

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS SIXTY-SECOND SESSION

A. Resolutions

62/1. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region¹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000 on the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which the Heads of State and Government strongly reiterated their determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit, described as the Millennium Development Goals, which have helped to galvanize efforts towards poverty eradication,

Bearing in mind the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recalling its resolution 60/1 of 28 April 2004 on the Shanghai Declaration, in which it welcomed the achievements of the region in economic and social development, including progress made in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes and final documents of major United Nations summits and international conferences,

Recalling also the Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: The Way Forward 2015, adopted on 5 August 2005 at the Regional Ministerial Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: The Way Forward 2015,

Taking note of document E/ESCAP/1363 on the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: The Way Forward 2015 and document E/ESCAP/1382 on implications of the 2005 World Summit Outcome for the work of ESCAP,

Noting the Declaration on the New Asian African Strategic Partnership adopted by the Asian and African Heads of State and Government at the Asian-African Summit, held in Jakarta in April 2005, as well

as the Joint Ministerial Statement on the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership Plan of Action, which could play an important role in enhancing solidarity and interregional cooperation,

Welcoming the holding of the High-Level Forum on the Health Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific in Tokyo on 21 and 22 June 2005 and the initiative of the Government of Japan to host the Fourth Japan-Pacific Islands Forum Summit Meeting in Okinawa, Japan, in May 2006, and aware that, at the previous Japan-Pacific Islands Forum Summit Meeting, the Okinawa Initiative: Regional Development Strategy for a More Prosperous and Safer Pacific and the Joint Action Plan were adopted to translate the Millennium Development Goals, and other principles and commitments, into regional initiatives,

Recalling the Shanghai Agenda on Poverty Reduction, adopted at the Global Conference on Scaling up Poverty Reduction, held in Shanghai in May 2004, and recognizing that the establishment of the China International Poverty Reduction Center aims to facilitate the exchange and spread of experiences and lessons on poverty reduction in the region and worldwide,

Recognizing that the Asian and Pacific region contains two thirds of the world's over one billion poor and that strong political will and bold and decisive actions are therefore needed for achieving poverty eradication through sustainable economic growth, while committing to make poverty reduction an overarching objective of developmental partnership and cooperation in Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming the efforts made by countries, and the progress made in the region, particularly by developing countries, in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the outcomes and final documents of major United Nations summits and international conferences, but concerned about the slow and uneven progress towards achieving health and environment-related goals, and the uneven progress in education-related goals,

Also welcoming the contribution of some countries in the region to the global partnership for development, especially for the immediate problems of developing countries and the special needs of least developed countries, through various measures, including South-South cooperation, and in that regard, welcoming further the increased resources that will become available as a result of the establishment of timetables by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for

¹ See paragraphs 124 to 144 above.

official development assistance by 2015, and inviting those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and, in that regard, welcoming efforts by countries in the region to promote good governance, foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector, fight corruption, pursue sound macroeconomic policies and develop efficient, transparent, and accountable systems for mobilizing public resources and managing their use and inviting all Governments that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments,

Recognizing that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

Recognizing also the importance of regional partnership and cooperation in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and also the necessity to assist upon request those countries in need in achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming the support provided by the various development partners, including the international financial institutions, donor countries and organizations, the private sector and civil society in achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing the central role of the United Nations in development and the important role of ESCAP and the other regional commissions as forums for policy dialogue and consensus-building at the regional level on development-related issues, and aware of the role of the regional commissions to assist those member States seeking such support in achieving the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals, in accordance with their respective mandates,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of those countries which have developed their national development strategies to meet the Millennium Development Goals, and invites countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in that regard in accordance with their commitments, taking into account the principle that, while individual countries have primary responsibility for their own development, a conducive international environment for development is essential;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the regional partnership on the Millennium Development Goals between ESCAP, the United Nations

