-June

Regional Training Workshop on Soil Erosion Information Systems, Beijing, July

Regional Expert Conference on Harmonized Development of Legal and Regulatory Systems for e-Commerce in Asia and the Pacific: Current Challenges and Capacity-building Needs, Bangkok, July

ESCAP/Asian Development Bank Institute/Asian Institute of Technology Regional Workshop on Increasing Stakeholder Participation Using ICT, Bangkok, July

Mid-term Training Course on Applications of Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Technologies for Integrated Water and Land Resources and Disaster Management, Cibinong and Yogyakarta,

Indonesia, July-September

Regional Workshop on the Applications of Space Technology for Flood and Related Disaster Management, Bali, Indonesia, August

Greater Mekong Subregion Workshop on the Promotion of International Management Standards for ICT Development, New Delhi, August

Training Course on Geoinformatics for Disaster Management, Dehra Dun, India, August-September

Regional Working Group on Space Science and Technology Applications, ninth meeting, Bangkok, September

Regional Working Group on Satellite Communication Applications, ninth meeting, Bangkok, October

Regional Working Group on Meteorological Satellite Applications and Natural Hazards Monitoring, ninth meeting, Bangalore, India, October

Regional Working Group on Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems and Satellite-based Positioning, tenth meeting, Bangalore, India, October

Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, tenth session, Bangalore, India, October

Expert Group Meeting on Open-source Software for Knowledge Management, Bangkok, October

First Regional Conference on the Follow-up to the First Phase and Preparation for the Second Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, Bangkok, October

Expert Group Meeting on the Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society, Bangkok, October

Regional Inter-agency Working Group on ICT, seventh meeting, Bangkok, October

Training Course on Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems, Dehra Dun, India, October-June 2005

Meeting of Experts on a Policy Framework on Space Information Products and Services for Disaster Management, Beijing, November

Conference on the Information Society and Regional Cooperation in Information and Communication Technologies for Development, Bishkek, November

Subregional Symposium on ICT for Development in Pacific Island Developing Countries, Suva, December

Seminar on Best Practices of Community e-Centres in the Asia-Pacific Region, Kunming, China, December

Social development, including emerging social issues

National Course on Life Skills and Peer Education for HIV Prevention among Young People, Kathmandu, January

Thematic Working Group on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality: Bangkok, January, June and November

Workshops for Trainers on Reducing Drug Abuse and Delinquency among Youth in the Greater Mekong Subregion: Kunming, China, and Vientiane, February; Bangkok and Hanoi, March

National Course on Medical and Psychosocial Services for Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth: Dhaka, February; Male, March

Sixth Steering Group Meeting for the Project on Providing Basic Services to the Poor through Public-private Partnership: ESCAP Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Bangkok, February; seventh meeting, March; eighth meeting, April; ninth meeting, June

Women's Electronic Network Training Workshop, Bali, Indonesia, February; Wrap-up Meeting, Bangkok, April

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting in Preparation for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Its Regional and Global Outcomes, Bangkok, March

Mid-term Review of the Health Component of the Project on Providing Basic Services to the Poor through Private-public Partnerships, Bangkok, March

Consultation on Life Skills Project Development and Planning for Health Promotion, Bangkok, March

Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Bangkok, March

Seminar on Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto and on Promotion of Ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Bangkok, April

Subregional Workshops on Implementation of the Madrid and Macao Plans of Action on Ageing: South and South-West Asia, Colombo, May; East and South-East Asia, Beijing, July

Central Asia Training Workshop on Reporting under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Almaty, May

First session of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Development Forum: 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, Bangkok, June

Thematic Working Group on Disability-related Concerns, Bangkok: eighth session, June; ninth session, December

Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of Health and Development, Bangkok, July

Third Steering Committee Meeting in Preparation for the Post-Yokohama Mid-term Review of the East Asia and the Pacific Regional Commitment and Action Plan against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Bangkok, July

ESCAP/Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum Shared Learning Workshop on HIV/AIDS with Ministerial Advisers, Bangkok, July

Second Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on HIV/AIDS, Bangkok, July

Ad Hoc Expert Group on Regional Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Bangkok, August

