

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

A. Resolutions

Resolution 63/1

Almaty Declaration: commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific²⁵

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Adopts the following declaration:

Almaty Declaration

1. We, the members and associate members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, have gathered in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 17 to 23 May 2007 for the sixty-third session of the Commission.

2. We recognize the historic significance of the present session of the Commission, held for the first time in Central Asia, in the year that marks the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Commission.

3. We celebrate a period spanning six decades in which membership in the Commission has grown from ten in 1947 to sixty-two today, encompassing a region that is home to two thirds of humankind and is characterized by a rich diversity of cultures and economic and social systems.

4. On this occasion, we express our deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Kazakhstan for hosting the sixty-third session of the Commission in Almaty, and to the municipal authorities of Almaty for their kindness and hospitality.

5. We are aware that the sixty-third session will be the final session attended by Mr. Kim Hak-Su in his capacity as Executive Secretary, and wish therefore to commend the Executive Secretary for his vision and dynamic leadership in re-engineering and revitalizing the Commission.

6. We recall Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, which recognizes the regional commissions as regional outposts of the United Nations, fulfilling norm-setting, dissemination and analytical functions, as well as providing an important forum for articulating regional perspectives on global issues and for building consensus within their respective regions.

²⁵ See paras. 183 to 247 above.

7. In recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration²⁶ and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,²⁷ we reaffirm our commitment to enhance the authority and efficiency of the United Nations, as well as its capacity to address effectively the full range of challenges we face in the present era of rapid socio-economic development.

8. We also recall the Shanghai Declaration,²⁸ a landmark resolution adopted at the birthplace of the Commission in Shanghai, China, which outlines the overall vision for the Commission in reducing poverty, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues.

9. In reaffirming the vital role of the Commission in fostering regional and subregional cooperation and in assisting members and associate members in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, we commit ourselves to supporting the mandated functions of the Commission as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the region.

10. We are convinced that the Commission is well placed to expand the scope of regional cooperation through the strengthening of linkages with subregional organizations, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Pacific Islands Forum, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

11. In a region that hosts the world's most dynamic economies, we note with concern the widening disparities between and within countries and therefore resolve to strengthen South-South cooperation because it offers viable opportunities for the collective pursuit of sustainable economic growth and development.

12. In recognizing the particular development challenges confronting Central Asian countries, all of which are landlocked and in need of diversifying their economies and tapping their potential as a transport hub for the Asian and European continents, we resolve to accelerate the integration of Central Asia into the regional economy of Asia and the Pacific through, among other things, the strengthening of the United

²⁶ See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

²⁷ See General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 18 September 2005.

²⁸ Commission resolution 60/1 of 28 April 2004.

Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

13. We are determined to build an Asia-Pacific century, as an epoch during which poverty is eliminated and equal opportunities become available for every woman and man to live healthy, peaceful and productive lives.

14. Hence, we resolve to support the efforts of the Commission in renewing itself towards fulfilling our vision of an Asia-Pacific century.

15. We therefore request the Executive Secretary to reinvigorate the role of the Commission as a regional development centre, by identifying and advocating innovative approaches to address sustainable development issues and coordinating region-wide policy dialogues, in close collaboration with United Nations country teams, in order to respond effectively to the changing needs of the region.

16. We also request the Executive Secretary to strengthen the leadership of the Commission in promoting South-South cooperation as a key instrument for enhancing development assistance in the region.

17. We further request the Executive Secretary to enhance the visibility of the Commission and increase understanding of its role in policy advocacy and consensus-building, as the body uniquely representative of the Asian and Pacific region.

18. On this historic occasion, we pledge our strong and continuing support for the leadership role of the Commission in catalysing regional cooperation, in fostering an Asia-Pacific century and in creating a shared future based upon our common humanity.

*Fifth plenary meeting
23 May 2007*

Resolution 63/2

Recognizing the contribution and distinguished services of Mr. Kim Hak-Su as Executive Secretary of the Commission²⁹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Aware that the sixty-third session of the Commission will be the final session attended by Mr. Kim Hak-Su in his capacity as Executive Secretary,

Recognizing the contributions and distinguished service that Mr. Kim has rendered in his role as head of the Commission secretariat,

Noting with appreciation the improvements that Mr. Kim has brought to the work of the Commission, in particular on the revitalization of the conference, programme and secretariat structures,

²⁹ See para. 343 above.

Acknowledging the support that Mr. Kim has given to the further strengthening of regional and subregional cooperation and integration among the members and associate members of the Commission, as well as to the promotion of interregional cooperation,

Acknowledging also his efforts to strengthen coordination and cooperation among members of the United Nations system at the regional level,

Acknowledging further his efforts to strengthen strategic partnerships with diverse development entities in order to address emerging regional development challenges,

1. *Wishes to extend a profound tribute to Mr. Kim for his contribution to the work of the secretariat during his years as Executive Secretary;*

2. *Expresses its gratitude for his leadership in raising the visibility of the secretariat in its servicing of the Commission as a unique intergovernmental forum with universal membership in the Asian and Pacific region;*

3. *Conveys to the Secretary-General of the United Nations its deep appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Kim in support of the economic and social advancement of the Asian and Pacific region;*

4. *Extends its sincere wishes for his continued good health and happiness in the years ahead.*

*Fifth plenary meeting
23 May 2007*

Resolution 63/3

Review of the conference structure of the Commission³⁰

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987, 47/3 of 10 April 1991, 48/2 of 23 April 1992, 51/3 of 1 May 1995, 52/1 of 24 April 1996 and 53/1 of 30 April 1997 on the conference structure of the Commission,

Recalling also its resolution 58/1 of 22 May 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and in particular paragraph 7 thereof on the requirement for a review to be conducted at its sixty-third session,

Recalling further its resolution 61/1 of 18 May 2005 on the midterm review concerning the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on mandating and delivering: analysis and recommendations to facilitate the review of mandates,³¹

³⁰ See paras. 272 to 276 above.

³¹ A/60/733 and Corr.1.