

development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals”,<sup>65</sup>

*Recognizing* the importance of understanding the interrelationships between population, development and poverty among national planners and policymakers and of building the capacity of government officials to integrate population issues into development planning in ways that reduce poverty, promote gender equality and empower women in attaining the Millennium Development Goals,

*Noting* that many countries in the Asian and Pacific region have witnessed a rapid decline in fertility and an increase in longevity, which have had far-reaching and profound effects on the age structure of the population, including population ageing, labour force shortages, increased old-age dependency ratios and high proportions of women among the elderly,

*Noting also* that, as a result of globalization and economic disparities, the mobility of people in the Asian and Pacific region has grown internally and internationally, impacting social and economic development in both countries of origin and destination,

*Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist members and associate members in building their capacity to integrate population factors into development planning;

(b) To conduct analytical studies, compile and disseminate relevant demographic and population-related information and data with a view to identifying key demographic trends and emerging issues in the Asian and Pacific region;

(c) To convene an expert group meeting in 2008 to review the implementation of the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty<sup>58</sup> adopted at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference;

(d) To submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its sixty-fifth session and a final report to the Commission at its sixty-eighth session.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
30 April 2008*

## **Resolution 64/10**

### **Review of the operational details of the feasibility study for the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communications and space technology-enabled disaster management<sup>66</sup>**

*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* the Hyogo Declaration<sup>67</sup> and the Hyogo Framework for Action,<sup>68</sup> adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, 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,

*Recalling also* the Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society,<sup>69</sup> 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,

*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 has resulted in massive loss of life and long-term social, economic and environmental impacts on vulnerable societies, in particular in developing countries,

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

*Recognizing also* the importance of linking disaster risk management to regional frameworks, as appropriate, in order to address issues of poverty reduction and sustainable development,

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

<sup>65</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 5 (E/2007/25), chap. I, sect. B, decision 2007/1.

<sup>66</sup> See paras. 124 to 129 above.

<sup>67</sup> A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid., resolution 2.

<sup>69</sup> See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

*Recalling* its resolution 63/10 of 23 May 2007, in which the Commission, inter alia, requested the Executive Secretary 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,

*Taking note* of the document provided by the secretariat<sup>70</sup> containing an overview of the independent feasibility study requested by the Commission, in particular option 1, as suggested in the study,<sup>71</sup>

1. *Invites* the Islamic Republic of Iran to review the operational details of the proposal, to clarify the implications, if any, of such changes on the scope, functions and value added products and services to be offered, along with timelines for scheduling the introduction of those activities, and to submit them to the Commission at its sixty-fifth session;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide the Islamic Republic of Iran with technical assistance, if required, in the review of the operational details of the proposal.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
30 April 2008*

## **B. Other decisions**

### **Decision 64/1**

#### **Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission<sup>72</sup>**

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 30 April 2008, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific decided that its sixty-fifth session would be held in Bangkok in April/May of 2009, bearing in mind the celebration of two national holidays in Thailand in the first two weeks of April and a number of other national holidays in countries of the region at the end of April and in the first ten days of May, and that the theme topic for its sixty-fifth session would be: “sustainable agriculture and food security”.

### **Decision 64/2**

#### **Deferment of consideration of the draft resolution on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management<sup>73</sup>**

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 30 April 2008, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific decided to defer consideration of the draft resolution sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran, entitled “Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management”,<sup>74</sup> to its sixty-fifth session.

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<sup>70</sup> E/ESCAP/64/9.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid., para. 40 (a).

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<sup>72</sup> See paras. 260 to 265 above.

<sup>73</sup> See paras. 124 to 130 above.

<sup>74</sup> E/ESCAP/64/L.10.