

**61/11. Implementation of 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<sup>11</sup>**

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

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, in which Heads of State and Government recognized the special needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries, and urged both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to that group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems, and resolved to create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which was conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 58/201 of 23 December 2003, in which the Assembly endorsed 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 and the Almaty Declaration,

*Recalling further* the communiqué adopted at the High-level Meeting on the Role of International, Regional and Subregional Organizations for the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, convened by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 29 to 31 March 2005,

*Taking note* of the report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its seventh session,

*Aware* that twelve of the thirty-one landlocked developing countries are in Asia,

1. *Reaffirms* its continued support for the full and effective implementation of the specific actions to be undertaken in the five priority areas agreed upon 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;

2. *Stresses* that efficient transit transport systems can be established through genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels;

3. *Also reaffirms* that successful implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action depends on shared responsibility and strengthened partnerships, including civil society and the private sector, and, in this regard, invites all members and associate members and international, regional and subregional organizations to support the efforts of the landlocked and transit developing countries in Asia;

4. *Reaffirms further* its full support for the United Nations 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 Almaty Programme of Action, which, inter alia, forms a basis for regional cooperation to assist landlocked developing countries by establishing efficient transit transport systems in both landlocked and transit developing countries;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close coordination with the Office of the High Representative, to integrate the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action into the relevant programmes of work of the secretariat, particularly those relating to poverty reduction, managing globalization, including transport and tourism, and emerging social issues as appropriate, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/245 of 22 December 2004;

6. *Welcomes* the signing on 26 April 2004 of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network and the expected entry into force of the Agreement, invites relevant member States which have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Agreement as soon as possible and urges that, in implementing the Agreement, special attention be given to the special needs of landlocked developing countries, while taking into account the interests of transit developing countries, consistent with the Almaty Programme of Action and that priority attention also be given to the completion of missing links in the Asian Highway;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the excellent work carried out by the ESCAP secretariat in preparing a time/cost methodology for indicators to monitor progress in establishing efficient transit transport systems;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake the necessary measures to further expand its programme, as appropriate, to support the landlocked and transit developing countries in their efforts to improve their transit transport systems, and invites development partners to provide appropriate financial support in that regard, as called for in paragraph 47 of the Almaty Programme of Action;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its sixty-third session on the

<sup>11</sup> See paragraphs 222-227 and 230 above.

implementation of the present resolution and on the progress made in establishing efficient transit transport systems in Asia.

*5th meeting*  
18 May 2005

**61/12. Regional call for action to enhance capacity-building in public health<sup>12</sup>**

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

*Recalling* its resolution 60/2 of 28 April 2004,

*Also 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 other outcomes of United Nations summits and conferences, in particular the health-related development goals,

*Welcoming* the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 58/3 of 27 October 2003 and 59/27 of 23 November 2004 on enhancing capacity-building in global public health,

*Noting* that in those resolutions the General Assembly, inter alia, 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,

*Reaffirming* the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution S-26/2 of 27 June 2001 and 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 nine 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,

*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* the outbreak of avian influenza in the poultry population and recognizing its impact on human health as well as on the economy,

*Also noting* the need to strengthen regional cooperation to prevent any potential outbreak of other preventable diseases,

*Noting with concern* the serious damage and loss of life caused by the earthquake and tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean rim countries, including the negative impact on human health and development,

*Appreciating* the generous contribution and assistance to the affected countries from Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and citizens of the world, especially the timely health aid for emergency relief,

*Noting with particular concern* that non-communicable diseases, and injuries, are rapidly overtaking communicable diseases as the leading causes of death in Asia and the Pacific,

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

*Recognizing also* 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,

*Welcoming* the initiative of the World Health Organization Regional Committee for the Western Pacific at its fifty-fifth session, held in Shanghai, China, from 13 to 17 September 2004, to enhance close cooperation between the World Health Organization and ESCAP in response to health and development issues,

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

*Welcoming*, in this connection, the plan to hold the Sixth Global Conference on Health Promotion in Bangkok from 7 to 11 August 2005,

1. *Urges* members and associate members in the region:

(a) To scale up their investments in the health sector through resource mobilization strategies;

(b) 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, and the recruitment and training of public health personnel;

(c) 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;

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

<sup>12</sup> See paragraphs 202-210 and 221 above.