

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 Commission<sup>2</sup>

*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

<sup>2</sup> See paras. 241 above.

B. In order to facilitate its work, the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation shall have a high-level steering group, which will meet twice a year or as often as required. Such a steering group shall form its own agenda and organize its own procedure of work under the overall direction of the Committee. Without prejudice to the principle of equal participation by all members and associate members of the Commission in ESCAP activities, and reaffirming that regional cooperation is primarily the concern and responsibility of the regional members and associate members within the geographical scope of the Commission, the membership of the steering group shall be drawn, on a voluntary basis, from members and associate members within the geographical scope of the Commission. Other members may be welcomed to participate, when desirable, in meetings of the steering group.

C. The revised structure is shown in chart form at annex I to the present resolution.

### (3) *Ad hoc ministerial conferences*

(a) Subject to the approval of the Commission, ad hoc ministerial conferences may be organized on specific issues. Normally, no more than one such conference may be organized during a year;

(b) In those years when a ministerial conference is held which is regarded as covering issues normally discussed in a corresponding committee or special body, that committee or special body shall not be convened.

### (4) *Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings*

(a) Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings may be convened with the prior approval of the Commission, to carry out a detailed examination of substantive and priority issues;

(b) No more than fifteen such intergovernmental meetings may be held during a calendar year for a maximum of one hundred calendar days.

### (5) *Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission*

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

### (6) *Existing bodies under the auspices of the Commission*

The following existing bodies under the auspices of the Commission shall function as prescribed in the respective statutes and terms of reference:

- (i) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
- (ii) Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific
- (iii) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

### (7) *General provisions*

#### (a) *Functions*

The functions of the committees and special bodies are specified in their respective terms of reference in annexes III-IX to the present resolution. Committees should select priority issues and focus on well-defined problems in order to show tangible results during the committees' tenure.

#### (b) *Duration of meetings*

Meetings of all committees shall last for no more than five working days.

#### (c) *Rules of procedure*

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

### (8) *Other provisions*

The other provisions shall include the following:

(a) In view of the establishment of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries, the existing Special Body on Land-locked Countries shall be deleted from the conference structure;

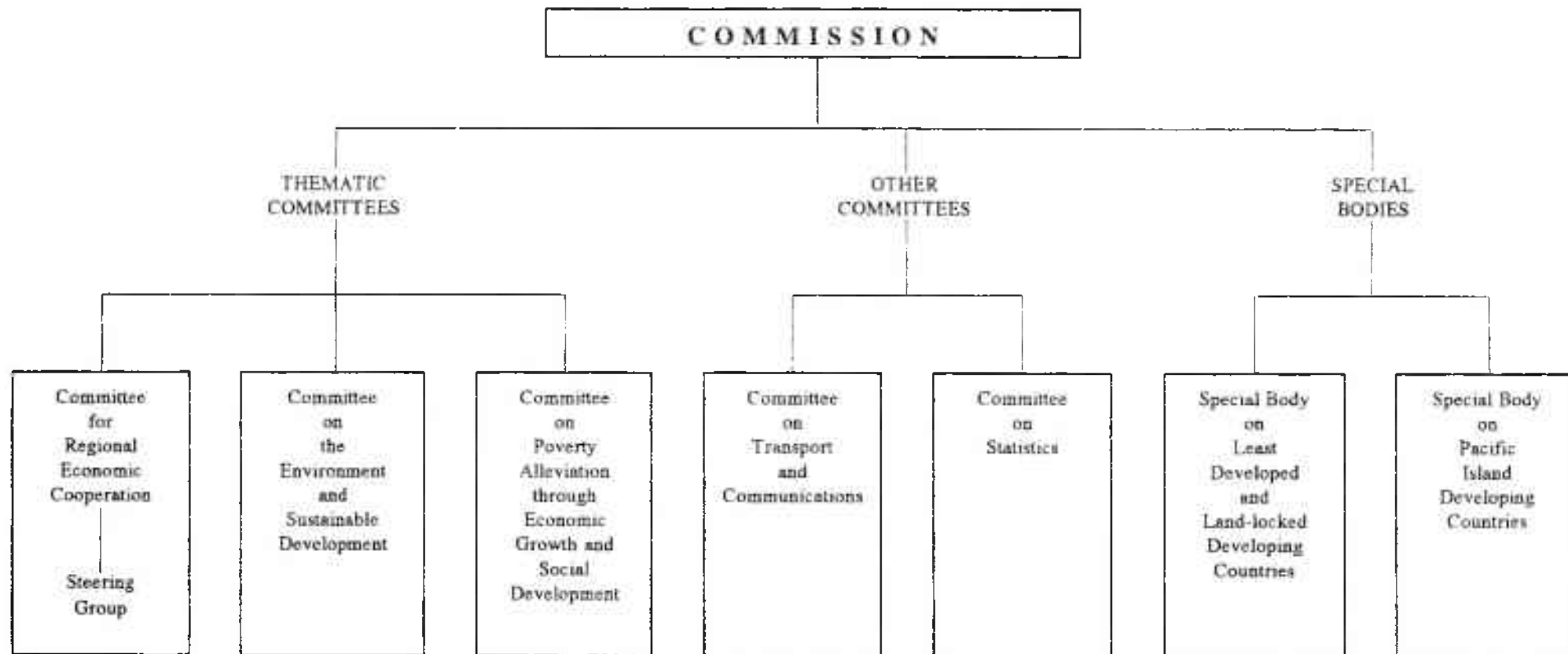
(b) The existing provision for convening ad hoc conferences shall be deleted from the conference structure;

