

2. *Urges* the participating members and associate members of the Commission to continue their support to the network of regional cooperation and coordination mechanisms established under the Regional Remote Sensing Programme;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to incorporate remote sensing and geographic information systems applications as a regular programme activity, and also to mobilize extrabudgetary funds from the United Nations Development Programme and other donors to ensure quality planning and management of activities focusing on the multisectoral dimensions of space applications involving, *inter alia*, remote sensing and geographic information systems, natural resources management, natural disaster reduction, environmental monitoring and planning, technology, agriculture and human settlements.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

47/9. International cooperation on labour migration between the ESCAP and ESCWA regions⁹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing that labour migration from the developing countries of the ESCAP region to other regions has provided many developing countries of the region with new employment opportunities and balance-of-payments support,

Appreciating the usefulness of the activities that the secretariat has carried out to assist countries in the region in their efforts to promote and regulate labour migration, and noting also the valuable work undertaken by the International Labour Organisation and other international agencies,

Aware of the mutually beneficial relationship that has developed between the labour-exporting developing countries of the ESCAP region and the labour-importing countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region,

Stressing the mutual benefits that can accrue to the labour-importing countries by helping them to overcome their critical labour shortages, and to the labour surplus countries by providing employment opportunities and remittances,

Concerned at the disruption that the Persian Gulf conflict has caused to labour migration between the ESCAP and ESCWA regions, and noting the opportunities available to countries in both regions, in the aftermath of that conflict, to revitalize the interregional labour migration process along lines more beneficial to development in both regions and more supportive of the social needs of migrating labourers and their families,

⁹ See para. 542 above.

1. *Urges* the developing members and associate members of ESCAP to promote understanding and cooperation among themselves and between themselves and the countries in the ESCWA region concerning the interregional migration of workers, and make concerted efforts to resolve the problems that those workers face;

2. *Also urges* the international community to provide financial and technical assistance to the developing countries of the ESCAP region, particularly the least developed countries, which have been affected by the disruption caused to labour migration by the Persian Gulf conflict;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close consultation with the Executive Secretary of ESCWA:

(a) To undertake a thorough analysis of the demographic, economic and social policy issues involved in labour migration between the ESCAP and ESCWA regions with a view to identifying means to enhance the benefits to both the labour-exporting and labour-importing countries, specifically drawing upon earlier studies undertaken by ESCAP and the relevant international organizations in this area;

(b) To promote a dialogue between the countries concerned in the ESCAP and ESCWA regions on policy issues, with the objectives of maximizing the mutual benefits and minimizing the costs involved in the process of international labour migration;

(c) To report to the Commission at its forty-ninth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of this resolution;

4. *Invites* donor Governments and organizations to provide the necessary extrabudgetary resources to the secretariat for the implementation of this resolution.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

47/10. Phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994¹⁰

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/227 of 18 December 1984 proclaiming the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, and Commission resolution 236 (XL) of 27 April 1984 on the Decade,

Reaffirming the critical role of transport and communications in economic development and the importance, therefore, of the improvement and growth of transport and communications infrastructure and services in a manner commensurate with the anticipated growth of all sectors of the economy

¹⁰ See para. 644 above.

generating the demand for transport and communications,

Recognizing the role of other United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and international organizations concerned with transport and communications in the formulation, planning and execution of projects within their mandate undertaken in conjunction with the Decade,

Also recognizing that the report of the mid-term review of the Decade confirms that the immediate objectives of the Decade remain fully valid at the mid-point of the Decade,

Noting with appreciation the support provided so far for the Decade's programmes by the members and associate members of ESCAP, as well as by the donor countries and agencies,

Also noting the recommendations contained in the report of the mid-term review of the Decade,

1. *Decides* that the programmes for the second quinquennium of the Decade should be redesigned and implemented in such a way as both to avoid the shortcomings identified during the first quinquennium and to take into account the anticipated development of the transport and communications sectors in the region over the remaining period of the Decade;

2. *Also decides* that the period of the second quinquennium of the Decade is to be modified to 1992-1996 to coincide with the period of the medium-term plan, 1992-1997, to enable adequate preparation to be made for the regional action programme;

3. *Invites* all members and associate members to participate actively in the implementation of the programmes for the Decade;

4. *Supports* the convening of a meeting of ministers responsible for transport and communications in 1992 to consider and recommend to the Commission the regional action programme for the remainder of the Decade;

5. *Invites* donor countries and agencies to provide the requisite funds to enable the Commission to implement a regional action programme for the Decade and its activities of greater impact in the field of transport and communications for the remainder of the Decade;

6. *Urges* the United Nations Development Programme to provide funds in particular from its Special Programme Resources for developing the regional action programme;

7. *Invites* all United Nations organizations and specialized agencies concerned with the development of transport and communications in the region to cooperate and coordinate their activities with the secretariat in the implementation of the programmes for the Decade, paying special attention to the particular transport and communications problems of the least developed, land-locked and Pacific island countries;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To take the lead role in the coordination, monitoring and reporting of the Decade as recommended in the report of the mid-term review;

(b) To develop a close link with the international financial institutions for the implementation of the regional action programme for the Decade;

(c) To encourage the active participation of existing subregional groupings of the region in formulating and implementing the Decade activities within their respective subregions in coordination with the secretariat;

(d) To associate national institutions concerned with transport and communications with the implementation of the Decade activities;

(e) To promote the active involvement of commercial sectors in the implementation of the Decade;

(f) To ensure adequate manpower resources to strengthen the capability of the secretariat to monitor, coordinate and report on the Decade, as well as to provide technical assistance;

(g) To report to the Commission at its annual sessions until the last year of the Decade on the implementation of the Decade;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake an evaluation of the Decade after its completion and to submit his report, with appropriate recommendations, to the Commission at its subsequent session;

10. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-eighth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

47/11. Interregional cooperation in the area of trade facilitation¹¹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Conscious of the importance of trade facilitation measures as a means of making international trade efficient and cost-effective, and of the developments in new technologies and their application in the conduct of international trade,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/118 on interregional cooperation for facilitation of international trade, in which the Council directed the regional commissions to formulate, jointly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a project proposal for interregional cooperation, including the detailing of the technical

¹¹ See para. 467 above.