

48/8. Problems faced by the transitional disadvantaged economies in the ESCAP region⁸

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting the emergence in the ESCAP region of a group of countries with transitional disadvantaged economies,

Warmly welcoming as new members of the Commission several Asian republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Taking into consideration the complexity of the transition process, in connection with the need to overcome great difficulties and, in some cases, crisis situations in their economies,

Taking into account that the earliest possible stabilization of the social and economic situations in the countries with transitional disadvantaged economies, and their determination to increase their regional and global relations, coincide with the interests of the members and associate members of the Commission, especially in the medium and long-term perspective,

Desiring to assist in overcoming the difficulties during this critical period and in solving the social and economic problems of transition in this group of countries,

1. *Recommends* that activities relating to the countries with transitional disadvantaged economies should be included in the programme of work as soon as possible, and that their needs should be taken into account by revising and implementing the medium-term plan of the Commission for the period 1992-1997, and redesigning specific components to respond to those needs, without prejudice to the existing priorities established by the Commission;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to provide, subject to additional available resources, consultancy and technical assistance in economic reform, structural adjustment and the social development problems that accompany economic reform;

3. *Further recommends* that the Executive Secretary should ask for voluntary contributions to enable the full participation of these countries, which are in need of such support, in all appropriate ESCAP meetings;

4. *Invites* all members and associate members of the Commission in a position to do so to contribute generously and promptly.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

48/9. Strengthening ESCAP assistance to the Pacific island countries⁹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Considering the special development problems faced by small, isolated and dispersed islands,

Noting with concern the decline in total ESCAP programme support for its nineteen Pacific island members and associate members,

Recalling its resolution 269 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on the Commission's activities in the Pacific, which committed ESCAP to special measures in favour of the Pacific island developing countries,

Noting the importance of adjustment and reform measures for Pacific island countries in the face of the rapidly changing global economic and geopolitical realities,

Supporting their wider aim of poverty alleviation through economic growth flowing from economic and financial management, adjustment and reform,

Understanding the urgency expressed by the Pacific island countries to embrace major undertakings in economic reform and structural adjustment to achieve economic independence,

Recognizing the need to address the difficult social and political issues that arise in the wake of structural adjustment programmes,

Further noting the desire of the Pacific island countries for increased integration of their economies into those of the broader ESCAP region,

Recognizing the mutual benefits that will accrue to both ESCAP headquarters at Bangkok and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre in Vanuatu from closer, strengthened linkages by exposing ESCAP staff members more closely to the special development problems of the water-locked Pacific island countries,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, within the framework of existing resources, to redeploy three Professional staff members from ESCAP headquarters to the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre in Vanuatu;

2. *Also requests* that the redeployment be for a period of three years, commencing in 1993;

3. *Further requests* that each of the redeployed staff members have expertise and experience so as to complement the available technical expertise at the Centre and to provide technical assistance under the direction of the Head of the Centre in the following fields:

(a) Economic and financial management, structural adjustment and economic reform;

⁸ See paras. 296 above.

⁹ See paras. 657 above.