

specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

12. The Council shall meet at least once a year and may adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.

13. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

14. Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, where this is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

16. The Council shall review the administration and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

Director and staff

17. The Centre shall have a Director and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Director shall be appointed in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post.

18. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work.

Technical Committee

19. The Centre shall have a Technical Committee consisting of experts from members and associate members of ESCAP and from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members of the Technical Committee shall be appointed by the Director in consultation with the Executive Secretary.

20. The Technical Committee shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the Centre's operations.

21. Reports of meetings of the Technical Committee, and the Director's observations thereon, shall be submitted to the Council at its next session.

22. The Chairperson of the Technical Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself at each meeting.

Resources of the Centre

23. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

24. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

25. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Centre.

26. The financial resources of the Centre shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

27. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present statute

28. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 12 of this statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

29. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

61/5. Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific⁵

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 174 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977, 220 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982 and 60/5 of 28 April 2004 on the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific,

⁵ See paragraphs 248-273 above.

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 note of the report on the Centre to the Commission at the current session,

Recalling in particular its resolution 60/5, in which the Commission adopted a revised statute for the Centre including revised functions that strengthen the role of the Centre in coordinating research and analysis on secondary crops,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to seek regular budget resources for the Centre, including posts, within the proposed ESCAP programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, to strengthen the research and analytical capacity of the Centre, while recognizing the primary role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee in this regard, and also recognizing the principle that the technical assistance activities of the Centre should be funded by voluntary contributions;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to seek additional voluntary resources to strengthen the financial stability of the Centre.

*5th meeting
18 May 2005*

61/6. Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development⁶

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the particularly rapid development in information and communication technology and its applications, and their implications for economic and social development, which have posed unprecedented challenges for developing countries in need of efficient, informed and timely access to information, information services, tools, best practices and other information and communication technology-related resources,

Expressing grave concern over the prevailing digital divide between countries and within countries and communities, and its implications for development and the persistence of poverty,

Acknowledging the importance of information and communication technology for development and for building inclusive knowledge societies, as well as the role of the United Nations in promoting regional cooperation through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted on 12 December 2003 at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, which called for capacity-building with an emphasis on creating a critical mass of qualified and skilled information and communication technology professionals and experts, the promotion of regional cooperation in the field of capacity-building by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and fostering effective international and regional cooperation among Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, including international financial institutions,

Also recalling the Tokyo Declaration adopted on 15 January 2003 by Governments of the Asian and Pacific region as the region's input to the World Summit, which identified information and communication technology development, capacity-building and fostering of partnerships as priority areas for action in advancing the region's information society,

Reaffirming its resolution 57/4 of 25 April 2001 on regional cooperation in information and communication technologies for development, and recalling General Assembly resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration and resolved, inter alia, to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, were available to all, and 57/144 of 16 December 2002 on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit,

Also recalling General Assembly resolutions 57/295 of 20 December 2002 on information and communication technologies for development and 56/189 of 21 December 2001 on human resources development, in which the Assembly made several references to information technologies,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 57/270 of 20 December 2002 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Noting with appreciation Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/2 of 19 July 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, including the establishment of a subcommittee on information, communications and space technology,

Noting with satisfaction the outstanding success achieved by a number of countries in the region in the long-term development of their information and communication technology sectors and in harnessing new technologies for their national development,

Noting also with satisfaction the work of such international organizations as the International

⁶ See paragraphs 160-169 and 273 above.