

*Recognizing* the need to ensure that the conference structure of the Commission is kept in line with the process of overall United Nations reform,

*Taking note* of the report on the external evaluation of ESCAP: key findings and proposals for action,<sup>32</sup> and the report on the implementation of Commission resolution 58/1,<sup>33</sup>

*Mindful* of the desire of members and associate members of the Commission to maximize the effectiveness of its conference structure,

1. *Decides* to defer the review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, to its sixty-fourth session;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, as a matter of priority, to facilitate an effective process of consultation among members and associate members on a comprehensive and thorough review of the conference structure of the Commission;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the outcomes of those consultations to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
23 May 2007*

#### **Resolution 63/4**

#### **Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region<sup>34</sup>**

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

*Recalling* its resolution 62/1 of 12 April 2006 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the report entitled “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region: regional road map to 2015”,<sup>35</sup> including a regional road map that identifies regional-level actions in achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

*Taking note also with appreciation* of the report entitled “Development of health systems in the context of enhancing economic growth towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific”,<sup>36</sup> which provides an analysis of the multiple linkages between economic growth, the development of effective health systems and the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals, in the context of the need for strengthening health systems in the Asian and Pacific region,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the regional road map for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region,<sup>35</sup> and invites all members and, as appropriate, associate members in the region to take this into account in developing and/or implementing their own national development strategies towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals;

2. *Takes note also with appreciation* of the existing regional tripartite partnership on the Millennium Development Goals, which provides a consolidated regional platform to support the achievement of the Goals, as well as various activities undertaken under the tripartite initiative, such as the holding of subregional forums on the Millennium Development Goals and a series of reports published by those bodies, which assess progress towards achieving the Goals in Asia and the Pacific;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue developing recommendations for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in the form of a regional road map, by developing and refining existing elements and building also on related efforts or processes, including the outcomes of subregional forums on the Millennium Development Goals, in close coordination with other United Nations entities, regional development banks and financial institutions;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session a sub-item entitled “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region” under the agenda item “Policy issues for the ESCAP region”, and requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
23 May 2007*

#### **Resolution 63/5**

#### **Midterm review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries<sup>37</sup>**

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

*Recognizing* that the lack of territorial access to the sea, limited border crossings and transit dependence, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, resulting in prohibitive transaction costs, continues to adversely affect the overall growth and socio-economic development of landlocked developing countries,

*Recalling* the Monterrey Consensus,<sup>38</sup> which recognized the importance of enhanced and predictable

<sup>32</sup> E/ESCAP/63/19.

<sup>33</sup> E/ESCAP/63/21.

<sup>34</sup> See paras. 57 to 76 above.

<sup>35</sup> E/ESCAP/63/2.

<sup>36</sup> E/ESCAP/63/4.

<sup>37</sup> See paras. 201 to 218 above.

<sup>38</sup> Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development (*Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex).

access to all markets for the exports of developing countries, including landlocked and transit developing countries, and called on relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to reinforce the support for trade-related training, capacity- and institution-building and trade-supporting services,

*Recalling also* the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,<sup>39</sup> endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/201 of 23 December 2003,

*Recalling further* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>40</sup>

*Recalling* Commission resolution 61/11 of 18 May 2005 on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, reaffirming its continued support for the full and effective implementation of the specific actions undertaken in the five priority areas agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action, and taking note of the report on the summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of poverty reduction,<sup>41</sup>

*Reiterating* its continuous support for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action for the benefit of landlocked and transit developing countries,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 61/212 of 20 December 2006 on groups of countries in specific situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries, and its decision to hold a midterm review meeting of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2008, which reaffirms the importance of trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, calling for a successful development-oriented outcome of the Doha round of trade negotiations and emphasizing that the intergovernmental mechanisms at the global and regional levels, including those of the United Nations regional commissions, should be effectively utilized for the midterm review,

1. *Encourages* landlocked and transit developing countries to undertake substantive preparation towards the midterm review;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with regional and global partners, as appropriate:

(a) To further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action<sup>39</sup> in the programme of work of the secretariat in order to further strengthen the support that the secretariat provides to landlocked and transit developing countries in their efforts to develop bilateral, subregional and regional cooperative arrangements for establishing efficient transit transport systems, as called for in the Almaty Programme of Action;