Development Programme and the Asian Development Bank, which provides a consolidated regional platform to support the achievement of the Goals, as well as a series of reports published by ESCAP, the United Nations Development Programme and the Asian Development Bank which assess progress towards achieving the Goals in Asia and the Pacific; including the report on the Millennium Development Goals in the least developed countries of Asia and the Pacific;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, within existing regular budget resources, or through voluntary contributions, as available:

(a) Within its mandate, to strengthen regional policy dialogue for development, including on technical assistance and capacity-building, in cooperation with other bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme, and relevant international organizations, including the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank, within their respective mandates and competence, in a coherent manner, with a view to developing appropriate ways and means to expedite achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region, including by addressing pressing economic and social issues;

(b) To continue to assist, within the mandate of ESCAP and in close coordination with other entities of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, the members and, as appropriate, associate members in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals through, inter alia, carrying out capacity-building and technical cooperation activities;

(c) To increase the effectiveness of the regional advisory services and regional subsidiary bodies of ESCAP in assisting member countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development;

(d) To continue to assess progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific in cooperation with relevant international organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme and the Asian Development Bank, and to transmit a progress assessment to the Economic and Social Council, and especially to its annual ministerial-level substantive reviews, for consideration;

(e) To develop recommendations for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in the form of a regional road map, by developing and refining existing elements, and building also on related efforts or processes;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session an item entitled

“Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region” and requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*5th meeting
12 April 2006*

62/2. Jakarta Declaration on enhancing regional cooperation in infrastructure development, including that related to disaster management²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Expressing deep appreciation to the Government and citizens of Indonesia for hosting the present session in Jakarta,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 55/2 of 8 September 2000 on the United Nations Millennium Declaration and 60/1 of 16 September 2005 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which calls for timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals, and recalling also the Monterrey Consensus,

Recalling also the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, which was adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,

Recognizing that infrastructure is a key element for realizing sustained economic growth and sustainable development to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also the need to undertake infrastructure development that provides high economic and social benefits and improves the quality of life of people, particularly the poor, and those in rural and remote areas,

Recognizing further the region's high vulnerability to natural disasters that can hamper progress in infrastructure development and poverty reduction,

Welcoming the increased emphasis of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank on infrastructure critical to growth, and their increased efforts to catalyse private-sector investment and public-private partnerships,

Recalling the deliberations of the Commission at its sixty-first session, held in Bangkok in May 2005, which focused on financing for development, and underscoring the need to follow up its outcomes through strengthened and concrete regional cooperation on

infrastructure development, including that related to disaster management,

Recalling also the Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: The Way Forward 2015, which calls for the promotion of affordable and environmentally sustainable infrastructure that targets the needs of the poor,

Recalling further the Bali Ministerial Joint Statement on Infrastructure Development in the Asia-Pacific Region, adopted at the Ministers' Forum on Infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific Region, held in Bali, Indonesia, in October 2003,

Recognizing the need for a particular focus on the development of infrastructure in areas affected by natural disasters,

Welcoming resolution XXIII-12 of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 16 April 2005, establishing the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, and the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System,

Underlining the strategic role of infrastructure development for improving interconnectedness and cooperation between and within countries and promoting democratic processes and empowerment,

Recognizing that diverse geographic and demographic conditions, different stages of development and existing gaps in infrastructure development within and between countries in the region pose serious challenges for some countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also the importance of greater infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific and acknowledging the crucial role that sound economic, regulatory and good governance policies at all levels can play in fostering the positive investment climate necessary to mobilize public and private resources for financing this development,

Recognizing further that cooperation and mobilization of resources at national, regional and international levels can play a critical role in infrastructure development,

1. *Invites* members and, as appropriate, associate members:

(a) To formulate and implement policies for infrastructure development aimed at improving the quality of life, that take into account the need to provide high economic and social benefit to poor people and people living in rural and remote areas;

(b) To endeavour to enhance the efficiency and quality of infrastructure facilities and services;

(c) To implement good public and corporate governance principles throughout the process of infrastructure development, through, inter alia, the provision of conducive and transparent legal

² See paragraphs 94 to 123 above.