

2. *Encourages* members and, as appropriate, associate members and relevant international organizations and institutions with advanced statistical systems to share expertise and information on their methodological, technological and managerial practices in statistical offices for the benefit of other countries in the region;

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

(a) To assist members and, as appropriate, associate members to develop their statistical systems, strengthening their capacity to collect, compile, process, analyse, disseminate and use official statistics;

(b) To provide assistance to members and, as appropriate, associate members in strengthening their capacity to monitor progress towards development goals and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) To facilitate the development and implementation of international statistical standards in the region;

(d) To facilitate regional discussion and the sharing of information and good practices related to official statistics;

(e) To facilitate the coordination of international capacity-building activities related to the development of official statistics in the region, including cooperation among national statistical offices of developing countries;

(f) To facilitate the dissemination and use of data, including by providing a user-friendly platform to access socio-economic and environmental indicators in an internationally comparable format;

(g) To coordinate with regional and international agencies in the collection of official statistical data from members and, as appropriate, associate members in order to avoid duplication of effort and to minimize the response burden on national statistical systems;

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

*5th meeting
12 April 2006*

62/11. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010¹²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals, which are aimed, inter alia, at the eradication of poverty,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, in which the Assembly endorsed the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which, inter alia, reaffirmed the commitment to address the special needs of the least developed countries and urged all countries and all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to make concerted efforts and adopt speedy measures for meeting in a timely manner the goals and targets of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/228 of 23 December 2005, in which the Assembly called for the convening of a high-level meeting on the mid-term comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, and its related preparatory meetings,

Recalling Commission resolution 59/4 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, in which it expressed its strong support for the full realization of the seven commitments made at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Programme of Action, as well as the recommendations emanating from the international conferences on the landlocked developing countries and small island developing States,

Welcoming the enhanced focus on least developed countries by the international community since the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

1. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 so that the least developed countries of Asia and the Pacific will be able to attain internationally agreed development goals;

2. *Recognizes* the need for coherent results-based national development strategies aimed at poverty reduction, as envisaged in the Programme of Action, and effective implementation of policies leading to economic growth and sustainable development;

3. *Emphasizes* the need for appropriate strategies and greater political will by the least developed countries as well as continued commitment by their development partners, including international financial institutions, to address emerging challenges;

4. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Regional Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed

¹² See paragraphs 248 to 260 above.

Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, which was held in Bangkok on 14 and 15 March 2006, and requests members and, as appropriate, associate members in the region to fulfil their commitments as contained in the Programme of Action;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, within existing regular budget resources, or through voluntary contributions, as available, in close coordination with United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations in Asia and the Pacific:

(a) To ensure that the activities of ESCAP, consistent with its programme of work, take into account the special needs of the least developed countries, as contained in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;

(b) To analyse and disseminate information on economic and social development in the least developing country members for submission to ESCAP thematic committees and intergovernmental committees, to promote greater awareness of the special concerns of least developed countries;

(c) To explore with donors the possibility of establishing a fund to support the participation of least developed countries in key ESCAP meetings;

(d) To assist the least developed countries, where appropriate, in the formulation of appropriate development strategies and policies in line with the Programme of Action;

(e) To provide regional inputs, as appropriate, into the final review of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(f) To report to the Commission on the implementation of the present resolution at the sixty-fourth session through the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries.

*5th meeting
12 April 2006*

62/12. Strengthening Pacific island developing countries and territories through regional cooperation¹³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its earlier resolutions on the Commission's activities in the Pacific, in particular resolutions 237 (XL) of 27 April 1984 concerning institutional changes to increase the effectiveness of the Commission's role in the economic and social development of Pacific island developing countries, 269 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 committing ESCAP to take special measures in favour of the Pacific island developing countries and increase the relevance and

effectiveness of the Commission's role and activities in the Pacific and 60/6 of 28 April 2004 on revitalization of the United Nations ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (UN-EPOC), and noting especially the establishment of subprogramme 3, which is intended to enable the secretariat, including UN-EPOC, to assist Pacific island countries in building up their policy and management capacity to, among other things, achieve the internationally agreed goals and targets contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also its resolution 58/1 of 22 May 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, in particular annex VI by which it revised and focused the terms of reference of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries for it to undertake periodic review and analysis of special problems of Pacific island developing countries and territories, so as to mobilize ideas for promoting policy options to maximize the benefits they obtain from globalization, and assist in strengthening their capacity to implement poverty reduction policies and programmes and address emerging social issues in the context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recognizing the importance that the above-mentioned international agreements and particularly the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development attach to trade as a source of economic growth and a means for making poverty reduction strategies more sustainable and improving the living standards of people in small island developing States, and recognizing their relevance to Pacific island developing countries,

Recognizing also the efforts of countries in the region to assist Pacific island developing countries, which will contribute to the economic development of Pacific island countries, and South-South cooperation,

Appreciating that economic development opportunities for Pacific island countries can be enlarged by strengthening links to the economic dynamism and high growth economies of Asia,

Recognizing the desire of Pacific island developing countries and, as appropriate, associate members to participate effectively in and benefit from the Commission's activities as a whole,

Recognizing also that, at the Meeting of Pacific Islands Forum Leaders held in Papua New Guinea in 2005, Pacific island countries formulated and adopted the Pacific Plan for Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration in support of national development efforts,

Affirming that all development strategies must be nationally driven and owned,

¹³ See paragraphs 248 to 265 above.