

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

48/1. Declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation¹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting the rapid economic and political changes taking place in the world, which could provide opportunities for and constitute challenges to economic growth and development, globally as well as in the ESCAP region,

Stressing the importance of a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, and the need for an open world trading system to underpin regional efforts,

Noting with satisfaction the development of a resilient and buoyant economy in the ESCAP region and growing interlinkages among its members and associate members in the context of regional stability and improved political relations,

Recognizing the need to utilize existing subregional organizations in the region fully, with a view to fostering appropriate cooperation and interaction between them to enhance economic and social progress in the region,

Noting the continually remarkable growth and trade expansion of the ESCAP region as a whole, but recognizing with concern that such performance has not been shared by all the economies of the region, particularly the least developed, land-locked and Pacific island economies,

Realizing that these developments have emphasized the common interests of the ESCAP members and associate members and strengthened their political will to foster closer economic ties, which in turn will contribute to regional development and prosperity,

Convinced of the need for and prospects of sustained and enhanced regional economic cooperation,

Recalling, inter alia, the declaration made at the seventh session of the Commission held at Lahore in 1951, the Tokyo Declaration made at the thirteenth session in 1967, the Seoul Declaration made at the forty-seventh session in 1991, and other relevant instruments of the Commission which provide policy direction for strengthening regional economic cooperation in Asia and the Pacific,

1. *Resolves* to enhance economic cooperation in the ESCAP region;

2. *Resolves also* to impart new impetus to economic cooperation in the region, based on the following guiding principles:

(a) To ensure the sustained growth and development of the region for the good of all its people, thus contributing to the growth and development of the world economy;

(b) To promote economic cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit;

(c) To reaffirm the commitment of ESCAP members and associate members to an open world trading system, as well as to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system in line with the articles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;

(d) To take fully into account the diversity of the region, particularly in stages of economic development and socio-political systems, and to give due consideration to the special needs of developing members and associate members;

(e) To follow the principles of equality and consensus-building in consultations and dialogue;

3. *Urges* strongly that promotion of intraregional trade and investment, and greater cooperation in science and technology and in the development of infrastructure, should receive high priority in economic cooperation in Asia and the Pacific and in the Commission's deliberations;

4. *Welcomes* the setting up of the thematic Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation in the context of the revision of the intergovernmental subsidiary structure of the Commission;

5. *Directs* the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation to begin work expeditiously by examining trends and developments in the region, and to focus initially on one or two of the priorities mentioned in paragraph 3 above with a view to developing concrete measures for enhancing regional cooperation;

6. *Calls upon* all members to give full and active support to the principles and objectives set forth in the present resolution, which shall be known as the Beijing Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation;

¹ See paras. 224 above.

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the Beijing Declaration into full account in formulating the programme of work and priorities and report to the Commission on an annual basis, beginning with the forty-ninth session.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

48/2. Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission²

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, and 47/3 of 10 April 1991 on the conference structure of the Commission,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, in which the regional commissions were designated as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions and directed to exercise team leadership and responsibility for coordination at the regional level, resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979, in which it was decided that the regional commissions should have the status of executing agencies in their own right, and resolution 34/206 of 19 December 1979, on the implementation of resolution 32/197,

Reaffirming that the complexity of the development problems faced by the developing countries increasingly demands that these problems be tackled in a comprehensive manner through interdisciplinary and intersectoral action, and therefore reaffirming its endorsement, in general, at its forty-seventh session, of the recommendation of the Group of Eminent Persons on Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission relating to the progressive reorganization of the work of the Commission on a thematic basis,

Recognizing that a reoriented and more effective subsidiary structure would be able to respond better to the changing needs of the members and associate members in the light of emerging economic and social development in the region and the changing scope of regional cooperation, as well as to utilize fully the multidisciplinary advantage of the Commission and its increased capability in technical assistance activities,

Having considered the recommendations of the Meeting of Senior Officials on the Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission, held at Bangkok from 13 to 17 January 1992, as well as those of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, held at Beijing from 10 to 16 December 1991,

1. *Decides* to revise the conference structure and frequency of meetings to conform to the following pattern:

(1) *The Commission*

The Commission shall meet annually for up to eight working days at the ministerial level to discuss and decide upon important issues concerning economic and social development in the region, to decide upon the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, to examine and approve the programme of work and priorities and to take any other decisions required, in conformity with its terms of reference.

(2) *Subsidiary structure*

A. The following committees and special bodies shall be established and meet at the intervals indicated below:

<i>Thematic committees</i>	<i>Periodicity</i>
Regional economic cooperation	Annual, immediately preceding the Commission session, with the exception of its first session in 1992
Steering group of the committee for regional economic cooperation	Twice a year, or as often as required, starting in 1992
Environment and sustainable development	Annual, starting in 1993
Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development	Annual, starting in 1993
<i>Other committees</i>	
Statistics	Biennial, starting in 1992
Transport and communications	Biennial, starting in 1993
<i>Special bodies</i>	
Least developed and land-locked developing countries	Biennial, starting in 1993
Pacific island developing countries	Annual, 1993-1995, thereafter biennial

² See paras. 241 above.