

*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 countries<sup>8</sup>**

*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,

<sup>8</sup> See paras. 291-292 above.

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 45/206 of 21 December 1990 and 46/156 of 19 December 1991 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

*Bearing in mind* General Assembly resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, by which the Assembly adopted the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, which stated, *inter alia*, that it would be essential to stem the increasing marginalization of the least developed countries and to reactivate their growth and development through comprehensive national action and international support measures,

*Reaffirming* the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/199, in which the States Members of the United Nations stressed, *inter alia*, the need for full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

*Noting* the establishment, by Commission resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries 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,

*Emphasizing* the broad range of development issues confronting the least developed countries in the ESCAP region,

*Recognizing* the need for the region's economic dynamism to be more widespread and for the fruits of economic progress to be shared among all countries in the region, especially the least developed countries,

*Recognizing also* the new opportunities for expanding trade, technology and investment flows among the Asian and Pacific economies in the post-cold war era, particularly to meet the special needs of the least developed countries,

*Deeply concerned* about the continuing deterioration in the social, economic and ecological situation of the least developed countries in the region,

1. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries have the primary responsibility for their development based on appropriate domestic policies;

2. *Deeply appreciates* the concerns expressed by member countries for the special needs of the least developed countries within the context of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

3. *Deeply appreciates also* the assistance provided by the developing countries in the region to the least developed countries under their economic and technical cooperation arrangements, and their stated intention to expand such assistance;

4. *Calls upon* all member Governments and international and multilateral organizations to continue to pay special attention to the special problems of the least developed countries and to render adequate assistance in support of the development efforts of the least developed countries in implementing the Programme of Action for the 1990s;

5. *Urges* the ESCAP secretariat to strengthen its programmes to focus better on meeting the priority needs and concerns of the least developed countries in the region;

6. *Invites* all members and associate members to participate actively and to extend generous assistance in the preparations for the mid-term review at the regional level of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the 1990s, to be undertaken by the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries early in 1995;

7. *Deeply appreciates* the generous offer by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at the first session of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries to explore the possibility of providing the necessary assistance to the Government of Bangladesh in carrying out the feasibility study for the establishment at Dhaka of a centre for research on the least developed countries;

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

*750th meeting  
29 April 1993*

**49/9. Eradication of preventable diseases in the Asian and Pacific region as a component of social and economic development<sup>9</sup>**

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

*Recalling* the Manila Declaration on a Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, and Commission resolution 48/5 of 23 April 1992, in which the Commission endorsed the Strategy annexed to that Declaration,

<sup>9</sup> See paras. 328-329 above.