

51/2. Strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 274 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988, in which it adopted the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region,

Recalling also its resolutions 48/6 of 23 April 1992 on regional cooperation in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action, and 50/7 of 13 April 1994 on an update of the Jakarta Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind the decision at its fiftieth session that the theme topic of the fifty-first session would be "Strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development, with special reference to the social implications of sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific",

Convinced that human resources development is fundamental to all efforts, in particular those of the region, to sustain economic growth, alleviate poverty and bridge the income distribution gap, and improve the quality of life of its people,

Noting that certain countries in the region have had considerable success in the development of their human resources and that there is much to gain from the sharing of experience, exchange of expertise and other forms of cooperation among the countries and subregions of Asia and the Pacific with respect to human resources development,

Welcoming the findings of the secretariat theme study on strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific, with special reference to the social implications of sustainable economic growth, prepared as a basis for the deliberations of the Commission at its fifty-first session,

Acknowledging the valuable advice rendered by the Panel of Eminent Persons on Human Resources Development, convened by the secretariat in Bangkok in November 1994, in particular in reviewing a series of proposals for action on regional cooperation in human resources development,

Expressing its appreciation of the generous financial contribution of the Governments of Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea towards the secretariat's preparation of the theme study,

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the thought-provoking proposals for action for regional cooperation in human resources development, as reviewed by the Panel of Eminent Persons on Human Resources Development and presented in the theme study;

2. *Invites* all members and associate members to strengthen the scope and effectiveness of their human resources development policies, plans and programmes, and on that basis identify their potential for regional cooperation in support of human resources development through the sharing of that information, technical cooperation among developing countries and tripartite arrangements;

3. *Invites* the subregional and other intergovernmental organizations in Asia and the Pacific, as well as the United Nations Development Programme and other concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, to give priority consideration to the means of collaborating with ESCAP on activities in support of regional cooperation in human resources development;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To examine the feasibility of organizing a regional network of centres of excellence in development policy analysis to promote the sharing of views, exchange of experts and other forms of regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) To seek the continued advice of the members of the Panel of Eminent Persons on further means of action to promote regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific;

(c) To highlight human resources development as a strategy to alleviate poverty in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001;

(d) To devote particular attention to promoting women's human resources development as a means of ensuring gender equity;

(e) To monitor and assess the progress achieved in human resources development through regional cooperation, with particular reference to the implementation of the proposals for action contained in the theme study, and prepare a report on that matter for presentation to the Commission at its session in 1999 as part of the secretariat's overall review of the implementation of phase III of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region.

² See para. 197 above.