Workshop on Gender Responsive Social Protection: Health Security for the Elderly, Bangkok, August

ESCAP/Asia-Pacific Center on Disability Seminar for South-to-South Cooperation for Decades of People with Disabilities: Orientation on APCD, Bangkok, August

Seminar on Emerging Issues of Health and Mortality, Bangkok, September

Workshop on an International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, Bangkok, October

Workshop on Monitoring the 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, Bangkok, October

Regional Seminar on Follow-up to the Shanghai Implementation Strategy for the Madrid and Macao Plans of Action on Ageing, Macao, China, October

ESCAP/China Disabled Persons' Federation Field Study-cum-Regional Workshop on Poverty Alleviation among Persons with Disabilities, Lanzhou, China, October

Post-Yokohama Mid-Term Review of the East Asia and the Pacific Regional Commitment and Action Plan against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Bangkok, November

Training Workshop on Population and Planning in Central Asia, Almaty, November

Regional Workshop on Promoting Investment in Health for Development, Bangkok, November-December

Workshop on HIV Prevention among Young People, Bangkok, December

Least Developed Countries Coordination Unit

Working Group on Least Developed Countries: second session, Bangkok, April; third session, November

Workshop on Implementing Partnerships for Development in Least Developed Countries of Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, June

MDG Centre

Subregional Workshop on Disseminating the First Regional Report on the Millennium Development Goals, Manila, February

South Asia Subregional Workshop on Disseminating the First Regional Report on the Millennium Development Goals, Kathmandu, February

C. List of advisory services

Poverty reduction

Poverty and development

Bangladesh: (a) to provide advice to the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives; and (b) to review, prepare a report on and improve income and employment generation programmes

India, to advise the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation on strengthening grass-roots democracy in state-level government institutions and on capacity-building of women elected members of local government for social mobilization and utilization of social capital for poverty reduction

Mongolia, to advise the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour on completion of the Economic Growth Support and Poverty Reduction Strategy and on dealing with poverty monitoring issues and capacity-building in policy analysis

Uzbekistan, to act as a resource person at a national seminar on strengthening the Income and Employment Generation Programme, to advise on how to incorporate in the Programme the practices followed

in other countries of the region and to assess its current status

Statistics

Afghanistan, to advise the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the interministerial working group on the development of a statistical master plan for technical cooperation

Armenia, to assist the National Statistical Service in reviewing current practices and methodologies in the areas of labour statistics, administrative statistics in the social domain and producer prices

Azerbaijan, to advise the State Statistical Committee on poverty estimation and analysis methodology and carry out a basic needs assessment in the field of poverty statistics

Bangladesh, to advise the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics on developing economic and informal sector statistics

Cambodia, to assist in conducting a training course on the main international standard classifications for socio-economic surveys organized by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to advise the Central Bureau of Statistics on national accounts

Kyrgyzstan, to provide technical assistance to the National Statistical Committee on economic statistics

Mongolia: (a) to review country practices and methodologies in the main areas of economic statistics and elaborate the long-term programme of technical assistance for the development of basic economic indicators; and (b) to advise the National Statistical Office on improvement in industrial output and production index calculation and analysis of short-term business indicators

Philippines: (a) to assist the National Statistical Coordination Board in strengthening its capacity in poverty studies; and (b) to participate in the first meeting of the Scientific Programme Committee of the International Conference on Official Poverty Statistics

Sri Lanka: (a) to advise the Department of Census and Statistics on poverty estimation methodology; and (b) to provide technical assistance to the Department in the area of economic statistics

Timor-Leste, to advise the National Statistics Directorate in contributing to the planning for the second participatory poverty assessment as well as assessing and prioritizing the various capacity-building needs

Thailand, to give a lecture at a meeting of provincial staff of the National Statistical Office on time surveys

Viet Nam, to advise the General Statistical Office on analytical issues regarding the Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey, particularly the potential in the data for developing better indicators of the economic role of women, and other poverty, Millennium Development Goal, gender and social concerns related to the Survey

