

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Special Body will:

1. Review and analyse the economic and social progress in the Pacific island developing countries and undertake in-depth reviews of economic, social and environmental constraints on their development.
2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action to identify and promote new policy options at the national, subregional and regional levels for the removal of constraints on the economic and social development efforts of these countries.
3. Assist in enhancing national capacities of Pacific island developing countries, including in relation to the formulation of development strategies at the national and sectoral levels.
4. Foster and strengthen intercountry and inter-subregional cooperation arrangements for exchanges of experience and technical cooperation between and among the Pacific island developing countries and with other developing and developed countries in the region.
5. Promote liaison, particularly through the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor countries within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities for the benefit of the Pacific island developing countries.
6. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work of the secretariat and make recommendations to the Commission about future programmes of work, and in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the environment, human resources development and women in development are adequately addressed.
7. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences on small island developing countries at the national, subregional and regional levels, in particular the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.
8. Promote liaison with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlapping and duplication, and strengthening cooperation with other

organizations and bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's activities.

9. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate its activities with them.
10. Carry out such other functions as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to Pacific island developing countries.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Special Body should identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Special Body should indicate the outcomes expected from each task, set a time-frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Special Body shall meet for two days biennially, back-to-back with the annual sessions of the Commission, in alternate years with the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries.

53/2. Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the advancement of women²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/203 of 22 December 1995 and 51/69 of 12 December 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Bearing in mind its resolution 52/3 of 24 April 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, in which it urged all members and associate members to ensure full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in coordination with the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, by strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women to enhance their effectiveness in promoting mainstreaming of gender concerns into policy formulation and planning for national development,

Noting that the Platform for Action recommends that regional commissions should promote and assist the pertinent national institutions in monitoring and implementing the global Platform for Action within their mandates and that this should be done in coordination with the implementation of the respective regional platforms or plans of action,

² See para. 201 above.

Noting also that the Platform for Action calls upon regional and international organizations to provide financial and advisory assistance to national machineries in order to increase their ability to gather information, develop networks and carry out their mandates,

Recalling also that in its resolution 52/3, the Commission called for the promotion of measures to alleviate and eradicate the feminization of poverty, which was recognized as a critical area of concern in the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action and in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 51/66 of 12 December 1996 and all other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights on the subject of the traffic in women and children,

Stressing the need to integrate a gender perspective into the coordinated follow-up to recent international conferences, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna in 1993, the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo in 1994, the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen in 1995 and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul, Turkey in 1996, which recognized the important role of women in economic and social development,

Noting with satisfaction the secretariat's monitoring of the regional implementation of the Platform for Action,

Welcoming the establishment of the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in 1996 and noting with satisfaction the work of the Subcommittee on the Advancement of Women of the Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific, which was established in 1995 in response to Commission resolution 51/7 of 1 May 1995,

Also welcoming the convening in Seoul in September 1996 of the Regional Meeting on Strengthening National Machineries for the Advancement of Women, which, in order to strengthen regional mechanisms, recommended that a resolution should be submitted to the Commission at its fifty-third session (a) supporting the holding every two years of the regional meeting of national machineries for the advancement of women, (b) requesting the Government of Viet Nam to consider hosting the meeting in 1998, and (c) requesting the Government of the Republic of Korea to provide the Korean Women's Development Institute as a secretariat/information centre for the national machineries to complement and supplement the services being provided by ESCAP in the exchange and

flow of information among the members and associate members of the Commission,

1. *Calls upon* all members and associate members to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in coordination with the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific:

(a) By strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women to enhance their role in mainstreaming a gender perspective into national plans and policies, policy formulation and planning, monitoring and evaluation, and in information and communications;

(b) By preparing and implementing national strategies and plans of action for the Platform for Action;

(c) By monitoring and evaluating implementation of the Platform for Action through performance indicators, gender-disaggregated data and other assessment instruments;

(d) By enhancing cooperation, collaboration and partnership among all levels of government and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations;

2. *Urges* all donor countries, the private sector, funding agencies and regional and international financial institutions to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed, landlocked and island developing economies and the disadvantaged economies in transition, in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To implement the recommendations on strengthening regional mechanisms adopted at the Regional Meeting on Strengthening National Machineries for the Advancement of Women, held at Seoul in September 1996 and, in particular, to convene a regional meeting of national machineries for the advancement of women every two years and to approach the Government of Viet Nam to consider hosting the meeting in 1998;

(b) To continue to promote measures to alleviate and eradicate the feminization of poverty, particularly on increasing access to productive resources, capacity-building, empowerment and social mobilization;

(c) To consider holding, in cooperation with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, a regional conference on trafficking in women and children;

(d) To continue to promote technical cooperation among developing countries by urging developing countries in Asia and the Pacific to contribute resources to accelerate the implementation of the Platform for Action;

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

*11th meeting
30 April 1997*

53/3. Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 50/8 of 13 April 1994 on the strengthening of subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia, including environmental cooperation for sustainable development,

Recalling also its resolution 52/8 of 24 April 1996 on the third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, in which it endorsed the recommendations of the Conference, including the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000,

Recognizing the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, as adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, which continue to provide general policy guidance on subregional environmental cooperation in North-East Asia,

Noting with satisfaction the Third Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, held at Ulaanbaatar in September 1996, in which the six countries of the subregion, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, for the first time came to a consensus and adopted the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation,

Welcoming decision 19/19 of 7 February 1997 on the Framework, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its nineteenth session, held at Nairobi in January-February 1997,

1. *Welcomes* the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation, as adopted by the Third Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, held at Ulaanbaatar in September 1996;

2. *Calls upon* the participating parties to the Programme, through the existing Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, to work towards practical institutional and financial arrangements for the Programme, as appropriate, including striving to reach a consensus on establishing a trust fund to be funded by donors, collaborating agencies and participating parties on a voluntary basis;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue ESCAP efforts, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, to promote subregional environmental cooperation in North-East Asia, *inter alia*, by providing technical and financial support for the implementation of the Framework and approved priority projects;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to provide secretariat support to the Meeting of Senior Officials, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other relevant institutions, in the interim period pending the final decision on the future institutional arrangements of the Programme;

5. *Decides* that the present resolution should be transmitted to the General Assembly at its special session on overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21, to be held in New York from 23 to 27 June 1997, as a substantive input outlining subregional cooperation on the environment in North-East Asia.

*11th meeting
30 April 1997*

53/4. Elimination of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, in which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which called upon governments to cooperate at the international level and take effective steps, including specific preventive measures to protect children, adolescents and youth from all types of exploitation and abuse,

³ See para. 156 above.

⁴ See para. 176 above.