

(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.

5. *Also recognizes* that ESCAP has comparative strengths and advantages in certain technical cooperation activities in the Asian and Pacific region and requests the Executive Secretary, in carrying out its technical cooperation activities, to continue to attach high priority to the following areas:

(a) Capacity-building for members and associate members to plan and implement effective policies and programmes in economic and social fields through training activities, such as organizing seminars, workshops and the exchange of experts;

(b) Provision of advisory services at the request of members or associate members to strengthen their capacity in responding effectively to the challenges of globalization in the region;

(c) Identification of existing good practices in the region and promotion of their introduction in places where feasibility studies yield positive results;

(d) Enhancement of awareness among members and associate members and facilitation of the dissemination of relevant information;

6. *Urges* the Executive Secretary to implement the projects in close cooperation with the participating Governments and relevant international organizations and bodies as well as in partnership with the private sector and relevant non-governmental organizations;

7. *Also urges* the Executive Secretary to pay particular attention to the special needs of socially vulnerable groups and to the gender dimension when implementing projects;

8. *Further urges* the Executive Secretary to pay particular attention to the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, and economies in transition when implementing projects;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Executive Secretary for actively monitoring and evaluating its projects and urges him to continue to do so in order to determine the effectiveness of those projects and to draw lessons therefrom for improved planning and implementation of future ESCAP projects;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to include the following in his report to the Commission at its sixty-first session under the agenda item entitled "Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions":

(a) His efforts to mobilize resources in areas such as broadening the donor base, cost-sharing, private sector funding and other innovative means in view of the trend towards declining voluntary contributions for technical cooperation activities;

(b) His strategy paper and action plan for technical cooperation activities for the year 2005 and thereafter, taking into account the priorities of ESCAP and recognizing that the implementation of projects is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

(c) The results of the monitoring and evaluation of ongoing and recently completed projects for the purposes mentioned in paragraph 9 above.

5th meeting
28 April 2004

60/4. Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network⁵

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the importance of international road transport to the development of the region's economy, trade and tourism,

Also recognizing that an intergovernmental agreement on the Asian Highway network would play a catalytic role in the coordinated development of international highways in the region and between Asia and Europe,

Recalling the establishment of a working group to develop an intergovernmental agreement for the Asian Highway network, as recommended by the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, held in Seoul on 16 and 17 November 2001, and endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-eighth session,

Also recalling the decision of the Commission at its fifty-ninth session to convene an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting to consider and adopt the agreement in the second half of 2003 and its hope that the agreement could be concluded at the meeting in November 2003,

Welcoming the unanimous adoption of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network by the Intergovernmental Meeting to Develop an Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, held at Bangkok on 17 and 18 November 2003,

Recalling the priority area of infrastructure development and maintenance identified in the Almaty Programme 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, adopted at the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport

⁵ See paragraphs 174 and 175 above.