

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION

56/1. Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009¹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the responsibility of ESCAP for initiating and participating in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, and for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific,

Noting the large membership and diverse needs of the region and considering it essential for the secretariat to sharpen the focus of its programme of work so as to support subregional initiatives and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of programmes established at the subregional level,

Acknowledging the importance of having a concerted strategy and close coordination among member countries of the ESCAP region and the relevant development agencies, as well as the development frameworks concerned, to promote cooperation among the countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion in enhancing economic and social development and poverty alleviation in the area,

Recognizing the need to strengthen the capacity of the countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion as a means to help to narrow the large development gap between countries in the region,

Noting with appreciation the contribution made by the secretariat to various development programmes in the ESCAP region, including the Greater Mekong Subregion, and the high level of support extended to the secretariat in that endeavour by other concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies,

Welcoming the statement of the Ninth Conference on the Programme of Economic Cooperation in the Greater Mekong Subregion, held in Manila in January 2000, and in particular the determination expressed by the ministers to redouble their initiatives to accelerate, strengthen and extend regional cooperation within the subregion,

Noting with appreciation the continued financial support given by United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and the Asian Development Bank to a number of development programmes for countries in the subregion under the Greater Mekong Subregion framework, some of which have been undertaken in collaboration with the secretariat,

Recognizing the important role of the Mekong River Commission, now implementing, through its Secretariat, the 1995 Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin, in pursuance of an economically, socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River basin,

1. *Calls upon* the concerned regional members and associate members:

(a) To reaffirm their commitment to the development programmes in the Greater Mekong Subregion through existing bodies, including the Mekong River Commission;

(b) To review jointly the existing development strategies with a view to developing a more concerted and rational approach that could respond effectively to the challenges of globalization while avoiding duplication of efforts in the development of the Greater Mekong Subregion;

(c) To continue to work closely together to ensure that development cooperation in the Greater Mekong Subregion is being pursued in a complementary manner;

(d) To formulate the development programmes in such a way that the private sector is encouraged to support them;

2. *Proclaims* the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009, in order to draw the attention and encourage the support of the international community for the intensification of economic and social development in the subregion;

3. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to endorse the present resolution and to encourage, at the global level, support for its implementation;

4. *Urges* member countries, and international and intergovernmental organizations and institutions, to strengthen cooperation with and assistance to Greater Mekong Subregion development programmes;

¹ See paragraph 129 above.

5. *Encourages* donor governments and agencies, regional and international financial institutions, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to assist countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion in their capacity-building to enable them to integrate effectively into the regional and global economy;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To help to mobilize the necessary resources to provide technical assistance and assistance in other areas that may be deemed necessary, upon the request of various Greater Mekong Subregion development frameworks, particularly in such key sectors as human resources development, trade and investment, transport and communications, poverty alleviation and social development;

(b) To call necessary meetings among the parties concerned to design a work programme for the development of the Greater Mekong Subregion with the aim of achieving a tangible result in the given period;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to monitor the overall programmes of various framework activities in order to report to the Commission at its annual sessions and to all concerned member countries, and to evaluate the implementation of the programmes every three years until the end of the Decade.

10th meeting
7 June 2000

56/2. Advancing human resources development in Asia and the Pacific²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/196 of 18 December 1997 on developing human resources for development, in which, inter alia, the Assembly emphasized the need for international cooperation to advance human resources development and the need for concerted efforts to support the efforts of developing countries to develop their human resources,

Recalling also Commission resolution 50/7 of 13 April 1994 on an update of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, the annex to which contains the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, as revised in 1994,

Recalling further Commission resolution 51/2 of 1 May 1995 on strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific, by which the Commission welcomed the proposals for action for regional cooperation in human resources development, as reviewed by the Panel of Eminent Persons on Human Resources Development and presented in the secretariat theme study,

Emphasizing the importance of human resources development as a sustainable national strategy for promoting economic and social development and alleviating poverty, as well as for integrating developing countries and those with economies in transition into the international economic system,

Recognizing the need to accelerate the development of human resources in marginalized population groups as a means of enhancing educational, health and employment status,

Recognizing also the need to strengthen the capacity of the public sector in the planning and delivery of human resources development programmes and services, particularly for the poor and other disadvantaged groups,

Acknowledging the successful implementation by the secretariat of phases I, II and III of the Jakarta Plan of Action, and the high level of support extended to the secretariat in that initiative by other concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies,

Acknowledging also the strong financial support of various donor governments and non-governmental organizations to the secretariat's human resources development programme,

1. *Calls upon* regional members and associate members:

(a) To reaffirm their commitment to the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, as revised in 1994;

(b) To strengthen their national policies to advance human resources development, focusing on investments in all areas of human resources development, including education and training, health and nutrition, and promoting sustainable livelihoods to empower people to become self-reliant and self-supporting within a facilitating environment;

(c) To review existing human resources strategies with a view to developing new approaches that could respond more effectively to the challenges and opportunities of globalization, as well as the emergence of a knowledge-based and information-based society;

(d) To consider gender mainstreaming as an approach to promoting gender equality in human

² See paragraph 227 above.