

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 59/279 of 19 January 2005, entitled "Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster",

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 60/15 of 14 November 2005 welcoming the establishment of the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, hereafter referred to as the "Voluntary Trust Fund",

*Noting* the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction, recovery and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster (A/60/86-E/2005/77),

*Recognizing* the role of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as the United Nations agency responsible for coordinating and ensuring the inter-operability of tsunami warning systems established across the globe,

*Taking note of* the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWS) by the coordination under the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for IOTWS,

*Recalling* the importance of regional cooperation in tsunami disaster preparedness, the need for partnerships in minimizing vulnerability to tsunami disasters, and the requests for technical assistance, including South-South cooperation, for the development of a regional early warning system for tsunamis,

*Noting* the Declaration on Action to Strengthen Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention in the Aftermath of the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster of 26 December 2004, adopted at the special meeting of leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, held in Jakarta on 6 January 2005,

*Recalling* the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, as well as the common statement of the special session on the Indian Ocean disaster, adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan from 18 to 22 January 2005,

*Noting* the Phuket Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements of the Phuket Ministerial Meeting of 29 January 2005, which, inter alia, emphasized the urgent need for concerted and coordinated regional efforts to develop systems for early warning of tsunamis and also invited interested parties to make contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund,

*Welcoming* the establishment of the Voluntary Trust Fund, administered by ESCAP, through an initial contribution of 10 million United States dollars from the Government of Thailand and a subsequent contribution

of 2.5 million United States dollars from the Government of Sweden,

*Recalling* that the Voluntary Trust Fund aims to contribute to narrowing the capacity gaps in the region and ensuring the development of an integrated regional tsunami early warning system based on adequate resources and comprising a network of collaborative centres,

*Noting* the efforts of ESCAP in the establishment and administration of the Voluntary Trust Fund, including its convening of the first and second regular meetings of the Advisory Council, held in Bangkok on 19 January and 28 March 2006 respectively,

1. *Emphasizes* the importance of international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, as regards planning, implementation, information collection and knowledge sharing, in regional tsunami early warning systems;

2. *Recognizes* the important role of the Voluntary Trust Fund as a means of contributing to the role of the International Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization through resource mobilization for building and enhancing tsunami early warning capacities at various levels, as well as through strengthening regional and subregional cooperation and coordination essential for effective early warning system arrangements for tsunamis;

3. *Invites* Governments, donor countries, relevant international organizations, international and regional financial institutions, as well as the private sector and civil society, to consider contributing to the Voluntary Trust Fund through financial contributions and technical cooperation;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that the Voluntary Trust Fund is administered efficiently, effectively and transparently, in accordance with the terms and conditions and objectives of the Fund;

5. *Invites* members and, as appropriate, associate members to accord priority to the mitigation of all natural disasters.

*5th meeting  
12 April 2006*

## **62/8. Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade<sup>9</sup>**

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

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which the heads of State and Government resolved to ensure that, by 2015, children

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<sup>9</sup> See paragraphs 226 to 233 above.

everywhere, boys and girls alike, would be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys would have equal access to all levels of education,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 56/116 of 19 December 2001, by which it proclaimed the ten-year period beginning from 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade: Education for All,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 57/166 of 18 December 2002, in which it welcomed the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, in which the Assembly emphasized the critical role of both formal and informal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration,

*Noting* the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of literacy and education around the world,

*Reaffirming* that creating literate environments and societies is essential for achieving the goals of eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy,

*Noting with concern* that over sixty per cent of the world's illiterates are in Asia and the Pacific,

*Noting* that the mid-term review of the United Nations Literacy Decade is to take place in 2007,

*Believing* that achieving the goal of universal primary education requires a renewed commitment to promote literacy for all,

*Welcoming* the efforts made by Member States to implement the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* that a number of ESCAP members have already achieved the goal of universal primary education and that many others are on track to do so;

2. *Encourages* those members that have not yet achieved the goal of universal primary education to devise necessary strategies for reaching the poorest and most marginalized groups and to seek, where appropriate, alternative formal and non-formal approaches to learning, with a view to achieving the goals of the United Nations Literacy Decade;

3. *Invites* ESCAP members and, as appropriate, associate members, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts to implement the International Plan of Action as a central focus of Education for All, taking into account internationally agreed development

goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

4. *Also invites* the international community and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to lend their financial and material support to the efforts of the ESCAP members in the achievement of the goals of the Decade;

5. *Encourages* ESCAP members to strengthen their national and professional educational institutions with a view to expanding their capacity, developing valid and reliable literacy data and promoting the provision of good quality education;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to assess, within existing regular budget resources or through voluntary contributions as available and within the monitoring of the progress attained in the regional implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade and report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session.

*5th meeting  
12 April 2006*

**62/9. Regional follow-up to the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States<sup>10</sup>**

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

*Recalling* the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port Lewis from 10 to 14 January 2005, taking into account new and emerging issues,

*Also recalling* its resolution 61/9 of 18 May 2005, in which it called upon the members of the Thematic Working Group on Environment and Development under the Regional Coordination Mechanism to play an effective role in the implementation of the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific 2006-2010 adopted by the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Seoul from 24 to 29 March 2005, as well as its regional initiatives, including the Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth (Green Growth),

<sup>10</sup> See paragraphs 248 to 265 above.