

62. Important elements in the role of ESCAP in coordinating regional support for the implementation of the Plan include coordination of: assistance to countries in the formulation and implementation of national human resources development plans and policies; the provision of training to enhance the skills of government staff as well as personnel of NGOs in areas covered by the Plan; the conduct of research on regional human resources development issues; facilitating intraregional exchange of experience and expertise; the dissemination of regional information through the regionwide ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development; and regular monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Plan.

63. In order to promote regional cooperation in the implementation of the Plan, opportunities for the exchange of information and views on human resources development issues will be institutionalized by ESCAP. Studies on issues of direct concern to regional cooperation on human resources development will be undertaken and the results disseminated widely. Intergovernmental meetings and periodic consultations among the national focal points will be held. In addition, meetings of senior officials and ministerial conferences will be convened from time to time to consider special issues related to the implementation of the Plan. The participation of NGOs in these gatherings will be encouraged.

64. The concerned bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, together with other intergovernmental organizations, will coordinate their various activities in support of human resources development in the region so as to ensure optimal utilization of resources. To facilitate this process, the Inter-agency Task Force on Human Resources Development chaired by ESCAP will meet periodically to strengthen cooperation and complementarity in the development and implementation of the work programmes of the agencies concerned.

IV. TIME-FRAME

65. The original Jakarta Plan of Action, adopted by the Commission in 1988, envisaged a three-phase programme covering the periods 1988-1991, 1992-1995 and 1996-2000. Phase I, covering 1988-1991, was to lay the institutional basis for the subsequent formulation and implementation of a coordinated series of human resources development projects at both the regional and national levels under phase II, covering 1992-1995.

66. Under phase I, the institutional framework for implementation of the Plan was laid through the establishment by Governments of national focal points for human resources development and through the setting up of the regionwide ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development.

67. Under phase II, ESCAP, in cooperation with other United Nations bodies and agencies such as UNDP, ILO and UNESCO, implemented a series of human resources development pilot projects at both the national and regional levels in implementation of the Plan. Human resources development training programmes for the personnel of both government agencies and NGOs were also conducted. In addition, the ESCAP Human Resources Development Award was established to honour exemplary work in human resources development, advisory services were provided to Governments on request, research was conducted on various human resources development issues, and the publication of the *ESCAP HRD Newsletter* was initiated.

68. The current revision of the Plan focuses on the broader structural adjustments and institutional changes which were envisaged in the original Plan under phase III, initially intended to cover the period 1996-2000. The present revision of the Plan calls for the initiation of phase III in 1994. It is envisaged that, during that phase, Governments and other participating sectors will continue to work towards a more coordinated approach to human resources development, including the elaboration of comprehensive human resources development policies, plans and programmes in line with the new features of the revised Plan. ESCAP will continue to support such efforts, with particular emphasis on capacity-building at the national level, focusing on the training dimension.

69. Upon the completion of phase III of the Plan in the year 2000, the Commission will take stock of the progress achieved in its implementation, review the further work that may be required, and propose a new set of phased cycles in line with the region's changing needs and priorities.

50/8. Strengthening of subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia⁸

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the need to promote and strengthen subregional economic cooperation as a stepping-stone to regional economic cooperation for the overall development and sustained growth of the ESCAP region as a whole,

Recalling its resolutions 47/1 of 10 April 1991 on the Seoul Declaration on Regional Cooperation, 48/1 of 23 April 1992 on the declaration on enhancing regional economic cooperation, known as the Beijing Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation, and 49/1 of 29 April 1993 on the implementation of the action programme for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment,

⁸ See para. 230 above.

Recalling also its resolution 48/8 of 23 April 1992 concerning problems faced by the disadvantaged economies in transition in the ESCAP region, calling upon the secretariat to provide those economies with, *inter alia*, technical assistance in the process of economic reform and structural adjustment,

Noting with interest the initiative of ESCAP in successfully convening an informal consultative meeting among executive heads of subregional organizations to develop better interaction between ESCAP and those organizations,

Encouraged by the establishment of several growth areas and economic zones in Asia and the Pacific as an important step towards solving the practical problems of regional integration among members and associate members at different stages of economic development and even with different economic systems,

Noting in this context that a number of ideas and proposals have recently been put forward by countries, and by governmental and non-governmental organizations, to promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation and support the development efforts of countries in North-East Asia,

Noting also several other important multilateral initiatives that have already commenced, in particular, the Tumen River Area Development Programme, sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme,

Welcoming the recent steps taken under the auspices of ESCAP and the United Nations Development Programme by the countries of North-East Asia to enhance cooperation in environmental protection in the subregion,

Taking note that the North-East Asian subregion comprises both developed and developing countries, which have significant complementarities in terms of surplus capital and technological capabilities on the one hand, and labour force and rich natural and other resources on the other,

Expressing appreciation of the progress in the implementation of ESCAP projects on the Trans-Asian Railway and Asian Highway which would link, among others, countries and areas of North-East Asia, as well as its recent efforts to promote and strengthen trade and economic cooperation in the subregion,

Convinced of the need for overcoming many major difficulties deserving attention as well as other impediments to economic cooperation and development in North-East Asia, in particular, the bottlenecks in the development of infrastructure for trade and transport,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue ESCAP initiatives and efforts in promoting subregional economic cooperation in general, and trade, investment, transport, communications and environmental

cooperation for sustainable development in North-East Asia in particular;

2. *Requests* members and associate members to express their views on the ways and means of promoting subregional economic cooperation, such as in North-East Asia, as a stepping-stone to regional cooperation in the ESCAP region as a whole;

3. *Calls upon* members and associate members, bilateral and multilateral donors and international organizations to support ESCAP activities in promoting trade and economic and environmental cooperation for sustainable development in the North-East Asian subregion;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make a compilation of proposals on economic development and overall cooperation in North-East Asia, to be submitted, with preliminary comments, to the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation at its seventh meeting and, with a comprehensive report, to the Committee at its fifth session;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

758th meeting
13 April 1994

50/9. Implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer⁹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Bearing in mind Commission resolutions 235 (XL) of 27 April 1984 on the Tokyo Programme on Technology for Development in Asia and the Pacific, 256 (XLII) of 2 May 1986 on the ESCAP Plan of Action on National and Regional Initiatives for Human Resources Development: Its Technological Dimensions, 47/2 of 10 April 1991 on the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, and 49/3 of 29 April 1993 on the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in 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 greater cooperation in science and technology should receive high priority in economic cooperation in Asia and the Pacific and in the Commission's deliberations,

⁹ See para. 212 above.