

6. Without duplicating work done elsewhere, review and analyse the special transit trade and transport problems of Asian landlocked developing countries, recommend suitable measures for solving those problems in accordance with international agreements, in particular, article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and encourage the Asian landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours to cooperate, inter alia, in order to reduce transport costs in the final costs of delivered goods.

7. Promote liaison with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor countries within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities for the benefit of the least developed and landlocked developing countries.

8. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of ESCAP and make recommendations to the Commission concerning future programmes of work and, in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the environment, human resources development and women in development are adequately addressed.

9. Accelerate follow-up to the relevant decisions and recommendations of global conferences related to least developed and landlocked developing countries at the national, subregional and regional levels, in particular, the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

10. Promote closer collaboration and joint activities with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as increased liaison with financial institutions, development agencies outside the United Nations system, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors and supporting countries within and outside the ESCAP region so as to maximize the use of available resources and enhance the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's work in addressing critical development challenges faced by least developed and landlocked developing countries.

11. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

12. Carry out such other functions as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to least developed and landlocked developing countries.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Special Body shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Special Body shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Special Body shall meet biennially for two days, back to back with the Commission sessions, in alternate years with the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

58/2. Poverty reduction for sustainable development²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the millennium development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which called for the proportion of people living in extreme poverty to be halved by 2015,

Recognizing that the Monterrey Consensus adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development, held at Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, emphasized the need to mobilize and increase the effective use of financial resources and achieve the national and international economic conditions needed to fulfil internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, to eliminate poverty, improve social conditions and raise living standards,

Taking note with appreciation of the increase in official development assistance by some developed countries as a welcome step towards meeting the urgent need to achieve the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product, including the commitment by the European Union to increase the level of official development assistance to 0.39 per cent of gross national product as well as the announcement by the United States of America at the International Conference on Financing for Development of a projected increase in annual official development assistance by 5 billion dollars,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, particularly principle 5 of the Rio Declaration and chapter 3 of Agenda 21, which called for eradicating and combating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

Reaffirming that poverty reduction is the most important tool to achieve sustainable development and contribute to world peace,

Recognizing that the lack of development and consequent poverty will cause environmental degradation, which in turn leads to increasing poverty, and that, in particular, the pervasive deterioration of soil due to overfarming poses serious challenges to sustainable development in the Asian and Pacific region, making the return of overcultivated land to forest and grasslands, in keeping with national plans, a matter of prime urgency,

Also recognizing that sustainable development, including the reduction of poverty, will depend on enhancing the participation of the poor in decision-making that directly affects their lives, through good governance, as described in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus,

² See paragraphs 214 to 232 above.

Further recognizing that while long-standing problems causing poverty remain unsolved, the emergence of the new economy and the information and communications technologies revolution has, in addition to offering new opportunities, also widened the digital divide, which has introduced new obstacles to comprehensive economic growth and sustainable development,

Noting that the above issues will be discussed at the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held at Geneva in 2003 and at Tunis in 2005,

Acknowledging that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon with complex and interlinked issues requiring an integrated and holistic approach on the economic, social and environmental fronts, as well as the necessary financial resources from all sources and official development assistance,

Reaffirming the important role of appropriate economic and social policies in utilizing the resources, as well as creating a favourable macroenvironment for poverty reduction,

Stressing the necessity of broadening the means of resource mobilization for poverty reduction from the Governments to the private sector at all levels, with a view to establishing a new type of partnership among these stakeholders in providing not only funds but also tools for achieving prosperity,

Also stressing the importance of strengthening social protection and social safety nets, not only to cushion the vulnerable sectors from the impact of globalization but, more important, to serve as an enabling strategy to improve the chances of these sectors to achieve social and economic integration,

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

(a) To support the reform of the Commission in mainstreaming its work programmes to make poverty reduction one of its priorities, as well as assisting, where requested, in developing relevant programmes at the national level to make poverty reduction a key issue when realizing the goals set by the Millennium Declaration;

(b) To encourage the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in its entirety, including urging developed countries that have not achieved the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance to make concrete efforts towards that goal and the goal of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; encourage developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to achieve development goals and targets; acknowledge the efforts of all donors and commend those donors

whose official development assistance contributions exceed, reach or are nearing the targets; and underline the importance of examining the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals;

