

4. *Calls upon* the members of the Regional Coordination Meeting Thematic Working Group on Environment and Development to play an effective role in the implementation of the Regional Action Programme, 2001-2005, as well as its special implementation mechanism, the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, as coordinators of areas identified by the Regional Coordination Meeting;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To mobilize both human and financial resources as much as possible for the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

(b) To ensure effective coordination and joint pursuit of the activities of all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, in facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

(c) To encourage the active participation of all stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, research and academic societies, the private sector, local communities, and youth and women's groups, in different phases and aspects of the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

(d) To include in the agenda of the fourth session of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development, to be held in 2002, a midterm review and assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference and to report to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session, as well as to conduct yearly reviews at the Committee sessions, as necessary.

*5th meeting  
25 April 2001*

**57/3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly<sup>3</sup>**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

*Recalling* its resolution 52/3 of 24 April 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, in which the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to provide support to national efforts, as required, for 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,

*Cognizant* of General Assembly resolution 55/71 of 4 December 2000 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", namely the "Political declaration" and "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action",

*Recalling* Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women, peace and security, in which the Council reaffirmed the important role of women in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building,

*Noting* the recommendations of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, held from 26 to 29 October 1999, in pursuance of Commission resolution 50/4 of 13 April 1994 on regional preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995: Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, 1994, which contained key actions and initiatives to accelerate regional implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and which constituted the regional input to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

*Also noting* that civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, fully participated in the regional preparatory process for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly through parallel activities and direct involvement in contributing to the assessment of the implementation and development of regional strategies for further action,

*Recognizing with satisfaction* the outcome of the Expert Group Meeting to Strategize on the Regional Implementation of the Outcome Document of the Global Review of the Beijing Platform for Action, held from 3 November to 1 December 2000, which distilled the regional dimensions of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly; undertook regional prioritization of the persistent issues, concerns and emerging challenges; and identified the modalities, measures and strategies that were relevant to the Asian and Pacific region,

*Welcoming* the establishment of the Regional Coordination Meeting Thematic Working Group on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality,

*Stressing* the need to integrate a gender perspective into the coordinated and integrated follow-up and implementation of the outcome of major United Nations conferences and summits and their regional and global reviews,

<sup>3</sup> See paragraph 232 above.

1. *Reaffirms* the commitment and important role of the Commission in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and the recommendations of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, which provided a regional consensus to further implement the Beijing Platform for Action, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

2. *Calls upon* all members and associate members to ensure that the momentum derived from the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly is maintained for further implementation of activities to achieve full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the special session;

3. *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 economies in transition, in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the special session;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to support members and associate members in implementing the recommendations of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the outcome of the Expert Group Meeting to Strategize on the Regional Implementation of the Outcome Document of the Global Review of the Beijing Platform for Action;

(b) To continue to promote coordinated and integrated follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, specifically to build up a database of all programmes and projects carried out in the Asian and Pacific region by agencies or organizations of the United Nations system, which would be updated regularly, and to facilitate the dissemination of those projects and programmes, as well as the evaluation of their impact on the empowerment of women through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, as requested in General Assembly resolution 55/71 of 4 December 2000;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to assist members and associate members:

(a) To promote measures to alleviate the feminization of poverty by eliminating barriers to access economic opportunities, by enhancing capabilities and human capital, addressing issues related to the security and vulnerability of the poor and promoting the empowerment of women in poverty;

(b) To support women in the globalization process by conducting research studies to improve understanding of the precise impact of globalization on women and promoting measures to equip women to meet the challenges as well as address the vulnerabilities of women through appropriate social safety nets and social protection schemes;

(c) To promote women's rights as human rights as advocated in the Beijing Platform for Action and, in this regard, to assist members and associate members which are States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women to implement the Convention;

(d) To develop mechanisms and plans of action to combat violence against women and trafficking in women and children, namely, to implement follow-up activities to the Bangkok Accord and Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Women and the Asian Regional Initiative Against Trafficking in Women and Children;

(e) To promote policies and implement measures to address the gender dimensions of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in the region;

(f) To commit to peace and development through the implementation of the Hanoi Declaration and the Asian Women's Plan of Action for a Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development adopted at the Regional Conference on Asian Women for a Culture of Peace, held in Hanoi in December 2000, which highlighted the recognition that peace and security were vital for development;

(g) To enhance the role of women in decision-making with a view to promoting transformative leadership and governance that is participatory, transparent and accountable;

(h) To support women to meet the challenges of the new digital economy by enhancing connectivity, access and capacity-building for women in information and communication technologies;

(i) To follow up on Commission resolution 53/2 of 30 April 1997 on implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the advancement of women, in which the Commission had supported the holding every two years of a regional meeting of national machineries for the advancement of women in order to strengthen regional mechanisms, as recommended at the Regional Meeting on Strengthening National Machineries for the Advancement of Women, held in Seoul in September 1996;

(j) To promote gender mainstreaming and the integration of gender concerns into the public policy agenda through mechanisms and processes which include gender budgeting, gender auditing, sex-disaggregated data and monitoring and performance indicators;

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

*5th meeting  
25 April 2001*

**57/4. Regional cooperation in information and communication technologies for development<sup>4</sup>**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

*Recognizing* that information and communication technologies can play an important role in promoting economic and social development in the Asian and Pacific region,

*Reiterating* that national governments bear the primary responsibility for the development of their countries, and that the international community should support sound national development policies and programmes, establish pro-competition policy and regulatory environments that attract private sector capital flows, and encourage private sector leadership in the field of information technology,

*Recognizing* the potential of regional cooperation to complement national efforts in maximizing benefits from the development and application of information and communication technologies,

*Mindful* of the growing digital divide and the need to create digital opportunities in developing countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked and island developing countries, and economies in transition, from the revolution in information technology,

*Bearing in mind* the recommendations, conclusions and decisions of the Regional Round Table on Information Technology and Development, held in New Delhi on 21 and 22 June 2000, which aimed at integrating the dimension of the Asian and Pacific region into the theme for the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2000,

*Bearing in mind also* the Ministerial Declaration on Development and International Cooperation in the Twenty-first Century: the Role of Information Technology in the Context of a Knowledge-based Global Economy, adopted by the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Council in 2000,

*Noting* Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/29 of 28 July 2000 on the information and communication technologies task force,

*Noting also* General Assembly resolution 55/28 of 20 December 2000 on developments in the field of information technology and telecommunications in the context of international security,

*Noting further* that several international initiatives are being taken to bridge the global digital divide and create digital opportunities, including the establishment of a Digital Opportunity Task Force (dot force) by the Summit of the Group of Eight Nations, held in Okinawa, Japan, in July 2000, as well as the Tokyo Declaration and Action Plan on "Asia-Pacific Renaissance through ICT in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" adopted at the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Asia-Pacific Summit on the Information Society, held in Tokyo in October-November 2000,

**1. Requests the Executive Secretary:**

(a) To accord priority to assistance to members and associate members in the region in supporting their ongoing initiatives and strengthening regional cooperation in information and communication technologies in the following areas:

- (i) Designing and implementing concrete measures for assisting members and associate members in the development of a pro-competition policy and regulatory framework on information and communication technologies, including online services and electronic commerce as well as capacity-building in connectivity and accessibility, taking into account the special needs of small and medium-sized enterprises, women and disadvantaged groups;
- (ii) Enhancing information on, and the exchange of experiences in, information and communication technologies application and development, including the potential challenges and benefits of the information and communication technologies revolution to economic and social development, especially in poverty alleviation, human resources development and improved competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular through electronic commerce;

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<sup>4</sup> See paragraph 159 above.