

Reaffirming the need for priority to be assigned to the region's disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups, including persons with disabilities, as stated in the Social Development Strategy,

Recalling Commission resolution 48/3 of 23 April 1992 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1992/289 of 31 July 1992,

Recalling also the successful intergovernmental Meeting to Launch the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, held at Beijing from 1 to 5 December 1992, hosted by the Government of China through the China Disabled Persons' Federation, and supported by the Government of Japan,

Noting with appreciation the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region, which was adopted at that Meeting,

Welcoming the signing of the Proclamation by heads of State and Government and senior government officials of a number of ESCAP members and associate members,

Also welcoming the establishment of a trust fund for the Decade, subsequent to the adoption of Commission resolution 48/3, with generous contributions from the Governments of Australia, China, Hong Kong and the Republic of Korea,

1. *Urges* all members and associate members of the Commission to stress their commitment to the full participation and equality of people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region by joining as signatories to the Proclamation at the highest levels of government;

2. *Adopts* the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002;

3. *Requests* all members and associate members to support national implementation of the Agenda for Action through public awareness activities, appropriate policies and other measures, and the allocation of resources;

4. *Invites* all Governments, donor agencies and the private sector to contribute to the trust fund for the Decade to ensure the successful implementation of the Agenda for Action;

5. *Also invites* the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and other concerned United Nations bodies and agencies, in close cooperation with ESCAP, to strengthen their support for the building of national capabilities for effective implementation of the Agenda for Action;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To give special attention, in collaboration with all concerned United Nations bodies and agencies and non-governmental organizations, to the development of regional activities in support of the

implementation of the Agenda for Action for the full participation and equality of people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region;

(b) To include an item on the progress in implementing the Agenda for Action, incorporating information on the signatories to the Proclamation, on the agenda for the regional ministerial-level meeting to be convened in 1994 in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development to be held in 1995.

750th meeting
29 April 1993

49/7. Implementation of decisions of the General Assembly on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21, in Asia and the Pacific⁷

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992 on the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and recalling, in particular, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 as adopted at that Conference on 14 June 1992,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 on the institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Economic and Social Council to set up a Commission on Sustainable Development to follow up the Conference, and noting, in particular, the request of the General Assembly to the regional commissions, contained in paragraph 27 of resolution 47/191, to examine the relevant provisions of chapter 38 of Agenda 21 at their next sessions and submit reports on their specific plans to implement Agenda 21,

Recalling also Commission resolution 47/7 of 10 April 1991 on the integration of environment and development in Asia and the Pacific, in which it endorsed the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development and supported the establishment of an inter-agency committee on environment and development,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 on the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa,

⁷ See paras. 160-161 above.

Bearing in mind that the Asian and Pacific region, comprising more than half of the world's population within approximately one fourth of the land area, has had remarkable economic growth in recent years, which has led to rapid depletion of natural resources and to serious environmental problems that call for urgent remedial attention,

Welcoming the recent steps taken by the countries of North-East Asia under the auspices of ESCAP to enhance cooperation in environmental protection in that subregion,

Welcoming also the efforts of States Members of the United Nations and the Secretary-General aimed at revitalization and restructuring of the United Nations system,

Recognizing that the regional economic commissions, as appropriate, should play a leading role in coordinating regional and subregional activities by sectoral and other United Nations bodies and assist countries in achieving sustainable development, as recommended in paragraph 38.30 of Agenda 21,

Also recognizing the leading role of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the overall coordination of activities at the global, regional and national levels for the implementation of Agenda 21,

Welcoming further the cooperation and coordination among United Nations bodies and agencies and non-governmental organizations on environmental issues through mechanisms such as the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Interagency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific, and the Interagency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting with satisfaction the development of a framework of regional action for sustainable development as recommended by the ESCAP/UNDP High-level Meeting on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Kuala Lumpur from 15 to 19 February 1993,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to articulate further the regional dimensions of Agenda 21, taking into consideration the desire in the Asian and Pacific region, as expressed in the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, to intensify efforts at national, subregional and regional levels to integrate environmental concerns into development planning and processes, to protect and improve the environmental quality, and to implement appropriate natural resource development and management policies and practices;

2. *Requests* the General Assembly to reinforce the technical capability of the ESCAP secretariat to enable it to play a leading role within the United Nations system in coordinating regional and subregional activities for the implementation of Agenda 21;

3. *Recommends* that regional preparatory work on the formulation of an international convention on desertification be undertaken as appropriate, and requests the members and associate members of the Commission to undertake concerted efforts to provide their input for this purpose;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary: (a) to explore with Governments the assistance that ESCAP should be able to provide in order for them to implement the relevant components of Agenda 21 at the national, subregional and regional levels; (b) to identify areas for cooperation among Governments on environment and development issues; and (c) to seek the cooperation and involvement of subregional organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, taking into account the existing arrangements in furthering the implementation of Agenda 21;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to urge potential donors to allocate on a priority basis an equitable share of extrabudgetary resources to the ESCAP secretariat for implementation of projects and programmes in support of Agenda 21, and also to seek funding support from the Global Environment Facility for this purpose;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convene a ministerial-level conference on environment and development in 1995 to discuss the state of environment and development, the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, as well as Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and to provide further guidance on the measures for their implementation;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its fiftieth session his report on specific plans to implement Agenda 21.

*750th meeting
29 April 1993*

49/8. Strengthening assistance to least developed countries⁸

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 47/4 of 10 April 1991 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, in which the Commission stressed that successful implementation of the Programme of Action would depend on shared responsibility and strengthened partnership for the growth and development of the least developed countries,

⁸ See paras. 291-292 above.