

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)⁵

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

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⁵ See para. 218 above.

disadvantaged economies in transition, subject to the availability of financial resources, and if necessary to approach multilateral and bilateral donors for financial support to enable the participation of those countries in ASPAT'96 and other subsequent fairs;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme, and other donors, to provide support to the secretariat in implementing the activities of its programme of work relating to the organization of ASPAT'96 and other subsequent fairs.

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51/6. Implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century⁶

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 50/1 of 13 April 1994, known as the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century, in which the Commission acknowledged the growing interdependence among the Asian and Pacific economies and resolved to further intensify collective efforts for regional cooperation,

Recalling also resolution 48/1 of 23 April 1992, known as the Beijing Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation, in which the Commission resolved to enhance, and impart new dimensions to, economic cooperation in the ESCAP region,

Recalling further resolution 49/1 of 29 April 1993 on implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment,

Recalling resolution 50/9 of 13 April 1994, on implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer,

Welcoming the establishment of the World Trade Organization, which is expected to contribute to the strengthening of a rule-based open multilateral trading system,

Bearing in mind its request made in the Delhi Declaration to the Executive Secretary to initiate appropriate action to review and recommend measures for further strengthening regional economic cooperation consistent with the emerging regional identity and for addressing more effectively the needs of the region towards the twenty-first century, and to report to the Commission, at its fifty-first session, on the implementation of the Declaration,

Taking into account the report of the Executive Secretary (E/ESCAP/980/Add.1), containing, *inter alia*, the major recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on the Follow-up to the Implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century, which examined the possibilities for future cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, technology transfer and industrial restructuring, tourism, physical infrastructure development, and development strategies and policies,

Recognizing that the progress of the economies of the Asian and Pacific region needs to be supported by mechanisms which will give them the necessary macroeconomic stability,

Acknowledging the important role that emerging information and communications technologies can play in facilitating the sharing of experience and information, and assisting in human resources development,

Reaffirming its commitment to accord special emphasis to the provision of assistance to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries of the region in their economic and social development efforts,

Recognizing the special technical assistance needs of the disadvantaged economies in transition in carrying out their structural adjustment programmes and in their integration into the mainstream of the regional economy,

1. *Welcomes* the major recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on the Follow-up to the Implementation of the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century;

2. *Requests* the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and its Steering Group to consider the major recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting and propose further measures for strengthening regional cooperation in the areas identified, with a view to the preparation of a blueprint for a comprehensive strategy for regional economic cooperation to be considered by an ESCAP ministerial meeting;

3. *Recommends* that the feasibility be examined of establishing, on a self-financing basis, the following mechanisms, which, in collaboration and coordination with other existing institutions, can play a crucial role in enhancing trade, investment and economic cooperation, and technology transfer, as envisaged in the Delhi Declaration:

(a) A regional export credit guarantee facility;

(b) A regional investment information and promotion facility;

(c) A regional network of national chambers of commerce and industry;

⁶ See para. 215 above.