

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS SIXTIETH SESSION

60/1. Shanghai Declaration²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Adopts the following Declaration:

Shanghai Declaration

I. General provisions

1. We, members and associate members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, on the occasion of the historic sixtieth session of the Commission, express our deep appreciation to the Government and citizens of the People's Republic of China for hosting the present session in Shanghai, the birthplace of the Commission, and to the government and citizens of Shanghai municipality.

2. We reiterate our commitment to multilateralism and to addressing global issues through dialogue, consultation and cooperation.

3. We reaffirm that the United Nations has a central role in promoting international cooperation for development and in promoting policy coherence on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence.

4. We support further reform of the United Nations with a view to promoting its important role in peace and development and in establishing a cohesive and effective system for responding to global threats and challenges as well as enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations through increased coordination and cooperation between the various agencies and their programmes within the United Nations system.

5. We note the diversity in the levels of development of countries and areas of the Asian and Pacific region and the special needs of the least developed economies, landlocked and island developing economies, and economies in transition.

6. We emphasize the Commission's unique role as the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region and its mandate as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region.

7. We reaffirm our determination to strengthen further the role, capacity and efficiency of ESCAP to

respond more effectively to the needs of its members and associate members and to existing and new global challenges.

8. We welcome the achievements of the region in economic and social development, including progress made in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, and the outcomes and final documents of major United Nations summits and international conferences.

9. We renew our commitment to enhancing subregional and regional cooperation and remain conscious of the need to further improve national capacities in order to promote sustainable development in the Asian and Pacific region.

10. In this context, we acknowledge the importance of the main theme of the Shanghai session, "Meeting the challenges in an era of globalization by strengthening regional development cooperation".

11. We reaffirm that South-South cooperation, South-North cooperation and triangular cooperation play important roles in promoting development and contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

12. We note that globalization offers opportunities and challenges to the world, particularly for the developing countries, and that it is only through greater economic growth coupled with broad, sustained and collaborative efforts that globalization can be made fully inclusive and equitable so that the poor are not left behind. At the same time, the benefits of globalization can be realized only when environmental pressure from the impact of globalization is properly addressed through strengthened common strategies in the Asian and Pacific region.

13. We welcome the conclusion and holding of the signing ceremony of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network and the inaugural session of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum, and look forward to the first meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement as part of the efforts to strengthen the development of infrastructure and foster closer trade relations within the region.

14. We reaffirm the importance of focusing ESCAP work on its three thematic areas: poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues.

² See paragraphs 90 to 122 above.

II. Poverty reduction

15. In the area of poverty reduction, we will strive:

(a) To maximize the contribution of economic growth in reducing poverty and hunger, by consolidating successes and facilitating the sharing of best practices, with a view to halving, by 2015, the proportion of people suffering from poverty and hunger, thus making the region a forerunner in the global campaign against poverty;

(b) To implement policies aimed at engendering confidence in the operation of markets to assist in the creation of a favourable business environment;

(c) To emphasize the importance of according priority to the fight against hunger and poverty and, in this context, put in place the necessary policy and institutional framework and implement programmes that are designed to overcome hunger and poverty;

(d) To encourage the efficient utilization of existing financial, physical and human resources and the involvement of all stakeholders, including Governments, international organizations, international and regional development and financial institutions, donors and civil society, to achieve the internationally agreed sustainable development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

(e) To eliminate corruption at all levels, in that regard welcoming the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and inviting all member States to sign and ratify it as soon as possible in order to ensure its rapid entry into force.

III. Managing globalization

16. In the area of managing globalization, we will strive:

(a) To address the regional and interregional aspects of the follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;

(b) To revitalize the multilateral trading system, taking into account the importance of promoting the objectives set out in the Millennium Declaration of ensuring an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system;

(c) To work towards a successful, timely and development-oriented conclusion of the Doha negotiations;

(d) To take action to enable those countries in the region that are not yet members of the World Trade Organization to accede to it in order to participate more effectively in the multilateral trading system;

(e) To strengthen national capacities to negotiate, conclude and implement multilateral and

regional agreements designed to promote interregional and intraregional trade and investment flows;

(f) To implement, in a timely fashion, the various regional and subregional economic cooperation initiatives in promoting trade and investment, with a view to expanding economic interaction and promoting stable growth and prosperity for the entire region;

(g) To mobilize investment from domestic and foreign resources by strengthening and developing domestic financial systems and creating an enabling environment;

(h) To advance current efforts to reform the international financial architecture as envisaged in the Monterrey Consensus and promote the effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in those efforts;

(i) To take action at the regional level to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in which some of the salient features of the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific were reflected to move the region towards a more sustainable path to development, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, while taking note of the recent follow-up activities, including the Kyoto Ministerial Declaration and the Jeju Initiative;

(j) To make the next ten years a decade of economic growth and sustainable development in the region, striving to meet the various internationally agreed goals;

(k) To undertake regular studies and analyses of regional environmental trends, strengthen national capacities for protecting the environment consistent with national commitments and support regional and subregional environmental cooperation;

(l) To assist in capacity-building, formulation and implementation of strategies and action plans for the sustainable use of water resources with a special focus on problems of water quality and access to safe drinking water for the poor;

(m) To promote capacity-building in sustainable energy development, enhanced utilization of renewable energy and energy efficiency improvement and to support subregional cooperation in energy sector development;

(n) To develop an integrated intermodal transport network in Asia and the Pacific as well as Asia-Europe transport corridors;

(o) To implement the Plan of Action adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held at Geneva in December 2003, and take action to achieve the objectives of the World Summit as enunciated in the Declaration of Principles

and Plan of Action adopted at the first phase, and to prepare for the second phase in 2005, paying special attention to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition;

(p) To promote regional cooperation and effective integration of satellite-based information and communication technology applications with other information technologies for informed sustainable economic and social development planning and management and improved quality of life;

(q) To promote the development of transport and tourism in the region so as to provide opportunities for increased national, regional and international trade and better access to health and education services, and to promote cultural exchanges.