## ANNEXES

### *Annex 1*

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

### SUBSIDIARY STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION



#### Ministerial conferences

Ministerial conferences on specific issues concerning areas such as the environment, industry and technology, international trade, population, poverty alleviation, social development, women in development, and urbanization would be organized on an ad hoc basis.

#### Advisory body

Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission convened monthly by the Executive Secretary.

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary, under the direction of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and in conformity with the goal of maximizing the impact of the United Nations in the field of economic and social development, to reorganize the secretariat so as to enhance its capability to service the thematic intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission and implement its revised programme of work under the framework of the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to forward, within the next three months, his assessment of the organizational, staffing and financial implications of the revision of the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission to the seats of Governments of members and associate members, through the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, for their consideration and decision;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to review the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic priorities and its subsidiary structure, no later than at the fifty-third session of the Commission.

739th meeting  
23 April 1992

#### *Annex II*

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES DESIGNATED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

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

1. To maintain close cooperation and consultation between the members and the secretariat of the Commission.
2. To advise and assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the medium-term plan, programme budget and priorities, consistent with the guidelines provided by the Commission.

3. To receive on a regular basis information on the administrative and financial functioning of ESCAP, and to assist and advise the Executive Secretary in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the ESCAP programme of work.

4. To review the draft calendar of meetings, prior to its submission to the Commission session.

5. To exchange views with the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for each session of the Commission, bearing in mind chapter II of its rules of procedure.

6. To assist the secretariat in the formulation of the annotated provisional agenda for each session of the Commission before it is finalized.

7. To monitor the functioning of the thematic approach and the implementation of activities under it, in order to provide an assessment of the thematic approach and to suggest to the Commission at the appropriate time potential modifications to or changes of the themes.

8. To carry out any other tasks to be entrusted to it by the Commission.

#### *Annex III*

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

In order to sustain and extend the scope of the current dynamism of the economies in the Asian and Pacific region by strengthening their growing interdependence and complementarities, there is an urgent need to enhance economic cooperation in the region. Given the imperative of such enhanced regional economic cooperation for harnessing the potential that exists in the region, the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, under the overall supervision of the Commission, shall perform the following functions:

1. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas, a forum for policy-oriented discussion, and a catalyst for action to promote regional economic cooperation.
2. Review periodically:
  - (a) The impact on the economies of the Asian and Pacific region of global economic interdependence in such areas as trade, financial and investment flows, technological progress and industrial growth;

(b) The future economic outlook of the region and the structural adjustments needed to strengthen the economies of the region.

