

Reaffirming its commitment to the social development goals and targets contained in the regional Social Development Agenda, and to accord priority to measures to enhance the prospects for social development in Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century, consistent with its deliberations on the theme topic at the present session,

1. *Endorses* the findings, conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development;

2. *Also endorses* the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (hereinafter referred to as the Manila Declaration 1997) adopted by the Conference on 11 November 1997;

3. *Urges* all members and associate members to accelerate the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda in accordance with the decisions of the Conference and the recommendations contained in the Manila Declaration 1997, taking into account specific country conditions;

4. *Also urges* donor governments and agencies, as well as multilateral financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to support more explicitly the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda, as well as other United Nations programmes of action and agendas related to social development concerns, in their loans, funding and general development assistance operation;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, donor governments and multilateral funding agencies, including the Asian Development Bank, as appropriate:

(a) To take immediate action to harness the multidisciplinary potential of the secretariat to ensure full support for the effective implementation of the Manila Declaration 1997;

(b) To establish a Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific subcommittee on the regional Social Development Agenda with a view to strengthening collaboration and coordination among United Nations and other regional development actors in the planning and programming for regional social development in implementation of the Manila Declaration 1997;

(c) To consider, with the United Nations Development Programme, suitable mechanisms to facilitate coordination of assistance for social development in the Asian and Pacific region, including the convening of multi-donor consultations on support to the region in the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda;

(d) To provide technical assistance to strengthen national capabilities for multisectoral and integrated social development planning and programming aimed at:

(i) Minimizing any adverse social repercussions of development trends and programmes;

(ii) Clarifying national priority targets and improving planning, information and evaluation to enhance macroeconomic and sectoral policies and programmes for poverty alleviation, employment generation and social integration through expert group meetings, studies, seminars, information dissemination and regional advisory services;

(e) To convene in 1999 a regional meeting of senior officials to review the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda in preparation for the global review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development by the General Assembly at its special session in 2000;

(f) To report to the Commission in 2001 on the implementation of the present resolution.

*10th meeting
22 April 1998*

54/3. Bangkok Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Industrial and Technological Development in the Asian and Pacific Region and the Regional Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific (1992), the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific (1993), the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer (1994), the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century (1994), the Final Act of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, adopted by the member countries of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (1994), General Assembly resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference

³ See para. 148 above.

on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, General Assembly resolution 51/170 of 16 December 1996 on industrial development cooperation, and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session (1997),

Noting with satisfaction the successful organization of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology at Bangkok in February 1998, which adopted the Bangkok Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Industrial and Technological Development in the Asian and Pacific Region and the Regional Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development,

Convinced that industrial and technological development is the principal determinant for promoting the overall economic and social progress of the Asian and Pacific region,

Recognizing the need for market-based industrial policies and programmes and adequate financial, human and technical resources to promote and sustain the industrial and technological dynamism of the Asian and Pacific region,

Recognizing also the need for strengthened regional cooperation to meet the emerging challenges and to exploit the opportunities in a rapidly globalizing world economy,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, held at Bangkok from 19 to 24 February 1998, including the Bangkok Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Industrial and Technological Development in the Asian and Pacific Region, and the Regional Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development calling for their early implementation;

2. *Urges* all members, associate members, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and other sections of civil society to participate actively in the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting;

3. *Further urges* all United Nations bodies and agencies concerned, multilateral financial institutions, donor countries and agencies to contribute technical and financial resources to promote the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting, including the Bangkok Declaration and the Regional Action Plan;

4. *Calls upon* the members of the Subcommittee on Industry and Technology of the Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific to play an effective role in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan as coordinators of areas identified through discussion in the Subcommittee which fall within their competence;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To mobilize human, financial and technical resources for the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, including the Bangkok Declaration and the Regional Action Plan;

(b) To undertake a comprehensive study dealing with the implications of the current economic crisis for the industrial and technological development process of the regional countries and to organize a meeting to deliberate on those issues and findings;

(c) To ensure effective coordination of the activities of all relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and other sections of civil society, in facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration and the Regional Action Plan;

(d) To include in the agenda of the session of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation to be held in 2000 a mid-term review and assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, the Bangkok Declaration and the Regional Action Plan, and to report on that review to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session.

*10th meeting
22 April 1998*

54/4. Mobilization of human and financial resources for further implementation of actions to achieve the population and development goals of the ESCAP region⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the principles and recommendations contained in the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development adopted at the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, in 1992, and in the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994,

Noting that approximately 60 per cent of the population of the world and over 65 per cent of its poorest people live in the Asian and Pacific region, and that any future strengthening of population policies and programmes in the region would have a substantial impact on global population trends, sustained socio-economic development and the well-being of the people,

⁴ See para. 194 above.