

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992, and the importance accorded to regional inputs to that Conference,

*Welcoming* the increased joint efforts by countries in the region towards developing policies and programmes that maintain a better balance between economic and social development and the rational use of natural resources and environmental protection, and welcoming in particular the outcome of the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok on 15 and 16 October 1990,

*Realizing* that lack of the necessary financial and other resources and technologies is a major factor inhibiting the ability of the developing countries of the region to participate effectively in global and regional efforts towards environmental protection,

*Reaffirming* the objectives in section I, subparagraphs 15 (j) and (m) of United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the need for financial resources and access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular to developing countries, for achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development,

1. *Endorses* the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development agreed upon by the Meeting of Senior Officials on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok from 13 to 19 February 1991;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for all members and associate members of the Commission to develop or strengthen their national strategies and action plans for environmentally sound and sustainable development;

3. *Endorses* the Asian and Pacific input to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development agreed upon by the Meeting of Senior Officials, for submission to the Preparatory Committee of the Conference as soon as possible;

4. *Supports* the establishment of an inter-agency committee on environment and development, as recommended by the Meeting of Senior Officials, with the purpose of enhancing coordination and strengthening regional cooperation in formulating, implementing, reviewing, monitoring and reporting on activities and initiatives in the Asian and Pacific region for the promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development;

5. *Invites* all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned, as well as regional and subregional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, multilateral funding agencies and bilateral aid agencies, to participate actively in the establishment and future work of the inter-agency committee;

6. *Calls* for the early implementation of the various recommendations of the Ministerial-level Conference, in particular the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the Regional Strategy, and for the support of donor Governments and United Nations bodies and agencies in this task;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to keep the progress of implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Strategy under review and report on this to the Commission at its annual sessions, and to develop appropriate monitoring and evaluation methods and mechanisms for this purpose;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the United Nations bodies and agencies concerned and donor Governments, to explore the feasibility of a regional funding mechanism being established for the implementation of national, regional and subregional programmes and projects for environmentally sound and sustainable development, and to report on progress in this matter to the Commission at its forty-eighth session.

724th meeting  
10 April 1991

**47/8. Regional cooperation and coordination in remote sensing and geographic information systems<sup>8</sup>**

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

*Noting* that for sustainable natural resources development and environmental management, baseline data on existing natural resources and the environment, and sequential information on the changing status of natural resources and the environment are essential,

*Noting also* that remote sensing and the allied geographic information systems technology are essential tools for providing the basic as well as dynamic change detection information for environmental impact analysis necessary for any natural resources management and environment monitoring activities,

*Realizing* that a number of members and associate members of the Commission have already become involved in the application of remote sensing and geographic information systems technology for their natural resources surveys, environment monitoring and development planning, and many of them have invested an appreciable amount of resources to acquire the technology,

*Recalling* that regional coordination and collaboration in remote sensing applications and development through technical cooperation among developing countries have already been initiated by the Commission through its United Nations Development Programme-funded Regional Remote Sensing Programme and that an effective network of regional cooperation mechanisms for technology transfer and information exchange within this region has been established,

1. *Decides* to continue to promote and strengthen regional cooperation and collaboration in the area of satellite technology applications for sustainable natural resources and environment management;

<sup>8</sup> See para. 513 above.

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 regions<sup>9</sup>**

*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,

<sup>9</sup> 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, 1985-1994<sup>10</sup>**

*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

<sup>10</sup> See para. 644 above.