

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FORTY-NINTH SESSION

49/1. Implementation of the action programme for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment¹

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

Recalling its resolution 48/1 of 23 April 1992 on the declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation, known as the Beijing Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation, in which it urged strongly that promotion of intraregional trade and investment should receive high priority in economic cooperation in Asia and the Pacific and in the Commission's deliberations,

Recalling also its resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, by which it established the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and its high-level Steering Group,

Noting the sustained growth and expansion of trade in the ESCAP region as a whole, but also recognizing the potential for the further expansion of trade for the benefit of all the developing economies in the region, especially the least developed, land-locked and Pacific island economies as well as the disadvantaged economies in transition,

Taking into account the need for the establishment of a strong regional economy in Asia and the Pacific, with growing interlinkages in trade and investment among ESCAP members and associate members in order to enable the region to retain its resilience into the next century, which will require policies that foster closer economic ties based on expanding interdependence within the region,

Recognizing that notwithstanding such co-operative endeavours within the region, the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and an open world trading system must still underpin the regionwide pursuit of outward-oriented development strategies,

Emphasizing the relevance of the recommendations emerging from the deliberations on the theme topic of the forty-ninth session of the Commission, "Expansion of investment and intraregional trade as a vehicle for enhancing regional economic cooperation and development in Asia and the Pacific", as a step towards achieving a more balanced and sustained development of the region,

Focusing on the action programme for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment as endorsed by the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation at its second session and further endorsed by the Commission at the present session,

Realizing the importance of effective utilization of all available resources, as well as of avoiding duplication of effort for the creation of a better environment for the promotion of regional economic cooperation and development,

Acknowledging the funding support of the United Nations Development Programme under its fifth intercountry programme for the efficient implementation of the action programme,

1. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to accord priority, subject to the availability of financial resources, to the activities of the secretariat in the implementation of the action programme for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment, particularly in the following areas:

- (a) Review and analysis of regional trade patterns;
- (b) Strengthening of the Regional Trade Information Network;
- (c) Networking of trade-related research institutions;
- (d) Enhancement of national capabilities in quality control;
- (e) Sectoral foreign direct investment inflows and analysis of foreign direct investment policies;
- (f) Establishment of a regional investment information and promotion service;
- (g) Development of export-oriented small and medium enterprises;
- (h) Environmental issues related to trade and investment;
- (i) Assistance in specific sectors to disadvantaged economies in transition;
- (j) Integration of the central Asian economies into the region;
- (k) Inter-subregional cooperation in trade and investment;

2. *Calls upon* all members and associate members to support and participate actively in the implementation of the action programme;

¹ See paras. 167, 273-279 and 281 above.

3. *Invites* the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and interested United Nations agencies and organizations, as well as bilateral donor countries and the members and associate members of the Commission, to collaborate actively with the secretariat in its efforts to implement the action programme;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report annually on the progress in the implementation of the action programme, beginning with the fiftieth session of the Commission.

750th meeting
29 April 1993

49/2. Resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 236 (XL) of 27 April 1984 on the proclamation of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/78 of 27 July 1984, in which the Council endorsed resolution 236 (XL), and General Assembly resolution 39/227 of 18 December 1984, in which the Assembly proclaimed a Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling Commission resolution 47/10 of 10 April 1991 on phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, in which the Commission decided that the programmes for the Decade should be redesigned and the period of the second quinquennium modified to 1992-1996, and in which it urged the United Nations Development Programme to provide funds for developing the regional action programme,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/75 of 26 July 1991, in which the Council endorsed Commission resolution 47/10, and General Assembly decision 46/453 of 20 December 1991 by which the Assembly endorsed Council resolution 1991/75,

Recalling further the Declaration of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications: Launching of Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific of

5 June 1992, in which the Governments of the ESCAP region endorsed the regional action programme,

Reaffirming the agreement of the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications, held at Bangkok in June 1992, that the issue of resource mobilization for the implementation of the regional action programme was of equal importance with the formulation of a sound programme, and that the success of the implementation of the programme, and therefore of the Decade, would depend heavily on assistance from donors,

Noting the statement of the representative of the United Nations Development Programme at the first meeting of the Inter-agency Steering Committee on Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, held at Geneva in December 1992, that US\$ 12 million had been allocated for the regional action programme under the Programme's theme of economic reform and, therefore, there was no possibility of additional funding from the intercountry indicative planning figure, and noting that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme will review the regional indicative planning figure at the mid-term review exercise in 1994,

Deeply concerned at the drastic decrease in the level of funds allocated by the United Nations Development Programme for the fifth cycle, which is 75 per cent less than the approximately US\$ 48 million allocated for the fourth cycle (1987-1991) including US\$ 6 million from the Special Programme Resources to eight United Nations organizations and specialized agencies for the implementation of projects related to transport and communications in Asia and the Pacific,

Noting with appreciation the cooperation and support of the United Nations Development Programme in the preparation of the regional action programme for phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, nevertheless stresses that the regional action programme cannot be implemented effectively and efficiently without adequate funds, particularly from the United Nations Development Programme,

Reaffirming the high priority that the Commission gives to phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the draft resolution annexed to the present resolution.

750th meeting
29 April 1993

² See para. 188 above.