3. Initiate policy-oriented studies on regional economic cooperation which, after review by the Committee or its Steering Group, should be disseminated widely in the region.

4. Identify potential areas for regional economic cooperation, recommend appropriate policy options and assist the regional members and associate members of the Commission in implementing measures to achieve such cooperation by encouraging, facilitating and sponsoring consultations through the establishment of working groups, including expert and technical groups and other appropriate arrangements.

5. Develop a close relationship with relevant subregional organizations, promote the interchange of information on their activities and studies on issues relating to regional economic cooperation, and encourage linkages among them.

6. Devise ways and means of establishing dialogue with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, and donor countries, within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities to promote regional economic cooperation.

7. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate its activities with them.

8. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to regional economic cooperation.

#### *Composition and operational modalities*

The Committee shall be composed of all members and associate members of the Commission.

The Committee shall have a high-level steering group drawn from regional members and associate members on a voluntary basis.

The Committee shall meet once a year, preferably immediately before the Commission session. The steering group shall meet twice a year or as often as required.

#### *Annex IV*

### TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In view of the continuing environmental degradation in the Asian and Pacific region, mindful of the need to integrate environmental considerations with development objectives, and with a view to ensuring the judicious management of energy and other natural resources for preserving and promoting the conditions necessary for sustainable development, the Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development shall perform the following functions:

1. Review and assess the state of the environment in the region within the context of sustainable development.

2. Review and analyse progress in the development and management of energy and natural resources, keeping in view the need for ensuring sustainable development, and make recommendations on strategies, policies, methods and techniques for the proper investigation, development, utilization and management of energy and natural resources.

3. Identify priority issues in the sustainable development of energy and natural resources, examine the environmental impact of the development and utilization of energy and other natural resources and recommend appropriate strategies and policies to minimize any adverse impact.

4. Assist interested members and associate members in undertaking comprehensive national assessment of risks from natural hazards and taking such assessment into account in their development plans.

5. Undertake surveys and studies for enhancing the understanding of the interrelationship between environmental factors and the development process.

6. Identify and highlight the major environmental processes and concerns with a view to promoting policies and strategies for sustainable development in the region.

7. Promote understanding of the relationship between the environment and poverty and encourage the adoption of environmental strategies which pay due regard to the problems of the poorest sections of the population.

8. Encourage the integration of environmental concerns into development policies, plans and programmes at both the macroeconomic and sectoral levels, emphasizing particularly the problems of the least developed and island developing countries.

9. Encourage the setting of standards and the introduction of legal frameworks for managing natural resources as well as ensuring environmental safeguards in manufacturing, product development and trade.

10. Promote environmental awareness at all levels.

11. Promote regional and subregional cooperation in the fields of environmental protection, and sustainable development of energy and natural resources, taking into account the diversity of national situations in the ESCAP region.

12. Articulate the region's response to relevant international initiatives to ensure that such initiatives do not constrain the sustainable development of the region, taking into account the need to improve the international economic environment.

13. Review regional activities in the field of the environment and sustainable development, make recommendations on the formulation and implementation of the programme of work of the secretariat, and monitor and evaluate the progress of those activities.

14. Encourage the establishment of appropriate mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels to ensure sustainable development through environmental protection and the judicious management of energy and natural resources.

15. Establish liaison with other agencies, organizations and bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels and take into account their relevant recommendations.

16. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate activities with them.

17. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time.

The Committee shall meet annually and report to the Commission.

#### *Annex V*

### TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Notwithstanding the impressive record of economic growth achieved by the developing economies in the ESCAP region, the region still contains the majority of the world's poor. This situation underscores

the fact that rapid growth, by itself, does not guarantee the elimination of or significant reduction in poverty. Therefore, a holistic approach to economic growth inclusive of social development, with poverty alleviation as its major focus, is needed in the region. With a view to articulating such an approach and helping the achievement of a significant degree of poverty alleviation in the region in the 1990s, the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development shall perform the following functions:

1. Review the current trends in economic and social strategies in the region to ensure that, while the region continues to make advances in economic growth, the alleviation of poverty receives high priority in the national policies and programmes for the achievement of economic growth and social development.

