2. Reviews, analytical and quantitative studies on the links between transport and socio-economic development

3. Dissemination of information on best practices and interventions designed to improve transport connectivity and access

Indicators of achievement:

1. Proposals for Millennium Development Goal-responsive transport interventions included in national policy documents

2. Use of ESCAP promoted methodologies and information/resource materials in support of pro-poor and inclusive transport development

3. Documented exchanges of experiences within the region and instances of technical cooperation between developing countries resulting from activities initiated by the secretariat

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Resolution 63/10

Review of modalities for regional cooperation in natural disaster management, in particular the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management[79]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the significant role of natural disaster management in achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001 and 57/256 of 20 December 2002 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into due consideration General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on integrated and coordinated implementation of, and follow-up to, the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development,[80] which, inter alia, encourages the strengthening of cooperation among States at the regional and subregional levels in the field of disaster preparedness and response,

Recalling its recommendation at its fifty-ninth session that regional cooperative mechanisms be institutionalized to facilitate equitable sharing of the benefits of space technology development and applications by all countries in the region, in particular in various fields of space technology applications for disaster management,[81] and the request made at its sixty-second session to conduct the required study and assist the Islamic Republic of Iran in enhancing capacity-building for the establishment and operation of a proposed disaster management centre,[82]

Acknowledging the importance of natural disaster information management as outlined in the reports of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development on its ninth session, held in Kuala Lumpur on 15 and 16 December 2003, and its tenth session, held in Bangalore, India, on 21 and 22 October 2004; the Regional Working Group on Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems and Satellite-based Positioning on its 11th meeting, and the Regional Working Group on Meteorological Satellite Applications and Natural Hazards Monitoring on its 10th meeting, both held in Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 3 to 5 September 2005; the High-level Expert Group Meeting on Technical Options for Disaster Management Systems: Tsunamis and Others, held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 June 2005; and the High-level Expert Group Meeting on Preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, from 17 to 19 October 2006,

Recalling the Hyogo Declaration[83] and the Hyogo Framework for Action,[84] adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005, which emphasized the need for strengthening and, when necessary, developing coordinated regional approaches and creating or upgrading regional policies, operational mechanisms, plans and communication systems to prepare for and ensure rapid and effective disaster response in situations that exceed national coping capacities,

Also recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society,[85] which, inter alia, called for creating and promoting regional cooperation in the field of capacity-building by the United Nations and its specialized agencies and fostering effective international and regional cooperation among Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, including international financial institutions,

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[79] See paras. 233 to 246 above.

[80] A/57/578.

[81] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 19* (E/2003/39), para. 232.

[82] Ibid., *2006, Supplement No. 19* (E/2006/39), para. 223.

[83] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[84] Ibid., resolution 2.

[85] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

Further recalling the Tunis Commitment,[86] which recognized that disaster mitigation can significantly support efforts to bring about sustainable development and help in poverty reduction, and which reaffirmed the commitment to leveraging information and communication technology capabilities and potential through fostering and strengthening cooperation at the national, regional and international levels,

Recalling the inclusion of "disaster management and vulnerability" in the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development,[87]

Noting the provisions of the Ministerial Declaration[88] adopted by the Ministerial Conference of the Third World Water Forum, held in Kyoto, Japan, on 22 and 23 March 2003, on disaster mitigation and risk management,

Recognizing the urgent need to further develop and make effective use of scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters in the Asian and Pacific region and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term social, economic and environmental impacts on vulnerable societies, particularly in developing countries,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[89]

Recognizing that continued cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners are considered essential in order to address the impact of natural disasters effectively, while also emphasizing the need to avoid any potential duplication between the work of international organizations and other entities involved in the area of disaster information management within the Asian and Pacific region,

Further recognizing the importance of linking disaster risk management to regional frameworks, as appropriate, to address issues of poverty reduction and sustainable development,

Recognizing the importance of implementing the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Early Warning, held in Bonn, Germany, from 16 to 18 October 2003, which highlighted the necessity of strengthened coordination and cooperation for integrating the activities and expertise of the various sectors involved in the early warning process,

Noting the offer made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management,

Noting also that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has prepared a feasibility study for the establishment of a regional centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management,

1.   *Decides* to further study the modalities for strengthening regionally coordinated disaster information management and early warning, including the viability of establishing a regional centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management;

2.   *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a)   To commission an independent feasibility study on the modalities for strengthening regional coordination and cooperation in natural disaster information management and early warning and to assess, in that regard, the viability of establishing a regional centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management in the Islamic Republic of Iran to enhance regional support for members and associate members in natural disaster prevention and mitigation; the study should be conducted in consultation with regional and international entitites involved in disaster information management and early warning;

(b)   To facilitate the organization of a workshop on disaster information management and early warning;

(c)   To submit a report to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session, in 2008, on the outcome of the feasibility study.

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[86]   See A/60/687.

[87]   See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29), chap. I, sect. A.

[88]   A/57/785, annex.

[89]   A/61/229 and Corr.1.