Managing globalization

Trade and investment

Armenia: (a) to provide advisory services to the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development; and (b) to participate as a facilitator, presenter and discussant in an ESCAP regional seminar on WTO issues

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, to assess the trade facilitation situation, hold briefing sessions and discussions and advise the relevant ministries and agencies on trade facilitation matters

Azerbaijan, to assist the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on accession to WTO and the development of domestic trade research capacity

Bhutan: (a) to advise the Ministry of Trade and Industry on developing a comprehensive export promotion strategy in terms of policy, legislation, implementing regulation, institutional set-up, human and financial resources and awareness-building campaigns; (b) to provide comprehensive evaluation of foreign investment attraction policy and implementation; and (c) to provide advice and assistance on the WTO accession process

Cambodia: (a) to provide advisory services to the Ministry of Commerce on WTO-related matters: (i) implementing the recommendations on the country's accession commitments; (ii) establishing tools to enhance awareness of WTO and other trade agreements across government, the private sector, the donor community and civil society; (iii) organizing WTO "core group" ministries on the implementation of WTO accession commitments; (iv) developing a web page in the Ministry of Commerce on WTO issues; and (v) conducting, with the Ministry, the European Union and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, a three-day WTO basics course; (b) to follow up on trade facilitation matters; (c) to develop recommendations regarding the structure and organization of the Ministry's Trade Department; and (d) to determine the technical assistance requirements and design an action plan to meet them

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, to provide advisory services on investment promotion

Kyrgyzstan, to advise the Ministry of External Trade and Industry on accession of the Central Asian republics to WTO

Mongolia: (a) to provide advisory services to the Ministry for Industry and Trade in preparing the paper "Foreign trade development concept to 2015"; and (b) to assist the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in trade development

Nepal, to provide advisory services to the Ministry for Industry, Commerce and Supplies: (a) on regional trade arrangements, trade facilitation and WTO-related matters; (b) on implementing the programme of assistance; (c) on follow-up to the action proposal submitted after the previous mission; (d) on preparing a comprehensive negotiating position on sensitive lists and rules of origin for the Delhi Round of South Asia Free Trade Agreement negotiations and assisting the Ministry and the private sector in developing and evaluating negotiating options for the Doha Round; and (e) to participate in a mission on the formulation of the European Union-Nepal WTO assistance project

Pakistan, to participate in a two-day conference on WTO and discuss the country's WTO negotiating priorities

Environment and sustainable development

Bangladesh, to participate in the fourth meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management and to meet government officials and representatives of UNDP to discuss possible collaborative efforts in the areas of environment, energy and disaster management

Bhutan, to provide advisory services to the National Environment Commission Secretariat and act as a resource person in a 10-day training programme for the district environmental committees

China, to discuss with the Ministry of Water Resources the project on a regional drought preparedness network for Asia and the Pacific

Kyrgyzstan: (a) to serve as a resource person at the Subregional Workshop on the Clean Development Mechanism; and (b) to provide advisory services to the Ministry of Ecology and Emergencies on environmental issues, including the identification of possible projects for external funding

Niue, to assist in preparing the territory's second national communication project proposal to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, assessing funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and assessing the country's needs on environment and sustainable development, particularly after the disaster caused by cyclone *Heta* in January 2004

Philippines, to assist the Department of Science and Technology in formulating and developing a project, building capacity within the Department and the university research centre and developing programmes and projects for GEF funding through a series of lectures and workshops

Sri Lanka, to advise the Central Environment Authority on an integrated framework for activities related to the environment, health and water

Tajikistan, to participate, as the representative of ESCAP, in the donor meeting to discuss further steps necessary to implement the Programme of Concrete Action on Improvement of the Environmental and Socio-economic Situation in the Aral Sea Basin for the period 2003-2010

Tonga, to assist in preparing Tonga's second national communication on climate change

Uzbekistan, to assist in addressing a number of urgent issues relating to a proposal on the second national communication of Uzbekistan under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be funded by GEF

Viet Nam, to act as a resource person at the national consultation workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification for the period 2005-2010 and to provide advice and guidance on the development of project proposals relating to drought, land degradation, sand dune movement, water resources management and desertification

