

frameworks for private sector involvement, and the establishment and use of appropriate systems of public procurement, based on transparency, competition and objective and predetermined criteria in decision-making that are effective in preventing corruption, without prejudice to the positions of members on these issues in other forums;

(d) To create an enabling environment for the promotion of public-private partnerships at the national and regional levels, for active and constructive participation of the private sector in infrastructure, and for the enhanced active participation of all relevant stakeholders in infrastructure development;

(e) To develop infrastructure development policies and strategies, taking into account safety and environmental concerns as well as geographic characteristics;

(f) To promote national and regional efforts to increase and sustain public and private resources for infrastructure development based on sustainable development principles;

(g) To strengthen national and regional preparedness in disaster risk management and response capability through education, training and the sharing of expertise, information and best practices, including through the United Nations "White Helmets Initiative";

(h) To strengthen regional cooperation on infrastructure development by improving the effectiveness of existing regional and subregional initiatives in this field;

(i) To examine and promote the use of microfinance for infrastructure development;

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

(a) To promote appropriate instruments and modalities for enhancing regional cooperation in infrastructure development through, inter alia, capacity-building, technical cooperation activities and the promotion of the interoperability, interconnectedness and intermodality components of infrastructure development, including maritime infrastructure, as appropriate;

(b) To forge closer cooperation with United Nations bodies, development agencies and multilateral financing institutions, as well as donors, as appropriate within their respective mandates, to strengthen global partnerships for infrastructure development, including that related to disaster risk management, reconstruction and rehabilitation;

(c) To assist members and, as appropriate, associate members with developing policy responses to promote renewable and environmentally friendly energy sources, energy efficiency and related infrastructure;

(d) To continue efforts to ascertain the views of the member States to identify and address the investment needs and priorities of members, and, as appropriate, of associate members, in infrastructure development, including that which contributes towards the integration of regional infrastructure;

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

*5th meeting
12 April 2006*

62/3. Implementation of the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2006-2012) and the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Tourism Development³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming the successful outcome of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on Sustainable Tourism Development, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2005, which adopted the Bali Declaration on Sustainable Tourism Development and the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2006-2012) including its Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Tourism Development (2006-2012),

Stressing the enormous potential of sustainable tourism for socio-economic development and poverty eradication, including as a main source of foreign exchange earnings and employment generation in both urban and rural areas across the region,

Noting that the international community is attaching special importance to tourism as reflected in a number of global initiatives, including the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, 2002, the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, the Global Code of Ethics on Tourism adopted at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization, and the Yogyakarta Declaration on Cultural Tourism, Local Communities and Poverty Alleviation of 9 February 2006 adopted at the World Tourism Organization International Conference on Cultural Tourism and Local Communities, held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from 8 to 10 February 2006,

Emphasizing that tourism, based on the principle of sustainable development, is an important means to manage environmental and cultural concerns effectively while contributing to economic growth and promoting social development,

³ See paragraphs 200 to 203 above.

Recognizing the significant contribution of sustainable tourism development to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially those relating to poverty reduction, gender equality and empowerment of women, environmental conservation, global partnerships for development and the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States,

Acknowledging the satisfactory implementation of and lessons learned from the first phase of the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region (1999-2005),

Emphasizing the importance of tourism in socio-economic development, particularly in rural areas,

Recognizing the need to further facilitate and guide the contribution of tourism to socio-economic development and to take specific action at the national and regional levels,

1. *Invites* all members and, as appropriate, associate members in the region:

(a) To participate actively in the implementation of the Bali Declaration and the Plan of Action (phase II), including the Regional Action Programme;

(b) To identify areas for action to further enhance the contribution of tourism to socio-economic development and poverty reduction using the Bali Declaration and the Plan of Action as guidelines, in accordance with the economic and social conditions prevailing in the countries of the region;

(c) To consider appointing, as appropriate, a focal point responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Plan of Action at the national level;

(d) To take measures to minimize the adverse sociocultural and environmental impacts of tourism, including the prevention of all forms of exploitation of women and children as well as the promotion of green tourism and preservation of cultural heritage by, among other measures, promoting an adequate regulatory framework;

(e) To consider measures to promote the Global Code of Ethics on Tourism of the World Tourism Organization;

(f) To support tourism-related local economic activities, including the promotion of access to capital through microfinancing and marketing schemes for micro and small enterprises;

(g) To promote women's empowerment and participation in tourism by facilitating their access to financing schemes, including enterprise grants and loans;

2. *Invites* all United Nations bodies, the World Tourism Organization and other specialized

agencies concerned, multilateral and regional financial institutions, donor countries and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to provide technical and/or financial support for the implementation of the Plan of Action, including its Regional Action Programme,

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

(a) To continue to accord priority to the secretariat's activities in the area of tourism;

(b) To take effective measures to encourage the implementation of the Regional Action Programme, the text of which is attached as an annex to the present resolution;

(c) To prepare and conduct a regional study on the role of tourism in socio-economic development, including a common approach to the monitoring of the implementation of the Plan, for submission to and consideration by the Commission at its sixty-third session, in 2007;

(d) To document and disseminate case studies and good practices, such as rural tourism, in utilizing tourism as an entry point to the poverty reduction process;

(e) To undertake activities described in the Regional Action Programme in the following five thematic areas: (i) enhancement of the role of tourism in socio-economic development and poverty reduction; (ii) facilitation of travel and the development of transport and other tourism-related infrastructure; (iii) sociocultural and environmental management of tourism; (iv) crisis and risk management in tourism; and (v) human resources development in the tourism sector;

(f) To promote regional cooperation and support subregional initiatives in the tourism sector, in particular regional networking arrangements through the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism;

(g) To continue cooperation with the World Tourism Organization and other relevant organizations in implementing the above activities;

(h) To promote the participation of national experts from members and, as appropriate, associate members in ESCAP technical cooperation activities;

(i) To make efforts to enhance regional cooperation and the capacity of members and, as appropriate, associate members in promoting tourist safety, security and comfort;

(j) To report to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the Plan of Action.

*5th meeting
12 April 2006*