

**58/4. Promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty-first century<sup>4</sup>**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which the General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and 56/115 of 19 December 2001 on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century,

*Recalling also* Commission resolutions 48/3 of 23 April 1992, by which the Commission proclaimed the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, and 49/6 of 29 April 1993, by which the Commission noted with appreciation the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region and adopted the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002,

*Recalling* that the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, adopted by the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, held at Manila in October 1994, committed Governments to institute effective measures to provide people with disabilities access to existing services in the areas of education, health care, training for productive employment and other social services to ensure their integration into the mainstream of social development,

*Recognizing* that since the inception of the Asian and Pacific Decade, an overall improvement in all twelve policy categories under the Agenda for Action is evident, although achievements have been uneven, with significant achievements in the areas of national coordination and legislation and some improvement in the areas of the prevention of causes of disability, rehabilitation services, access to built environments and development of self-help organizations of disabled persons, but a continuing and alarmingly low rate of access to education for children and youth with disabilities and marked subregional disparities in the implementation of the Agenda for Action,

*Mindful* that the Hanoi Declaration of Campaign 2001 on the Facilitation of Community Integration of People with Disabilities, adopted by the participants in Campaign 2001 for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, held at Hanoi from 10 to 15 December 2001, urged Governments in the region to extend the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, for another ten years as a regional mechanism to facilitate the elaboration and implementation of an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities,

*Mindful also* that recent World Bank estimates suggest that disabled persons may account for as many as one in five of the world's poorest, that disability limits access to education and employment and leads to economic and social exclusion and that poor people with disabilities are caught in a vicious cycle of poverty and disability, each being both a cause and a consequence of the other, and welcoming initiatives of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to integrate disability concerns into their poverty alleviation programmes,

*Welcoming* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001 on a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, and the decision to establish an Ad Hoc Committee, open to the participation of all States Members and observers of the United Nations, to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

*Also welcoming* the endeavour towards the establishment, by 2004, of an Asian and Pacific Development Centre on Disability, at Bangkok, as a legacy of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, to promote the empowerment of persons with disabilities and a barrier-free society in the Asian and Pacific region, under the joint auspices of the Government of Thailand and the Government of Japan,

*Recognizing* the importance of timely and reliable data on disability-sensitive programme planning and evaluation and the need for the further development of a practical statistical methodology for the collection and compilation of data on populations with disabilities,

*Recognizing further* that information and communications technology provides new possibilities for improving access to information and educational and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and for facilitating their full and effective participation in society,

*Noting* that measures to improve access for persons with disabilities also benefit older persons, young children, pregnant women and parents with infants,

*Expressing* grave concern that the situation of armed conflict continues to have especially damaging consequences for the human rights of persons with disabilities and acknowledging international efforts to rebuild Afghanistan after its long and devastating conflicts,

*Welcoming with appreciation* the organization of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, to be hosted by the Government of Japan and the Shiga Prefecture Government at Otsu City, Shiga, Japan, from 25 to 28 October 2002,

*Noting* that the year 2002 will conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons,

<sup>4</sup> See paragraph 231 above.

1. *Proclaims* the extension of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, for another decade, 2003-2012, with a view to giving further impetus to the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons in the ESCAP region beyond 2002;

2. *Urges* Governments to support and contribute to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate a convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and other activities concerning the convention, with a view to further promoting and protecting the equal rights of persons with disabilities;

3. *Urges* all members and associate members to participate actively in the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, and:

(a) To review the outcome of the implementation of the Agenda for Action;

(b) To formulate and adopt a framework for action for the next Decade with the goal of strengthening, inter alia:

(i) Key strategic areas, including education, training and employment, access to built environments and information and communications technology, social security and sustainable livelihoods;

(ii) Subregional cooperation and collaboration;

4. *Stresses* that, in fulfilling those objectives, the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting should pay particular attention, inter alia, to:

(a) Support for and strengthening of the formation of self-help groups of rural poor persons with diverse disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, and their federations, with a view to empowering them to become fully contributing members of twenty-first century inclusive and barrier-free societies;

(b) Active promotion of access to education for the full development of children with disabilities, including early intervention and support to their families in the development of national policies and programmes;

(c) Provision of special protection to girls and women with disabilities, older persons with disabilities and persons with developmental and psychiatric disabilities, with special emphasis on integrating them into Asian and Pacific societies and promoting their human rights;

