

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION

54/1. Strengthening regional support for persons with disabilities into the twenty-first century¹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 48/3 of 23 April 1992 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, and 49/6 of 29 April 1993 on the Proclamation and Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002,

Noting the implementation efforts made in the first half of the Decade by many countries and areas in the Asian and Pacific region, including progress in the adoption of equalization legislation, as well as intercountry meetings hosted by the Governments of India, Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines on critical issues in implementation of the Agenda for Action related to assistive devices, non-handicapping environments, multisectoral collaboration and national coordination,

Welcoming the Seoul proposals adopted by the Meeting of Senior Officials to Mark the Mid-point of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea in September 1997,

Recognizing with appreciation the Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns of the Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific for pioneering collaborative inter-organizational Decade action,

Noting the need for a stronger regional impetus to support national and local endeavours in the second half of the Decade,

1. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to endorse the present resolution and to encourage intergovernmental organizations to support its implementation in order to assist in addressing equalization issues faced by the majority of the world's disabled persons, including disabled women and disabled children, who live in the Asian and Pacific region;

2. *Urges* all members and associate members:

(a) To intensify multisectoral collaborative action towards the fulfilment of the targets for the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-second session in April 1996;

(b) To contribute to the ESCAP technical cooperation trust fund for the Decade to meet capacity-building needs for information and technical assistance in multisectoral collaboration among diverse sectors, in support of the fulfilment of the Decade targets;

3. *Further urges* all governments which have not yet joined as signatories to the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region to do so before the next regional meeting to review the progress of the Decade, to be held in 1999;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to strengthen secretariat assistance to members and associate members through the following action:

(a) Harnessing the multidisciplinary potential of the secretariat to enhance sensitivity to disabilities, that is, the inclusion of persons with disabilities and/or the consideration of the impact on disability-related concerns, as a performance criterion in the secretariat's overall technical assistance, on a par with other criteria, such as gender sensitivity and relevance to development needs in the countries and areas of the region;

(b) Examining resource allocations within the secretariat, with a view to undertaking the adjustments required to enhance secretariat support for disability-related action;

(c) Mobilizing resources to replenish the Decade fund continually, for documentation, exchanges and field visits, and to disseminate good practices in the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Decade, giving special attention to the enhancement of knowledge and skills among persons with disabilities and the equal participation of disabled women and girls;

(d) Generating practical guidelines for advancing equal access by disabled persons to mainstream development opportunities, by organizing and following up on two regional meetings in 1999, in close collaboration with other members of the Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns, on the following topics:

¹ See para. 213 above.

- (i) Education and technology for the specific needs of disabled children and youth;
- (ii) Implementation of the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and fulfilment of the Decade targets;

(e) Exploring the means of organizing, by the end of 2002, a high-level regional meeting to consider the lessons learned from national and area efforts towards the fulfilment of the Decade targets, so as to lay a solid foundation for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in mainstream society into the twenty-first century;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission biennially on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, with emphasis on follow-up action to reinforce the impact of the above-mentioned regional meetings, and to submit recommendations to the Commission, as required, concerning continuous secretariat action to improve the opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in the development process, until 2003, when the overall endeavours of the Decade will be reviewed as a full item in the agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, to serve as a basis for further action in the new millennium.

*10th meeting
22 April 1998*

54/2. Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 51/4 of 1 May 1995 on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (hereinafter referred to as the regional Social Development Agenda), by which it decided to convene a regional ministerial conference on social development in 1997 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 adopted by the World Summit for Social Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 50/161 of 22 December 1995, 51/202 of 17 December 1996 and 52/25 of 26 November 1997 on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, and noting in particular the decision contained therein to hold a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further actions and initiatives, and the invitation to the regional commissions to convene biennial meetings at a high political level to review the progress made in implementing the outcome of the Summit,

Noting with appreciation the convening of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development in Manila from 5 to 11 November 1997, and the full participation of members and associate members in reviewing and assessing the progress achieved towards attaining the goals and targets of the regional Social Development Agenda and considering the means of enhancing regional cooperation in support of the Agenda and in implementing the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,

Expressing deep gratitude to the Government and people of the Philippines for hosting the Ministerial Conference, and noting that they had also hosted the last two ministerial conferences on social development in 1991 and 1994,

Noting also with appreciation the participation of concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda, in particular the focal role of the Executive Secretary, the generous funding by the Asian Development Bank, and the contribution of the International Labour Organization and the non-governmental organizations to the preparatory process for the Ministerial Conference,

Acknowledging with appreciation the progress and continuing efforts made by members and associate members, with the support of the concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in taking the necessary action to address the region's critical social issues towards attaining the specific time-bound goals and targets for poverty alleviation, the generation of productive employment and the enhancement of social integration,

Stressing with concern the social challenges that remain to be addressed arising from the current economic crisis, intercountry labour mobility, demographic processes, urbanization, changing family relations, changing gender relations, changing consumption patterns, advances in technology, environmental change and HIV/AIDS,

² See para. 216 above.