

### 51/3. Organization of annual sessions of the Commission<sup>3</sup>

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

*Recalling* its resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987, and 47/3 of 10 April 1991, on the conference structure of the Commission,

*Recalling also* its resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, by which it established the thematic committees and special bodies subsidiary to the Commission and the frequency of their meetings,

*Noting* its continuing efforts to enhance the effectiveness of its work and to streamline the arrangements for that purpose,

*Noting also* the document on the organization of future sessions of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1010), together with its annex, containing recommendations of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission on the subject,

1. *Decides* to meet annually for up to seven working days, with the last three days meeting at the ministerial level, to discuss and decide upon important issues concerning economic and social development in the region, to endorse the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, to examine and approve the programme of work and to take any other decisions required, in conformity with its terms of reference;

2. *Decides further* to upgrade the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions to enable it to function along with the three Committees of the Whole, so as to facilitate its deliberations on and consideration of the issues before it, with the proviso that no more than three meetings can take place simultaneously;

3. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, as contained in the document on the organization of future sessions of the Commission, together with the annex, taking into account the views of the secretariat expressed therein, for implementation in accordance with the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Commission;

4. *Decides* to review the new arrangement for holding its sessions, along with the review of the conference structure established by resolution 48/2, at the fifty-third session of the Commission;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to include a review of the implementation of the present resolution in the report to be prepared by the secretariat on resolution 48/2, for consideration by the Commission at its fifty-third session.

*12th meeting  
1 May 1995*

### 51/4. Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region<sup>4</sup>

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992 on the convening of a world summit for social development,

*Recalling also* Commission resolution 48/5 of 23 April 1992 on the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, and the decision, at its forty-ninth session, to convene in 1994 a regional ministerial conference in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development,

*Convinced* that economic growth, social progress and peace are interdependent and mutually reinforcing elements of sustained and equitable development, which must serve as a comprehensive framework for all efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for the people of Asia and the Pacific,

*Reaffirming* its commitment to accord priority to the alleviation of poverty, the expansion of productive employment and the enhancement of social integration throughout the region,

*Recognizing* the need for an integrated, multisectoral approach, through comprehensive policies and programmes, and adequate resources, to address the multitude of interrelated social and economic issues confronting development policy makers and planners in the Asian and Pacific region,

*Acknowledging* the importance of identifying specific social development objectives, and setting attainable social development goals and targets, as a basis for effective action towards the eradication of poverty, the expansion of productive employment and the enhancement of social integration throughout the region,

1. *Welcomes* the Manila Declaration on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, adopted by the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, held in Manila from 12 to 18 October 1994, and endorses the Agenda for Action on Social Development annexed to that Declaration;

2. *Welcomes also* the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development, convened in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, noting in particular the decisions and recommendations contained therein pertaining specifically to the regional commissions;

<sup>3</sup> See para. 556 above.

<sup>4</sup> See para. 316 above.

3. *Welcomes further* the interest of the Government of Sri Lanka in hosting, in 1996, a meeting of senior officials on the implementation of the Agenda for Action, with special reference to the theme of poverty alleviation;

4. *Urges* all members and associate members to take early and effective action to implement the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and the Manila Declaration and the Agenda for Action, with specific reference to the goals and targets contained therein;

5. *Calls upon* all concerned donor countries and funding agencies, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide new and innovative financial support for the implementation of the Agenda for Action;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To report to the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, at its third session to be held in 1996, on the effectiveness of the steps taken to implement the Agenda for Action, with specific reference to poverty alleviation, within the context of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty;

(b) To provide continuing assistance to members and associate members in support of their implementation of the Agenda for Action, with specific reference to their reaching the goals and targets contained therein and in the light of the decisions taken by the World Summit for Social Development;

(c) To convene a regional ministerial conference on social development in 1997 to review and assess the progress achieved towards attaining the goals and targets of the Agenda for Action, to consider the means of enhancing regional cooperation in support of the Agenda for Action, and, thereafter, to convene further such meetings at a high political level on a biennial basis, as called for in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action;

(d) To promote an integrated, intersectoral approach, and ensure effective coordination of the activities of all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as non-governmental, private voluntary, and community-based organizations, in facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Agenda for Action;

(e) To report to the Commission, in 2000, on progress in the implementation of the Agenda for Action and, on the basis of consultations with members and associate members, to recommend further action and initiatives to achieve the goals and targets contained therein.

## 51/5. Asia-Pacific International Trade Fairs (ASPAT)<sup>5</sup>

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

*Recalling* the success of the Asia-Pacific International Trade Fairs (ASPAT) held in Bangkok in 1966, Tehran in 1969, New Delhi in 1972 and Beijing in 1985 and 1994, and the positive role they played in fostering economic cooperation, trade expansion and investment promotion among all members and associate members, and thereby in the development and restructuring of their economies,

*Recognizing* the importance of international trade fairs in strengthening regional economic cooperation through the promotion of intraregional trade and investment complementarities,

*Recognizing also* the increasing economic and trade interaction among members and associate members, while keeping in view their uneven trade and economic development and, therefore, the need to strengthen linkages between the more dynamic economies and other economies of the region,

*Considering* the importance of institutionalizing ASPAT, for at least the next ten years, to ensure the regular organization of the Fair for regional economic and trade development,

*Expressing appreciation* to the Governments of the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, India and Malaysia for their generous offers to host ASPAT in 1996, 1999, 2000 and 2002, respectively,

*Noting* that the Sixth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT'96), to be held in Manila, will provide an opportunity to accelerate the expansion of regional and international trade, and to promote investment, through the effective transfer of technology and the flow of capital, including in home furnishings and related products,

1. *Requests* the members and associate members, and particularly their industrial and commercial organizations, to participate actively in ASPAT'96 to ensure its success;

2. *Calls upon* the Governments of the members and associate members of the Commission, and other Members of the United Nations, to extend full support not only to ASPAT'96 but also to the subsequent fairs in the ASPAT series;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to extend all possible support to the organization of ASPAT'96 and other subsequent fairs, including support for the effective participation of least developed countries, Pacific island countries, land-locked countries and

12th meeting  
1 May 1995

<sup>5</sup> See para. 218 above.