IV. Emerging social issues

17. In the area of emerging social issues, we will strive:

(a) To promote social policy development and the mainstreaming of social dimensions in national development programmes;

(b) To improve the development and delivery of basic social services, such as education, health and nutrition, focusing on vulnerable population groups;

(c) To enhance cooperation in capacity-building in public health, inter alia, through the exchange of information and the sharing of experience, as well as research and training programmes focusing on surveillance, prevention, control, response, care and treatment in respect of infectious diseases;

(d) To coordinate a more effective and comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS and other serious diseases in the region by prioritizing effective strategies against them in national development planning, committing sufficient resources, mobilizing the private sector and civil society, enhancing sustained and comprehensive intervention and strengthening regional cooperation in establishing preventive measures and increasing the availability of affordable quality drugs;

(e) To foster an integrated social safety net, and particularly to establish a social safety net which provides necessary assistance to the unemployed, the poor and senior citizens as well as other vulnerable groups;

(f) To promote and support gender equality and eliminate discrimination against women;

(g) To promote human security in the region through greater regional cooperation, especially for vulnerable people;

(h) To support and encourage the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, including the business community, for the promotion of social development.

V. Overarching issues

18. On overarching issues, we will strive:

(a) To fully implement the Monterrey Consensus;

(b) To promote regional cooperation by inviting the United Nations regional commissions, in collaboration with other regional and subregional organizations and processes, as appropriate, to contribute, within their mandates, to the review of progress made towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, which synthesizes and prioritizes the key elements of major international conferences held in prior years, and to provide input to the discussions of the Economic and Social Council on the cross-sectoral thematic issues to be addressed during the coordination segment of its substantive session, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council;

(c) To intensify our efforts to effectively implement in the Asian and Pacific region the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade;

(d) To implement the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and the Almaty Plan of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries;

(e) To promote initiatives for the least developed countries in the context of South-South cooperation by implementing projects that address the special needs of those countries;

(f) To support the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and work towards a positive outcome at the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action in Mauritius;

(g) To strengthen and support the implementation of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia;

(h) To encourage the establishment of a regional network of research institutions and universities in the ESCAP region by 2006 in order to promote education, technical skills development and technology transfer through the exchange of programmes, students and academics.

VI. Strengthening of ESCAP

19. We reaffirm the vital role of ESCAP in fostering sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific.

20. We request the Executive Secretary to design programmes, within ESCAP's existing mandate and resources, that reflect the overall vision contained in this

Declaration, to present the programme of work for endorsement by the Commission and to report on these matters to the Commission at future sessions.

21. We resolve, therefore, to support efforts by the Executive Secretary to mobilize and make effective use of additional financial and in-kind resources in support of ESCAP activities and for the further revitalization of ESCAP in line with the needs and priorities of its members and associate members.

22. We also request the Commission to review on a regular basis the progress made in implementing the provisions of the present Declaration.

5th meeting
28 April 2004

60/2. Regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the internationally agreed goals, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, and the outcomes of other United Nations summits and conferences, in particular the health-related development goals,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 58/3 of 27 October 2003 on enhancing capacity-building in global public health,

Noting that in that resolution the General Assembly invited the regional commissions to cooperate closely with Member States, the private sector and civil society in their capacity-building in public health, as well as in regional cooperation to diminish and eliminate the deleterious impact of major infectious diseases,

Also noting Commission resolution 59/1 of 4 September 2003 on regional action in follow-up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,

Noting with concern that more than eight million people already live with HIV/AIDS in the Asian and Pacific region and that HIV in the region is likely to continue to spread rapidly, and welcoming the joint declaration of the "3 by 5 Initiative" by the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS,

Mindful that the fight against severe acute respiratory syndrome, the first severe infectious disease to emerge in the twenty-first century, and other epidemics is far from over,

Noting with particular concern the outbreak of avian influenza in the poultry population, and recognizing its impact on human health as well as on the economy,

Noting, in this connection, the Joint Ministerial Statement on the Current Poultry Disease Situation adopted at Bangkok on 28 January 2004 by the agriculture and health ministers and senior officials of the countries concerned,

Recognizing that Governments have the primary responsibility for the provision of social services,

Also recognizing the constraints that many countries face in improving health systems and interventions because of their limited human and financial resources for health and insufficient development of the capacity to plan and manage human resources to respond to changes in priorities,

Further recognizing the important role of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in combating these infectious diseases,

Welcoming the close cooperation between the World Health Organization and ESCAP in order to enhance the regional responses to health and development issues,

Recalling the Asian and Pacific region's pioneering contribution to the development and implementation of the primary health-care approach to health for all, promoted by the World Health Organization,

1. *Urges* members and associate members:

(a) To implement domestic measures to counter the impact of avian influenza on human health, livestock production and economic development, noting the recommendations of the World Organization for Animal Health, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, particularly to strengthen reporting and surveillance systems;

(b) To consider participating in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

(c) To further integrate public health into their economic and social development strategies, inter alia, through the establishment and improvement of effective public health mechanisms, in particular systems of disease surveillance, response, control, prevention, treatment and information exchange, as well as the recruitment and training of public health personnel;

(d) To raise professional and public awareness of the importance of public health and mobilize the participation of educational institutions, civil society and the mass media in promoting good public health practices;

³ See paragraphs 233 to 241 above.