

Recalling further the pledge by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session in 2000 to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all,

Acknowledging that while globalization, technological advances and rapid economic growth in some countries of the region have offered unprecedented opportunities and brought about substantial progress on poverty eradication and social integration, they have also presented serious challenges for the people in the region,

Stressing that public policy on social welfare in the region should move beyond crisis management to strengthening the overall social safety system by considering long-term policies, institutional structures and collective efforts by all members and associate members to help the people of the region to manage risks,

Emphasizing the importance of fostering an integrated social safety net, particularly the necessity of establishing a social safety net which provides necessary assistance to the unemployed, the poor and senior citizens as well as other vulnerable groups,

Reaffirming that resources should be mobilized at both the national and regional levels for social safety, to expand opportunities for productive employment and to invest in the development of human resources, entrepreneurship and employability,

1. *Calls upon* members and associate members:

(a) To renew their commitment to implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, held in 1995;

(b) To strengthen efforts to foster social integration and an enabling environment for social development, by promoting productive and gainful employment and eradicating poverty;

2. *Also calls upon* members and associate members, in the context of strengthening social safety:

(a) To emphasize the need to continue to allocate, and enhance the allocation of, resources as appropriate to education, vocational and management training, occupational safety and health, inter alia, by strengthening technical cooperation and collaboration with the private sector in this area;

(b) To stress the need to improve methods for collection and analysis of basic employment data, disaggregated by, inter alia, age, sex and relevant socio-economic categories, as appropriate in the country context, including with regard to the informal, agricultural and service sectors and new forms of employment, and assess the feasibility of developing and improving mechanisms to measure unremunerated work;

(c) To consider devising arrangements, as appropriate, to meet the needs of the poor and vulnerable groups, having regard to available resources;

(d) To strengthen partnerships, as appropriate, among the public sector, the private sector and other stakeholders concerned with social welfare and social safety;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To design a comprehensive and action-oriented programme of work in this regard in consultation with, and after obtaining the endorsement of, the members and associate members;

(b) To assist members and associate members in the development of social safety policies, including the development of employment data collection and analysis;

(c) To promote experience-sharing and best-practice learning on social integration within the ESCAP region, in coordination and collaboration with other international and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(d) To continue to pay particular attention to disadvantaged, marginalized and unskilled groups in formulating its programme of work in 2004;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*5th meeting
4 September 2003*

59/3. Regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific during the Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 58/4 of 22 May 2002 on promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty-first century, by which it proclaimed the extension of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, for another decade, 2003-2012,

Recalling also the successful High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, held at Otsu City, Shiga, Japan, from 25 to 28 October 2002 and hosted by the Government of Japan, the Shiga Prefecture Government and the city of Otsu, and its

³ See paragraphs 255 to 257 above.

adoption of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific,

Observing that the Biwako Millennium Framework identifies the following seven priority areas: self-help organizations of persons with disabilities and related family and parent associations; women with disabilities; early detection, intervention and education; training and employment, including self-employment; access to built environments and public transport; access to information and communications, including information, communication and assistive technologies; and poverty alleviation through capacity-building, social security and sustainable livelihood programmes,

Noting that the international community expressed its commitment to economic and social development in the face of rapid globalization in adopting General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000 entitled “United Nations Millennium Declaration”, embodying a large number of specific commitments, including gender equity, universal education and poverty eradication, aimed at improving the lot of humanity in the twenty-first century,

Noting the recognition by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank that unless persons with disabilities are brought into the development mainstream it will be extremely difficult to halve poverty by 2015 or give every girl and boy the chance to complete primary education by the same date, which was agreed at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000 and is part of those Banks’ commitment to the inclusion of disability concerns in their poverty eradication efforts,

Noting the discussions at the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001,

Welcoming the Government of Afghanistan as the forty-second signatory of the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region, at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting in October 2002, as well as the Government of New Caledonia as the forty-third signatory of the Proclamation on 3 December 2002,

Noting with appreciation the contributions by Governments and civil society to the technical cooperation trust fund for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002,

1. *Takes note of* the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific;

2. *Requests* all members and associate members to support the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework at the national level through public awareness activities, appropriate policies, other measures and the allocation of resources in keeping with national capacities, and through international cooperation and partnership, including the transfer of resources and technologies, as appropriate;

3. *Urges* Governments in the region which have not done so to sign the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region;

4. *Invites* all Governments, donor agencies and the private sector to continue to contribute to the technical assistance trust fund for the extended Decade, 2003-2012, to ensure the successful implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework;

5. *Also invites* the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization and other concerned United Nations bodies and agencies, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and civil society organizations, in close cooperation with ESCAP, to strengthen their support for the development of national capabilities for the effective implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To give special attention, in collaboration with all concerned offices, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, and civil society to the development of regional activities in support of the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework;

(b) To recognize the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability as an ESCAP partner on disability and to ensure close collaboration between ESCAP and the Center on promotion of the empowerment of persons with disabilities and a barrier-free society in the Asian and Pacific region, as a viable means of ensuring the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework;

(c) To support Governments at their request in fulfilling the targets of the Biwako Millennium Framework in such areas as statistics, information and communication technology, urban and rural environments, public transport, poverty reduction, gender and development, and education of children and youth with disabilities;

(d) To provide technical support to Governments in the region in the development of regional support for the consideration of an international convention on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities by organizing regional meetings and training workshops;

(e) To report to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session on the mid-point review of the present resolution.

*5th meeting
4 September 2003*

59/4. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, which are aimed, among other things, at the eradication of poverty,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, in which the Assembly endorsed the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Recognizing the special concerns of the least developed countries as emphasized in the Monterrey Consensus emanating from the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference,

Welcoming the establishment of a trust fund by the Secretary-General to support the activities of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the General Assembly's call, in resolution 57/276 of 20 December 2002, for Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund, in particular for the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and international levels,

Aware that thirteen of the forty-nine least developed countries, many of which are landlocked developing countries or small island developing States, are in Asia and the Pacific,

1. *Reaffirms* its strong support for the full realization of the seven commitments made at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, as well as the recommendations emanating from the international conferences on the landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the least developed countries have the primary responsibility for formulating and implementing effective policies to promote sustainable economic growth and development;

3. *Further reaffirms* its full support for the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in its endeavour to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all stakeholders for the implementation of the Programme of Action, which forms a basis for regional cooperation to assist the least developed countries;

4. *Stresses* that successful implementation of the Programme of Action depends on shared responsibility and strengthened partnerships, including civil society and the private sector, and invites all members and associate members and subregional, regional and international organizations to support the efforts of the least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close coordination with the Office of the High Representative, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and specialized agencies:

(a) To ensure that the programme of work under the themes of poverty reduction, managing globalization and emerging social issues mainstreams the relevant priorities and commitments identified in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, as called for in General Assembly resolutions 56/227 of 24 December 2001 and 57/276 of 20 December 2002;

(b) To review, analyse and disseminate information on economic and social developments in the least developed countries annually in line with the Programme of Action;

(c) To assist the least developed countries, where appropriate, in the formulation of appropriate sectoral development strategies and policies, paying due regard to the diverse development circumstances and constraints facing the least developed countries, in accordance with the Programme of Action;

(d) To conduct a regional mid-term review of the implementation of the Programme of Action in 2005 to consider the developments affecting the countries concerned subsequent to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

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

*5th meeting
4 September 2003*

⁴ See paragraphs 258 to 264 above.