(c) To formulate appropriate domestic policies for a better economic and social environment, so as to maximize the impact of the resources for poverty reduction efforts;

2. *Also calls upon* members and associate members, in the context of poverty reduction and sustainable development:

(a) To encourage more sustainable use of fragile resources through the practice of returning overcultivated land to forest and grasslands in keeping with national plans and priorities and taking into account the needs and the rights of the local population, generating public support and mobilizing resources for plant substitution and reimbursement to local farmers following best practices;

(b) To foster and adopt suitable policies, at both the national and regional levels, in promoting the new economy towards a digital society in Asia and the Pacific, with emphasis on the development of information and communications technologies, which may be utilized as a new tool for fighting poverty and for technology cooperation and capacity-building, as well as providing universal education to people by new means such as e-learning;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To appeal to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to target poverty reduction as an essential measure in achieving sustainable development, with the outcomes applicable to all stakeholders in the field of poverty reduction, taking into account that the Asian and Pacific region has over half of the world's population and the majority of the world's poor;

(b) To support the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/207 of 21 December 2001 and the preparation of an overall review on the progress of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), drawing on the experiences, both positive and negative, accumulated in this field in the last decade;

(c) To mobilize and allocate human and financial resources within the ESCAP secretariat so as to reflect the prioritization of poverty reduction in the ESCAP programme of work in 2003 and in the years ahead;

(d) To promote more harmonized coordination among the various divisions of ESCAP in charge of the environment and sustainable development, as well as poverty reduction, in developing a comprehensive and action-oriented programme of work in this regard;

(e) To continue to show special concern for disadvantaged groups, such as women, children, disabled persons, indigenous groups and people in mountainous and remote areas, in the process of development of the programme of work for 2003.

5th meeting
22 May 2002

58/3. World Summit on Sustainable Development³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Considering that the World Summit on Sustainable Development will provide a significant opportunity to galvanize global action towards the full and effective implementation of Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, as well as the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, held in June 1997,

Recalling paragraph 22 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, which reaffirms global support for the principles of sustainable development, including those set out in Agenda 21,

Noting with satisfaction the regional preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, culminating in the successful organization of the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which adopted the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the importance of regional and subregional cooperation in pursuit of sustainable development and in the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Recognizing also the emphasis on strengthening sustainable development governance and the role which the regional commissions could play in effectively pursuing action to meet sustainable development needs at the regional level,

Further recognizing the importance of strengthening the role of ESCAP in implementing, coordinating and monitoring the progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, as highlighted at the High-level Regional Meeting,

1. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the outcome of the High-level Regional Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, namely, the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable

Development for Asia and the Pacific, and calls for its early implementation;

2. *Requests* all members and associate members to participate actively in the implementation of the seven initiatives identified in the Phnom Penh Regional Platform: capacity-building for sustainable development; poverty reduction for sustainable development; cleaner production and sustainable energy; land management and biodiversity conservation; protection and management of and access to freshwater resources; oceans, coastal and marine resources and sustainable development of small island States; and action on atmosphere and climate change;

3. *Appeals* to all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned, subregional organizations, regional development banks and multilateral financial institutions, donor countries and agencies, and non-governmental organizations to contribute technical and financial resources to implement the outcome of the High-level Regional Meeting;

4. *Urges* all members and associate members to participate actively and fully in the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in accordance with the decision of the High-level Regional Meeting, at the highest level and encourages them to seek the support of the Summit in the implementation of the seven initiatives contained in the Phnom Penh Regional Platform;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To mobilize both technical and financial assistance for the implementation of the seven initiatives contained in the Phnom Penh Regional Platform;

(b) To enhance intraregional cooperation and coordination with all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, subregional organizations, regional development banks and non-governmental organizations to develop or enhance regional sustainable development strategies and action plans that reflect regional priorities;

(c) To strengthen the role of the Commission in implementing, coordinating and monitoring the implementation of Agenda 21 and, in particular, the implementation of the seven initiatives contained in the Phnom Penh Regional Platform;

(d) To carry out regular review and assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Phnom Penh Regional Platform as well as follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and to report to the Commission as well as to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development, as necessary.

5th meeting
22 May 2002

³ See paragraphs 107 to 109 and 194 above.