Information, communication and space technology

Bhutan, to carry out a fact-finding mission to facilitate the ICT strategizing process

Fiji: (a) to assist in a subregional consultative meeting as part of the preparatory process for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society; and (b) to initiate future collaboration between ESCAP and Fijian and Pacific authorities and organizations and to assess current ICT needs for future collaboration

Lao People's Democratic Republic, to facilitate the e-commerce legislative process and support the Government in the development and implementation of ICT policies and strategies

Maldives, to assist the National Centre for Information Technology in drafting the national ICT policy, identify specific needs and develop appropriate follow-up action

Myanmar, to provide advisory services to the Settlements and Land Records Department to assess the present ICT environment, define ICT needs and outline future technical cooperation between ESCAP and Myanmar on ICT

Nepal, to advise the High-level Commission for Information Technology on drafting and developing implementation strategies for the National Action Plan

Philippines: (a) to work with the Commission on Information and Communication Technology on the realization of the national ICT agenda; and (b) to participate as a resource person in a round table on ICT and deliver a lecture at DeLaSalle University

Samoa, to assist the National Steering Committee in the development and implementation of an ICT strategy

Sri Lanka, to advise the Information and Communication Technology Agency on ICT policies and strategies

Viet Nam, to provide advisory services to the Government in implementing a workshop on strengthening institutional capacity to develop and implement ICT policies and strategies

Marshall Islands, to develop the urban development policy and discuss the Pacific Urban Agenda

Solomon Islands: (a) to plan and design the technical assistance requested by the Government; (b) to provide advisory services to the Government on the development of a national disability policy; and (c) to follow up on phase II of technical assistance concerning the community-based rehabilitation programme of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services

Vanuatu: (a) to follow up on the Pacific urban management workshop; (b) to mobilize resources for the urban management workshop in Suva; (c) to brief the UN-HABITAT delegation to Vanuatu on the regional coordination initiative and the Pacific Urban Agenda; (d) to brief the UNICEF-funded national research team on combating poverty and the commercial exploitation of children and prepare project proposals on Pacific urban management and poverty alleviation for submission to ESCAP; and (e) to act as a resource person at the workshop on gender policy held at the Ministry of Education

Emerging social issues

Social development, including emerging social issues

Fiji: (a) to assist in preparations for the national workshop on urban development; (b) to attend the meeting of the Health and Population Working Group of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific on implementation of the disability policy; (c) to review the terms of reference of the Working Group; (d) to assist in the preparation of a joint proposal with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat for a workshop on disability; and (e) to act as a resource person at a researchers' training workshop

Annex VI

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly “recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of ... an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East”,

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the relevant United Nations bodies;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan, American Samoa, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Georgia, Guam, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macao, China, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include American Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, China, Macao, China, New Caledonia, Niue and Northern Mariana Islands.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organization to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization, following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic

and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and cooperation with other regional commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairperson.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex VII

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

Chapter I

SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session, subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to

participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, subject to the provisions of rule 6;

(f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in general consultative status may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

Chapter IV

OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no

longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its subcommissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its subcommissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the

Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

Chapter VI

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 27

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 28

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 29

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

Rule 33

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 34

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 35

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed; and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 36

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter VII

VOTING

Rule 37

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 38

Except for the provision of rule 6(b), decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 39

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 40

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 41

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 42

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 43

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Chapter VIII

LANGUAGES

Rule 44

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter IX

RECORDS

Rule 46

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other

government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 47

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 48

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster.

Chapter X

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XI

CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Rule 51

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized

agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving coordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XII

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Rule 53

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in general and special consultative status on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete - e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 54

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the

Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in general consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in special consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (e) above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 55

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in general or special consultative status either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 23 the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54(d) and (e) shall not apply in this case.

Chapter XIII

SUBCOMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 57

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 58

The Commission may establish such committees and subcommittees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 59

Subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, subcommittees and working parties shall

adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Chapter XIV

REPORTS

Rule 60

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

Chapter XV

AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 61

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

