

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.

(e) To unite in securing a regional commitment to strengthening cooperation on capacity-building in public health;

(f) To improve regional public health preparedness and response systems, including systems of prevention and monitoring of infectious diseases, to better cope with major diseases, inter alia, in cases of global or regional outbreaks of new diseases;

2. *Encourages* donors, including Governments, the private sector, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and regional and international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, to continue to support countries in the Asian and Pacific region through such means as:

(a) Providing funding and technical support to countries that face significant risks in their efforts to combat infectious diseases and epidemics;

(b) Facilitating South-South and North-South cooperation to benefit the Asian and Pacific region, as part of an integral response aimed at building effective public health institutions and practices;

(c) Considering integrating health dimensions into their strategies, work programmes, budget plans, projects and activities, to strengthen regional public health capacity-building, as a priority for the fulfilment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in the Asian and Pacific region;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to coordinate closely with the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, to address the following:

(a) Assisting members and associate members in their capacity-building by mainstreaming health concerns into diverse development sectors in support of the fulfilment of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in the region, inter alia, in the programme of work of ESCAP;

(b) Promoting coordinated regional action in strengthening capacity-building in public health, inter alia, through the Subcommittee on Health and Development, which is scheduled to hold its first session in December 2004, as well as in facilitating the exchange of information and the sharing of experience;

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

60/3. Work of ESCAP in implementing its technical cooperation projects⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 37 (IV) of 28 March 1947, by which the Council established the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in particular paragraphs 1 (d) and (e) of that resolution, regarding advisory services and technical assistance,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, through which ESCAP was mandated to serve as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region and as an executing agency for intersectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects,

Cognizant of the scope of the responsibilities of the Commission, the domain of which comprises the largest region in the world in geographical coverage and contains 62 per cent of the world's population as well as the majority of the world's poor,

Aware of the focus of the work of the Commission in three key thematic areas, namely, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues,

1. *Recognizes* with appreciation that ESCAP has been implementing a number of technical cooperation projects that strengthen the capacity of ESCAP members and associate members in the development and implementation of policies and programmes in economic and social fields;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those traditional donors which have made significant voluntary contributions to the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and invites non-traditional donors to increase their contributions;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Executive Secretary to focus on high-priority, results-oriented and demand-based projects and requests him to implement such projects in an effective and efficient manner;

4. *Recognizes* the need for the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP to be guided by the internationally agreed development goals 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 United Nations summits and conferences, including the Doha Development Agenda, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Monterrey Consensus, the Almaty Programme of Action and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society;

⁴ See paragraphs 326 to 329 above.