

term review and assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the third Ministerial Conference and to report thereon to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session.

*13th meeting
24 April 1996*

52/9. Intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges⁹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the critical role played by transport and communications in the economic and social development of the region, and the emphasis increasingly being placed by members and associate members on developing and strengthening intraregional and interregional land transport linkages as part of an integrated regional transport system to sustain growth in international trade and tourism, and for the further promotion of regional economic cooperation,

Recalling its resolutions 48/1 of 23 April 1992 on the Beijing Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures,

Recalling also its resolutions 50/1 of 13 April 1994 on the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century and 51/8 of 1 May 1995 on the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/97 of 20 December 1995 on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries, in which the Assembly requested the regional commissions, among others, to identify priority areas for action at the national and subregional levels and to draw up action programmes,

Taking into account the recommendations of the Committee on Transport and Communications at its second session in November 1995, and of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation at its fifth session in April 1996, that the Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID) project comprising the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway projects, as well as land transport facilitation, should constitute a priority activity in the New Delhi Action Plan and in the secretariat's programme of work,

Recognizing that the return of peace in the region and increased rates of growth both in intraregional and interregional trade and in tourism have created an unprecedented opportunity, as well as a demand for reliable and efficient land transport facilities,

Being aware of the strong interest and support for land transport infrastructure development expressed by national leaders gathered at the first Asia-Europe Meeting, held at Bangkok in March 1996,

Recalling specifically the ALTID criteria of developing capital-to-capital links, as well as the principle of "unhindered access" for all participating countries, as agreed upon at the seventh meeting of the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, held at Ulaanbaatar in September 1995,

Noting with appreciation the significant progress made by the secretariat over the biennium 1994-1995 in implementing activities under the ALTID project and the active participation of members and associate members, the close cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe and the European Community, as well as interested agencies and subregional organizations, and the generous financial support provided by donor countries to develop and strengthen intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges to facilitate international trade and tourism,

1. Urges members and associate members:

(a) To lend full support and cooperation to the Executive Secretary in implementing activities under the ALTID project;

(b) To seek ways and means of constructing the missing highway and railway links, and of upgrading and/or extending existing links, as well as constructing new links which have been identified as part of the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway networks;

(c) To consider the possibility of acceding, if they have not already done so, to the international conventions referred to in Commission resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992, as well as related international transit conventions;

2. Requests bilateral and multilateral donors and funding agencies, as well as international and intergovernmental organizations, to support ALTID activities and initiatives at the regional and national levels to create intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To provide full support for the implementation of activities enumerated in the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific to achieve the completion and bringing into operation of both the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway networks, including Asia-

⁹ See para. 218 above.

Europe links and those linkages proposed at the Asia-Europe Meeting, at the earliest possible date;

(b) To encourage and facilitate the efforts of countries to accede, if they have not yet done so, to the international land transport facilitation conventions referred to in Commission resolution 48/11 as an integral component of programmes to develop land transport infrastructure;

(c) To ensure that the implementation of ALTID activities progresses in a balanced and concurrent manner in the various subregions of Asia;

(d) To coordinate the implementation of the ALTID project effectively with the Economic Commission for Europe to ensure the eventual compatibility of standards and requirements of land transport networks of international importance in Asia and Europe, as well as with other international agencies and organizations in order to avoid duplication of work;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, and biennially thereafter, on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*13th meeting
24 April 1996*

52/10. Revised Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment¹⁰

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

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

Noting with appreciation the implementation of the Action Programme carried out so far, in which some elements have been successfully completed,

Noting also the new developments which have a bearing on the prospects and opportunities for cooperation in the trade and investment fields and which require the revision of some elements and the inclusion of others,

Acknowledging the revision to the Action Programme as approved by the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation at its seventh meeting, held at Ulaanbaatar in September 1995, and endorsed by the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation at its fifth session,

1. *Endorses* the revised Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment, as annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to pay due attention, subject to the availability of resources, to the activities of the secretariat in the implementation of the revised Action Programme;

3. *Encourages* all members and associate members to support and participate actively in the implementation of the revised Action Programme;

4. *Invites* the United Nations Development Programme, the Asian Development Bank and other interested bilateral and multilateral donors to collaborate actively with the secretariat in its efforts to implement the revised Action Programme.

*13th meeting
24 April 1996*

Annex

REVISED ACTION PROGRAMME FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN TRADE AND INVESTMENT

A. Growth of intraregional trade

1. Review and analysis of regional trade patterns

1. Under the Action Programme, policy-oriented issues of concern to the region, particularly those recommended from time to time by the Steering Group and the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation to harness the full potential of the dynamism in the Asian and Pacific region and to spread that dynamism more widely across the region for the expansion of intraregional and interregional trade, will continue to be addressed. In the first instance, special consideration will be given to the following: (a) non-tariff barriers impeding trade expansion in the region in the post-Uruguay Round situation; and (b) cross-border trade, including the requisite institutional and administrative arrangements to facilitate the trade of goods and services between countries sharing common borders. A comparative study on the regional experience in border trade and cross-border transactions through bilateral agreements or subregional cooperation initiatives will be undertaken.

2. 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, held in New Delhi in April 1995, recommended that, in view of the volatility in exchange rates and short-term capital movements, and the consequent instability in the financial system, a study on the minimization of risks on account of exchange rate fluctuations was required;

¹⁰ See para. 125 above.