2. Encourage the formulation and implementation of macroeconomic policies and sectoral and intersectoral programmes targeted at the alleviation of poverty, with a focus on vulnerable social groups and such specific groups as isolated rural communities, slum dwellers, the rural landless, and the unemployed.

3. Review and analyse progress in the improvement of policies and programmes for enhancing agricultural growth and rural development, and in particular consider appropriate measures to promote agricultural and rural development with a view to improving the conditions of the rural poor.

4. Consider means whereby poverty alleviation strategies and policies may be effectively formulated and implemented through the participation of the poor.

5. Consider and make recommendations on issues and programmes relating to population, as well as the related issues of social security and social services, to ensure development commensurate with the development objectives of all members and associate members of the Commission.

6. Consider appropriate measures whereby basic human needs, particularly food and nutrition, health care, education and shelter, can be met through decentralization and devolution of authority, and the participation of non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

7. Review progress in the integration of women in all aspects of development, and promote the intensification of efforts at the national and regional levels to integrate women into the development process.

8. Undertake periodic review of rural and urban poverty, including its interaction with economic growth, population dynamics, the urbanization process and environmental factors, and suggest development policy towards substantial progress in the alleviation of poverty.

9. Consider and make recommendations on the intersectoral approach in the work programme of the Commission to ensure that concerns relating to poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development are adequately reflected in all activities and programmes undertaken by the secretariat.

10. Establish liaison with other agencies, organizations and bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels, and take into account their relevant recommendations.

11. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate activities with them.

12. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time.

The Committee shall meet annually and report to the Commission.

#### *Annex VI*

### TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS

The Committee on Statistics shall perform the following functions:

1. Review and analyse progress in the development of statistics in the region.

2. Assist in the strengthening of the statistical infrastructure in the countries of the region, promote the improvement of the quality of statistics, the international comparability of data and the application of new techniques, and arrange for the exchange of information on and experience in statistical work and methods among the countries.

3. Promote the adoption of international statistical standards and their adaptation, as appropriate, to the conditions and needs of the countries of the region.

4. Promote close coordination of the statistical activities of international organizations in regard to their work in the Asian and Pacific region, so as to achieve greater uniformity in concepts and definitions and reduce to a minimum the burden on national statistical offices.

5. Promote the generation and analysis of statistical data relevant to regional economic cooperation, such as intraregional trade and investment flows in the region.

6. Encourage, with due regard to relevant international work, efforts to develop a set of standardized statistical indicators for the region and, where necessary, a measurement methodology for assessing:

- (a) The quality of life;
- (b) The quality of the environment;
- (c) The application of science and technology to development.

7. Recommend programmes of technical assistance, training, education and research in the various fields of statistics and their application.

8. Review and analyse progress in the development of computerized information processing in the region, especially in the public sector, and make recommendations on issues concerning policies and strategies, as well as on programmes of technical assistance, training and research in this field.

9. Review and evaluate the activities of the secretariat in the areas of statistics and computerized information processing and provide guidance on the work of the secretariat, paying due regard to the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission and other relevant bodies.

10. Make recommendations to the Advisory Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on the nature of and priorities in statistical training for the countries of the region.

11. Inform the United Nations Statistical Commission and, where appropriate, the statistical authorities of the specialized agencies and other relevant bodies, of its work, so that due attention may be given to the wider aspects of the issues considered by the Committee.

12. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and coordinate activities with them.

13. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time.