(b) To assist landlocked and transit developing countries in their efforts to develop transit transport cooperation and to connect with existing and future transport networks in the region under the framework, especially, of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network<sup>42</sup> and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network;<sup>43</sup>

(c) To assist landlocked and transit developing countries in their process of acceding to the World Trade Organization in order to promote their more inclusive participation in the global economy;

(d) To assist landlocked and transit developing countries in negotiating and implementing trade agreements for enhancing market access that are consistent with those of the World Trade Organization;

(e) To strengthen capacity-building activities for government agencies of landlocked and transit countries in the field of trade facilitation in order to establish a transparent, consistent and predictable environment for conducting international trade;

(f) To assist landlocked and transit countries in their efforts to streamline, simplify and standardize documents and procedures, so as to reduce trade transaction costs;

(g) To continue the work of developing effective indicators for measuring progress in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the region, in close coordination with relevant organizations and in particular the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and to implement pilot projects, subject to available resources, in order to apply the methodology in selected landlocked subregions of Asia and the Pacific in view of the midterm review;

(h) To provide, within the mandate of the Executive Secretary, necessary support in the preparatory process for the midterm review, including the thematic meetings on transit transport infrastructure development, and trade and trade facilitation;

(i) To submit to the Commission at its sixty-fifth session a comprehensive report on the progress achieved in implementing the Almaty Programme of Action at the regional level, with a list of the deliverables needed for the further acceleration of the implementation process;

<sup>39</sup> *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I).*

<sup>40</sup> See General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

<sup>41</sup> E/ESCAP/63/9.

<sup>42</sup> See Commission resolution 60/4 of 28 April 2004.

<sup>43</sup> Commission resolution 62/4 of 12 April 2006, annex.

3. *Decides* to take up the issue of the review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action under the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the Commission. The regional review should be preceded, where necessary, by subregional and national preparations.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
23 May 2007*

### **Resolution 63/6**

#### **Implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States<sup>44</sup>**

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

*Recognizing* the important role of energy for sustainable development in order to reduce poverty in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the Asian and Pacific region,

*Expressing concern* over the sustained high and volatile energy prices and noting that regional cooperation initiatives could supplement national efforts in addressing energy security and access issues,

*Acknowledging* ongoing initiatives by regional and subregional organizations and the Commission on Sustainable Development on energy for sustainable development, and recognizing the need to enhance national capacities to assess strategic directions to improve energy security and widening access to energy services in a collaborative manner,

*Recalling* the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>45</sup> and the outcomes of major United Nations summits and international and regional conferences,

*Also recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>46</sup>

*Further recalling* Commission resolution 62/11 of 12 April 2006 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, in which it requested the Executive Secretary to assist the least developed countries, where appropriate, in the formulation of appropriate development strategies and policies in line with the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,<sup>47</sup>

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 58/201 of 23 December 2003, in which the Assembly endorsed the Almaty Programme of Action,<sup>48</sup> and Assembly resolution 60/208 of 22 December 2005, in which the Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to the Almaty Programme of Action and requested the United Nations system organizations to ensure effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action,

*Also recalling* Commission resolution 61/11 of 18 May 2005 on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action,

*Further recalling* the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,<sup>49</sup> and Commission resolution 62/9 of 12 April 2006 on its regional follow-up,

*Recalling* Commission resolution 61/9 of 18 May 2005 on the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, in which it requested the Executive Secretary to assist countries in the region by providing technical assistance in the realization of the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2006-2010,<sup>50</sup> and relevant national strategies and action,

1. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;<sup>47</sup>

2. *Notes* the outcomes of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries at its eighth session<sup>51</sup> and endorses its conclusions and recommendations regarding intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development and to widen access to energy services in least developed and landlocked developing countries;

3. *Commits* itself to considering the formation of a special task force on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to develop strategies and measures to address energy security and access issues collectively;

<sup>48</sup> Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries (*Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I).

<sup>49</sup> *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>50</sup> Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *The Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.F.31), annex II.

<sup>51</sup> See E/ESCAP/63/18.

<sup>44</sup> See paras. 220 to 232 above.

<sup>45</sup> See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

<sup>46</sup> See General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

<sup>47</sup> A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.