

**62/5. Building the information society in Asia and the Pacific<sup>5</sup>**

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

*Inspired by the global commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, as evidenced by the adoption of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in December 2003, as well as the adoption of the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society at the second phase of the World Summit, held in Tunis in November 2005,*

*Emphasizing the importance of universal access to knowledge and information for promoting development,*

*Recalling that the Tunis Agenda recognizes the intrinsic relationship between disaster reduction, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and highlights the important role of information and communication technology tools in addressing these issues,*

*Recalling also that the Tunis Agenda indicates that World Summit implementation and follow-up should be an integral part of the United Nations integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences, should contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, and should not require the creation of any new operational bodies,*

*Recalling further that the Tunis Agenda indicates that regional commissions, based on the request of member States and within approved budgetary resources, may organize regional World Summit follow-up activities and assist member States with technical and relevant information for the development of regional strategies and the implementation of the outcomes of regional conferences,*

*Recalling that the Tunis Agenda indicates that international and regional organizations should assess and report regularly on the universal accessibility of nations to information and communication technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communication technology sectors of developing countries,*

*Recalling also that the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, resolved to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, were available to all,*

*Reaffirming the regional commitment to strengthen regional cooperation in information and communication technologies for development, as contained in Commission resolution 57/4 of 25 April 2001,*

*Recalling the regional commitment, shared vision and common strategies for the information society stipulated in the Tokyo Declaration – the Asia-Pacific Perspective on the World Summit, adopted by the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference held in January 2003,*

*Reaffirming the regional commitment to take action to achieve the objectives of the World Summit as well as to promote regional cooperation and effective integration of satellite-based information and communication technology applications with other information technologies for sustainable development, as contained in the Shanghai Declaration adopted by the Commission at its sixtieth session,*

*Noting the outcomes of the High-level Asia-Pacific Conference for the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tehran in May/June 2005, which adopted the Tehran Declaration and the Regional Action Plan towards the Information Society for Asia and the Pacific,*

*Also noting the outcomes of four subregional conferences, held respectively in Kyrgyzstan in November 2004, in Fiji in December 2004, in Indonesia in February 2005 and in Nepal in March 2005, and their contributions to the global discussions on Internet governance, financing mechanisms for information and communication technology for development and the role of information and communication technologies in knowledge-based disaster management,*

*Recalling that the Commission at its sixtieth session expressed appreciation of the fact that ESCAP had initiated preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and agreed to hold it in 2007,*

1. *Invites all members and, as appropriate, associate members in the region to participate actively in the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes, including, as appropriate, through the Regional Action Plan, especially by promoting regional cooperation and the creation of an enabling environment for the application of information and communication technology and the development of the information society in the region;*

2. *Invites international and regional organizations, including the members of the Regional Inter-agency Working Group on ICT, to cooperate with ESCAP in regional implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes, including, as appropriate, through the Regional Action Plan;*

<sup>5</sup> See paragraphs 220 to 225 above.

3. *Also invites* regional and multilateral financial institutions, donor countries and agencies, and non-governmental organizations to contribute technical and financial resources for the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes, including, as appropriate, through the Regional Action Plan;

4. *Welcomes* the generous offer of the Government of Malaysia to host the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2007 and invites all members and, as appropriate, associate members to participate actively in the Conference;

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

(a) To undertake actions, using a multi-stakeholder approach, including with the participation of the private sector and civil society, to promote the exchange of information and best practices at the regional level and to facilitate policy debate on the use of information and communication technology for development, with a focus on attaining the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) To organize expert group meetings, in coordination with the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, to promote capacity-building in developing countries for monitoring the information society;

(c) To assist member States with technical and relevant information for the development of regional strategies and the implementation of the outcomes of regional conferences, to develop policies and plans focusing on communication technology applications;

(d) To continue, within its existing mandate, effective coordination and evaluation of activities at the regional level of all United Nations and international organizations concerned, including through the Regional Inter-agency Working Group on ICT;

(e) To build capacity consistent with the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and encourage the active and collective efforts of all stakeholders and, especially, partnership among Governments, the private sector and civil society in transforming the digital divide into digital opportunities and bringing the benefits of information and communication technology to all;

(f) To continue the preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific as an important mechanism for regional follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society;

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

*5th meeting  
12 April 2006*

**62/6. Managing globalization through strengthened regional cooperation in trade and investment<sup>6</sup>**

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

*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the United Nations Millennium Declaration as well as other relevant declarations adopted at international summits and conferences emphasizing the role of trade and investment as engines for economic growth and development,

*Recalling also* its resolution 57/5 of 25 April 2001 on integration of Asian and Pacific developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system and resolution 60/1 of 28 April 2004 on the Shanghai Declaration,

*Emphasizing* the need to forge partnerships for development, in support of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

*Emphasizing also* the role of the regional commissions of the United Nations in capacity-building work in trade and investment in close cooperation with other relevant global and regional bodies,

*Recognizing* that improved market access and supply-side capacity-building enhance financial, trade and investment flows,

*Reaffirming* the importance of a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable trading system,

*Emphasizing* the importance of facilitating the accession of members and, as appropriate, associate members to the World Trade Organization, consistent with its criteria, and recognizing the importance of universal integration in the rules-based global trading system,

*Emphasizing also* the contribution to development of regional trade agreements and their potential role as building blocks of the multilateral trading system and as catalysts for regional and global trade liberalization,

*Expressing its appreciation* of the revitalization of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement<sup>7</sup> and the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration at the first session of the

<sup>6</sup> See paragraphs 173 to 185 above.

<sup>7</sup> Known from 1975 to 2005 as the "Bangkok Agreement".