The Committee shall meet once every two years and report to the Commission.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT  
AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The Committee on Transport and Communications shall perform the following functions:

1. Review and analyse issues, policies and progress in the areas of transport, communications and tourism and advise on the major requirements in these fields, with a view to ensuring that transport and communications infrastructural facilities and services are raised to a level commensurate with the development objectives and priorities of developing members and associate members of the Commission in the region.
2. Encourage the promotion of transport and communications facilities in remote areas of the region, paying special attention to those of the least developed, land-locked and Pacific island developing countries, with a view to alleviating poverty and reducing intraregional disparities in the opportunities for development. The Committee will coordinate its activities with the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development and with the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries.
3. Promote the creation of and improvement in regional infrastructure facilities and services and border facilitation in the fields of transport and communications, with a view to strengthening regional economic cooperation among the countries of the region. The Committee will work closely with the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation.
4. Recommend measures to address problems of environmental degradation, such as the pollution and deterioration of coastlines and the atmosphere, arising generally from the development of transport and communications infrastructure and particularly from the design, choice of technology, maintenance and operation of various transport vehicles. The Committee will work closely with the Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development.
5. Review and undertake policy-oriented studies on current and emerging developments and trends in the fields of transport and communications, as well as on technical innovations and policy-induced changes in those fields; and make recommendations on technical assistance programmes of the Commission.

6. Promote the exchange of experience and techniques in the fields of planning, operation, management, safety and manpower development of transport and communications.

7. Promote tourism at the regional, subregional and national levels, in particular through the development of related infrastructure and human resources, and take steps, in close cooperation with the relevant committees, to minimize the adverse impact of tourism on the social and physical environment.

8. Review and evaluate progress in the implementation of the regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, and provide guidance on the lead or coordinating agency function of ESCAP for the regional action programme on transport and communications, the implementation of the ESCAP input to the regional action programme, and coordination and cooperation with other regional commissions, in particular the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in relation to their transport and communications programmes.

9. Promote coordination and cooperation between ESCAP and other regional commissions, international agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as existing subregional groupings, in their activities on transport and communications issues at the regional level, particularly where these relate to the regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Decade.

10. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate activities with them.

11. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time.

The Committee shall meet once every two years and report to the Commission.

*Annex VIII*

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF  
THE SPECIAL BODY ON LEAST  
DEVELOPED AND LAND-LOCKED  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

In order to help accelerate the pace of development in the least developed and land-locked developing countries within the context of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries shall perform the following functions:



1. Review and monitor economic and social progress in the least developed countries, particularly within the context of the implementation, at the regional level, of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, and identify and recommend new policy measures as and when necessary.

2. Foster new and strengthen existing intercountry cooperation arrangements between the least developed countries and other developing countries, including the organization of cluster meetings as suggested in the Programme of Action.

3. Undertake periodic analysis and ensure regular dissemination of information on the macroeconomic performance of the least developed countries of the region.

4. Undertake in-depth reviews of economic, social and environmental constraints on the least developed countries, and identify and recommend effective policy action at the national, regional and international levels for the removal of such constraints, in particular with regard to measures for increased mobilization of domestic and foreign resources, which should receive the continued attention of the Special Body.

5. Assist the least developed countries in the formulation of appropriate sectoral development strategies, policies and programmes paying due attention to the diverse development circumstances and constraints facing the least developed countries.

6. Convene expert groups, seminars and training courses on subjects of special interest to the least developed countries, as appropriate.

7. Coordinate the secretariat's programme on least developed countries in order to ensure effective implementation of the Programme of Action in the region.

8. Review the special problems of transit trade and of transport in land-locked countries and recommend suitable measures for solving these problems in accordance with international legal instruments, in particular article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

9. Encourage, through all its activities, the land-locked developing countries and their transit neighbours to deal with the transit problems within the context of bilateral cooperation.

10. Initiate studies on such subjects as may be required in relation to the special problems of the land-locked countries of the region.

11. Organize expert groups, seminars and training courses on subjects of specific interest to the land-locked and the transit countries concerned, such as customs administration and procedures, inland transport, port facilities, shipping, and ocean freight rates.

12. Arrange for technical and financial assistance from national, regional and international financial institutions for the purpose of improving transit and transport facilities for the land-locked countries.

