

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 Network<sup>5</sup>**

*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

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<sup>5</sup> See paragraphs 174 and 175 above.

Cooperation, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 28 and 29 August 2003, and acknowledging that the Asian Highway network provides transit transport opportunities,

*Expressing its appreciation* to the Government of Japan for its valuable support for the development and formalization of the Asian Highway network and for the assistance which it provided in preparing for and convening the Intergovernmental Meeting,

*Also expressing its appreciation* to the Government of China for hosting the signing ceremony for the Agreement in Shanghai on 26 April 2004,

*Convinced* that the Agreement will strengthen relations between member countries, promote international trade and tourism through coordinated development of the Asian Highway network and have a substantial positive impact on the region by achieving 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,

1. *Invites* all the relevant members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to become parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network in order to ensure the speedy entry into force of the Agreement;

2. *Also invites* the international and regional financing institutions and multilateral and bilateral donors to provide financial and technical support for the development of the Asian Highway network and related infrastructure, particularly taking into account the special needs of landlocked developing countries;

3. *Further invites* subregional organizations to promote the Agreement and accord priority to the development of the Asian Highway network in their respective subregions;

4. *Encourages* landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours that are members of ESCAP to enter into bilateral or subregional transit traffic facilitation agreements which will enable the Asian Highway network to provide further tangible transit transport opportunities within the scope of the Almaty Programme of Action;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist member countries in becoming parties to the Agreement;

(b) To accord priority to the development of the Asian Highway network within the ESCAP work programme;

(c) To collaborate effectively with international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors and subregional organizations for the development of the Asian Highway network;

(d) To effectively discharge the functions of the secretariat of the Agreement;

(e) To report to the Commission at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*5th meeting*  
28 April 2004

**60/5. Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific<sup>6</sup>**

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

*Recalling* its resolutions 174 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977 and 220 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982 on the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific,

*Also recalling* the host country agreement between the Government of Indonesia and the United Nations, signed on 29 April 1981, and the establishment of the Centre with effect from that date,

*Noting with appreciation* the significant financial resources that have been provided to the Centre, since its establishment, by the Government of Japan, and the facilities that have been provided by the Government of Indonesia,

*Taking into account* the recommendations of the evaluation of the Centre carried out in 2003 and the need to integrate the work of the Centre into the ESCAP programme of work,

*Noting* the decisions of the Governing Board of the Centre at its twenty-second session, held in Bogor, Indonesia, on 15 and 16 January 2004, to further align the programme of work of the Centre with ESCAP priorities and to discuss a possible change of name and terms of reference for the Centre,

*Also noting* the endorsement of the draft Statute by the Governing Board of the Centre, at its extraordinary session held at Bangkok on 22 March 2004,

*Adopts* the Statute of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution.

*5th meeting*  
28 April 2004

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<sup>6</sup> See paragraphs 292 and 293 above.