

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".

Ministerial Council of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, held in Beijing on 2 November 2005, in which Participating States committed themselves to a strengthening of the Agreement,

*Recognizing* the uniqueness of the Agreement as the region's oldest such agreement, the largest regional trade agreement in terms of the population it covers and the agreement that spans the widest spectrum of subregions and levels of development, and noting that these unique characteristics could lay the foundation for strengthened economic integration in a manner consistent with the principles and rules of the multilateral trading system,

*Recognizing also* that trade facilitation is an essential condition for strengthening economic integration and international competitiveness,

*Acknowledging* the vital role of the business sector in development and poverty reduction, in particular through the generation of new investments, employment and financing for development,

*Underlining* the importance of policies conducive to the development of competitive small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular rural-based small and medium-sized enterprises, in recognition of the fact that most of the region's poor live in rural areas,

*Recognizing* that a conducive business climate facilitates the mobilization of investment and other forms of stable and predictable financing from domestic and foreign resources,

*Emphasizing* that in an economy where knowledge and innovation increasingly are determinants of increased productivity and competitiveness for small and medium-sized enterprises, the development of science-based knowledge and technology, particularly agricultural technology, including through the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, is also a vital component of a conducive business climate,

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

(a) To continue efforts, in collaboration with regional and global partners, to undertake policy-oriented analytical work and provide technical assistance to ESCAP members and, as appropriate, associate members in order to increase their human and institutional capacity:

(i) To negotiate, conclude and implement multilateral and regional trade agreements, with a specific focus on strengthening the World Trade Organization/ESCAP Programme of Technical Assistance for Asia and the Pacific;

(ii) To formulate and implement trade facilitation and e-commerce practices for enhancing international competitiveness;

(iii) To create a domestic policy environment conducive to the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and the mobilization of stable financial and investment flows;

(iv) To promote a competitive knowledge-based economy through the development of science-based knowledge and the transfer of technology;

(b) To continue to evaluate and analyse regional and bilateral trade agreements involving ESCAP members and, as appropriate, associate members;

(c) To take measures upon entry into force of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement to strengthen the Agreement as an effective mechanism to promote regional cooperation in trade and related issues in conformity with the principles and rules of the multilateral trading system;

(d) To continue to organize policy dialogues in the context of managing globalization, not only among policymakers but also between government, private sector and civil society representatives, including through the Asia-Pacific Business Forum;

(e) In undertaking trade capacity-building assistance, to accord priority to the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States;

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

*5th meeting  
12 April 2006*

**62/7. Strengthening regional cooperation and coordination of early warning system arrangements for tsunamis through the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia<sup>8</sup>**

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

*Recalling* the unprecedented tsunami disaster that struck the Indian Ocean and South-East Asian regions on 26 December 2004 and caused tremendous loss of life and livelihood, as well as socio-economic and environmental damage,

*Recognizing* the role of natural disaster management in economic and social development and poverty alleviation,

<sup>8</sup> See paragraphs 218 and 219 above.