

resources development, with a view to correcting and bridging the present significant gap between men and women in access to opportunities and resources;

2. *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 developing countries to develop their human resources and to build and strengthen the national capacity to enable them to function effectively in a globalizing world;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to provide member and associate member governments with support in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action, as revised in 1994, giving priority attention to those in most need;

(b) To promote national capacity-building of developing countries, giving priority attention to those countries and subregions in most need, through the provision of training and advisory services for national personnel working in key areas, such as poverty alleviation, formal and non-formal education, community empowerment, population, health and social services, youth and women in development, entrepreneurship and skills development, trade and investment promotion, industrial and technological development, environment and natural resources management, administration and management, and information technology, including Internet access;

(c) To target the rural and urban poor, women, youth and children in especially difficult circumstances and people with disabilities as beneficiaries of the secretariat's human resources development activities;

(d) To promote the sharing of best practices and experiences in human resources development policies and programmes among countries in the region, through such means as the organization of regional and subregional forums, intercountry exchange via the ESCAP Network of Centres of Excellence for Human Resources Development Research and Training, the administration of the annual ESCAP Human Resources Development Award, and research and information dissemination via both the print and the electronic media, including the ESCAP web site;

(e) To accord priority to the implementation of phase IV (2001 to 2005) of the Jakarta Plan of Action, the focus of which should be to build a stronger foundation in the region in the areas of education, health and sustainable livelihoods to meet the challenges and opportunities of globalization and the emergence of a knowledge-based and information-based society;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to seek extrabudgetary resources, where appropriate, to provide technical assistance and other means of support for developing countries, giving priority attention to those countries and subregions in most need, in their efforts to advance human resources development;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*10th meeting
7 June 2000*

56/3. Regional cooperation on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 51/11 of 1 May 1995 on regional cooperation on space applications for environment and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, by which the Commission endorsed the recommendations of the first Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Beijing in September 1994, and the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 51/123 of 13 December 1996 on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, in which, inter alia, the Assembly emphasized the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustainable development,

Recalling further the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held in Vienna in July 1999,

Recalling the decision of the Commission at its fifty-fifth session in April 1999 to hold the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in New Delhi in November 1999,

Noting with satisfaction the success of the Second Ministerial Conference, which adopted the Delhi Declaration on Space Technology Applications in Asia and the Pacific for Improved Quality of Life in the New Millennium and the Strategy and Action Plan on Space Technology Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific for the New Millennium, and which launched phase II of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development,

³ See paragraph 171 above.

Reiterating the strong interest of members and associate members in participating in the cooperative activities that will emerge from phase II of the Regional Space Applications Programme and their commitment to contribute to those activities,

Recognizing the essential role of space technologies and their applications in environment and natural resources management, food security and agricultural systems, capacity-building, human resources development and education, poverty alleviation, natural disaster reduction, health care and hygiene, and sustainable development planning towards improving the quality of life,

Recalling the efforts of the Commission in promoting space applications for sustainable development in the region and its commitment to continue to play a pivotal and catalytic role in that regard,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in New Delhi in November 1999;

2. *Also endorses* the Delhi Declaration on Space Technology Applications in Asia and the Pacific for Improved Quality of Life in the New Millennium, and the Strategy and Action Plan on Space Technology Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific for the New Millennium, which were adopted at the Conference;

3. *Calls for* the early implementation of the Delhi Declaration, the Strategy and Action Plan and other recommendations of the Conference;

4. *Encourages* all members and associate members to participate actively in phase II of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and to initiate effective national implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan;

5. *Recommends* that the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, under the purview of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development, should advise as appropriate on the implementation of the Programme, and invites members and associate members to enhance their representation on the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee;

6. *Invites* all United Nations bodies and agencies concerned, and multilateral donors and international agencies, to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Ministerial Conference, the Delhi Declaration, and the Strategy and Action Plan envisaged for phase II of the Regional Space Applications Programme;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord due priority to the activities proposed in the Strategy and Action Plan and to incorporate the Regional Space Applications Programme in the biennial programmes of work;

(b) To strengthen the capability of the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to support the regional cooperative network towards successful implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan;

(c) To mobilize resources for technical cooperation activities in line with the recommendations of the Second Ministerial Conference, the Delhi Declaration and the Strategy and Action Plan;

(d) To report to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of these recommendations.

*10th meeting
7 June 2000*

56/4. Promotion of a sustainable energy future for small island states⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting the call for the achievement of a sustainable energy future for all by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, and the subsequent nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, held in New York in 1997,

Recognizing that the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 25 April to 6 May 1994, had translated Agenda 21 into specific policies, actions and measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels to enable small island developing states to achieve sustainable development,

Concerned about the continuing economic and environmental vulnerability of small island states and their energy sector in particular,

Recalling the Declaration of Barbados, adopted at the Conference, which recognized that the international community had a responsibility to facilitate the efforts of small island developing states to minimize the stress on their fragile ecosystems, including through cooperative action and partnership,

Noting the call in the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, also adopted at the Conference, to gather and disseminate information, and promote regional cooperation and technical exchanges among small island developing states on energy-sector issues, including new and renewable sources of energy,

⁴ See paragraph 74 above.