(d) Promotional work to enable people with disabilities to participate in society by taking advantage of information and communications technologies and eliminating the digital divide in the Asian and Pacific region;

5. *Invites* United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in the field of disability, to participate in and contribute to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting, and its preparatory process, including organizing meetings and studies related to the themes of the High-level Meeting;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, international funding organizations, donor Governments and non-governmental organizations to explicitly include an estimated 800,000 Afghan disabled persons as a major target group of their support for the national rebuilding of Afghanistan;

7. *Encourages* all Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations to support the operation and activities of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre on Disability with financial, technical and other in-kind contributions, in recognition of the importance of the Centre, to be located in Thailand, as a viable means of consolidating achievements and ensuring long-term follow-up to the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, and encourages organizations of disabled persons, non-governmental organizations and the private sector also to provide appropriate support for the operation and activities of the Centre;

8. *Urges* Governments to strengthen the secretariat's capacity to provide technical assistance and training, in cooperation with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, in the development of statistics on disability and to build national capacities for national data collection systems, including the compilation and dissemination of data on disabled persons, as well as the development of methods for data collection and disability statistics, as appropriate;

9. *Urges* all concerned specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system as well as intergovernmental and subregional organizations and funding agencies to undertake an examination of their ongoing programmes and projects in the Asian and Pacific region, in particular, in the areas of poverty alleviation and other mainstream development issues, with a view to systematically integrating disability concerns into their work programmes and supporting national implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to strengthen, subject to available financial resources:

(a) The national capacity of members and associate members in developing and pursuing national programmes of action during the forthcoming Decade;

(b) Collaboration with other regional initiatives in the field of disabilities, including sharing of best practices in the implementation efforts of the African Decade of Disabled Persons, 2000-2009;

11. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission biennially until the end of the Decade on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution and to submit recommendations to the Commission, as required, on action to maintain the momentum of the Decade.

*5th meeting  
22 May 2002*

**58/5. Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery<sup>5</sup>**

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

*Recalling* its resolutions 145 (XXX) of 5 April 1974 and 156 (XXXI) of 6 March 1975 on the establishment of the Asian Centre for Agricultural Machinery in the Philippines,

*Recalling further* that, subsequent to the recommendations made by the preparatory mission undertaken in 1974-1975 by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Commission itself, a project entitled "Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery" was established in April 1977 to provide assistance to participating countries of the region,

*Noting with appreciation* that the Regional Network, whose name was changed in 2000 to "Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery", provides very useful services to participating countries,

*Recognizing* the need to expand the scope of the Network to undertake activities related to post-harvest and processing technologies as well as agricultural engineering, consistent with the recommendations made at various meetings of the Network's Governing Body,

*Recalling* its endorsement at its fifty-seventh session of the recommendations of the Governing Body, including the upgrading of the Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery from a network to a centre, so that membership and the availability of resources could be expanded,

*Expressing its appreciation* to the Government of China for its support for the location of the Centre's headquarters at Beijing and for the provision of institutional costs and other operational costs for the Centre,

<sup>5</sup> See paragraphs 181 to 187 above.

1. *Decides* to establish the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery at Beijing;

2. *Adopts* the Statute of the Centre, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, as the basis for its operation;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for the prompt establishment of the Centre at Beijing, including the conclusion of a headquarters agreement between the host country and the United Nations;

4. *Urges* its members and associate members as well as other States to contribute to the institutional costs to develop the institution as a centre of excellence;

5. *Urges* the United Nations and other international organizations and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations in the field concerned, to provide programme support to the Centre and cooperate in the implementation of its work programme;

6. *Requests* donors to provide adequate programme funds and other support to meet the needs of the developing countries in the region;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to it on the progress made at each of its annual sessions and present a comprehensive review of the Centre's work performance in 2007.

*5th meeting  
22 May 2002*

*Annex*

**STATUTE OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC  
CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURAL  
ENGINEERING AND MACHINERY**

**Establishment**

1. The Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (hereinafter referred to as "RNAEM"), a special project established in 1977 pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "ESCAP") resolutions 145 (XXX) of 5 April 1974 and 156 (XXXI) of 6 March 1975, shall, pursuant to Commission resolution 58/5 of 22 May 2002, continue in existence under the title "Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery" (hereinafter referred to as "APCAEM"), under the terms of the present Statute.

**Objectives**

2. The objectives of APCAEM are to enhance the technical cooperation among the members and associate members of ESCAP as well as other interested States Members of the United Nations, through extensive