

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.

(b) Social development problems that flow from economic adjustment and reform programmes;

(c) Market development and trade promotion to broaden the export potential of the Pacific island economies.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

48/10. Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT)¹⁰

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the value of international trade fairs in strengthening regional economic cooperation through the promotion of intraregional and international trade,

Recalling that the successful international trade fairs held at Bangkok in 1966, Tehran in 1969, New Delhi in 1972 and Beijing in 1985 played a very positive role in fostering economic cooperation and trade relations among all members and associate members of the Commission, and in developing their economies,

Recognizing the increasingly active economic and trade interaction among members and associate members of the Commission,

Recalling its resolution 248 (XLII) of 2 May 1986 on the Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT), in which it requested the Executive Secretary to help organize the holding of a regional trade fair at appropriate intervals, preferably once in every three to five years,

Convinced that the next Fair will provide an opportunity to project the changes in the pattern of trade and review the technological developments and industrial restructuring in the region since the 1985 Fair, in order to highlight the increasing intraregional trade complementarities emerging therefrom,

Realizing the necessity of holding the fifth Fair in 1994,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of China for its generous offer to host the next Fair,

1. *Decides* that the fifth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair will be held at Beijing in 1994;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to extend all possible assistance to the Fair, subject to available financial resources, and to approach the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and bilateral donors with regard to the extension of financial support to the Fair;

3. *Calls upon* all Governments of members and associate members of the Commission and other members of the United Nations to give full support to the fifth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair, and to encourage and assist their industrial and commercial organizations to participate in the Fair.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

48/11. Road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures¹¹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Considering that it is in the interests of all concerned countries in the region to promote international trade, tourism and transport,

Noting that large divergences between national transport facilitation measures exist in the region,

Being aware that international coordination and cooperation in the field of transport facilitation could contribute effectively to the development of international trade and transport in the region,

Recognizing that harmonized transport facilitation measures at the national and international levels are a prerequisite for enhancing international trade and transport along road and rail routes of international importance,

Desiring to secure the greatest possible simplification and harmonization of international land transport regulations and procedures in the region,

Noting that a large number of international agreements and conventions already exist in the field of transport facilitation, to which countries in the region may wish to accede or whose provisions could be used as an example for similar regional agreements and conventions,

1. *Recommends* that the countries in the region, if they have not already done so, consider the possibility of acceding to the following:

¹⁰ See paras. 447 above.

¹¹ See paras. 603 above.