13. Establish liaison with other agencies, organizations and bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels, and take into account their relevant recommendations.

14. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate activities with them.

15. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time.

The Special Body shall meet once every two years and report to the Commission.

#### *Annex IX*

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SPECIAL BODY ON PACIFIC ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In order to ensure the participation of the Pacific island developing countries in the mainstream of the economic dynamism of the ESCAP region and to assist them in overcoming their special problems of isolation, small size and vulnerability to environmental hazards, and taking into account the work of other organizations and agencies functioning in the area, the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall perform the following functions:

1. Review and assess progress in the development of the subregion, and assist in the formulation of social and economic development strategies, policies and programmes.

2. Examine special development problems in the subregion, particularly those faced by the least developed or smaller island economies, and identify appropriate domestic policies and possible avenues and modalities of external economic and technical assistance to solve or alleviate those problems.

3. Review and make recommendations for policy-oriented research and action on macroeconomic and sectoral development issues in the light of the special constraints being faced by the Pacific island developing countries.

4. Give special attention to overcoming the development constraints faced by the Pacific island countries by fostering and strengthening economic and technical cooperation among the countries and areas of the subregion, and between the subregion and other ESCAP members and associate members.

5. Identify technical assistance and other activities to be implemented for the benefit of the subregion.

6. Establish liaison with other agencies, organizations and bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels and take into account their relevant recommendations.

7. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate activities with them.

8. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time.

The Special Body shall meet once every two years and report to the Commission.

#### 48/3. Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002<sup>3</sup>

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

Recalling all General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions on disability matters, including General Assembly resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and resolution 37/53 of 3 December 1982, on the implementation of the World Programme of Action, in which, *inter alia*, it proclaimed the period 1983-1992 the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons,

Recalling also Commission resolution 207 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, concerning effective implementation and follow-up of the objectives of the International Year of Disabled Persons, "Full participation and equality",

Mindful that the risk of disability increases with age and that, with the expected rapid ageing of the societies in the region, the number of disabled persons will increase substantially,

Recognizing that while the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons has increased awareness of disability issues and has facilitated considerable progress in the prevention of disability and the rehabilitation of disabled persons in the ESCAP region, progress towards improving the situation of disabled persons has been uneven, particularly in the developing and least developed countries,

Noting that the Expert Group Meeting to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons in the Asian and Pacific Region, held in August 1991, and convened by ESCAP, recognized that there was a need for a second decade of disabled persons to consolidate the gains achieved thus far in the ESCAP region,

Noting further that the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held in October 1991, expressed support for the declaration of a second decade of disabled persons,

1. Proclaims the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, with a view to giving fresh impetus to the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons in the ESCAP region beyond 1992 and strengthening regional cooperation to resolve issues affecting the achievement of the goals of the World Programme of Action, especially those concerning the full participation and equality of persons with disabilities;

2. Requests the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to endorse the present resolution and to encourage, at the global level, support for its implementation;

3. Urges all member and associate member Governments to review the situation of disabled persons in their countries and areas, with a view to developing measures that enhance the equality and full participation of disabled persons, including the following:

(a) Formulation and implementation of national policies and programmes to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in economic and social development;

(b) Establishment and strengthening of national coordinating committees on disability matters, with emphasis on, *inter alia*, the adequate and effective representation of disabled persons and their organizations, and their roles therein;

(c) Provision of assistance, in collaboration with international development agencies and non-governmental organizations, in enhancing community-based support services for disabled persons and the extension of services to their families;

(d) Promotion of special efforts to foster positive attitudes towards children and adults with disabilities, and the undertaking of measures to improve their access to rehabilitation, education, employment, cultural and sports activities and the physical environment;

4. Urges all concerned specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system to undertake an examination of their ongoing programmes and projects in the ESCAP region, with a view to integrating disability concerns into their work programmes systematically and supporting national implementation of the present resolution;

<sup>3</sup> See paras. 536 above.