

Taking note of the theme topic for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission, entitled “energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”,

Acknowledging various global initiatives to promote the visibility and deployment of renewables, including the International Conference for Renewable Energies, Bonn (2004), the Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference (2005) and the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (2008),

Noting the offer of the Government of India to host the next International Renewable Energy Conference in early 2010,

Recognizing that energy is a key driver of economic and social development and that countries in the region have a sovereign right to choose an energy mix that is in line with their national priorities,

Mindful of the challenge presented by the unmet energy demand in many of the member countries in terms of the access, affordability and availability of energy,

Realizing the potential of various new and renewable energy technologies, i.e., solar, wind, biomass/biofuels, small hydro, geothermal, hydrogen and fuel cells for urban, industrial and rural applications through either grid-interactive or decentralized distributed generation options, with the added advantage of lower carbon footprints,

Recognizing that modalities for cooperation in the area of renewable energy technologies would be on a mutually agreed upon basis,

1. *Calls upon* all members and associate members, as appropriate:

(a) To cooperate proactively in the development of various renewable energy technologies through the sharing of policy and technological experiences;

(b) To encourage and participate actively in subregional, regional and intraregional initiatives in the areas of capacity-building, renewable energy demonstration projects and public-private partnerships so as to promote renewable energy technologies by improving their reliability through technical advances and their affordability by making them commercially viable;

(c) To closely involve developing countries in the development of new and renewable energy technologies, products and services that would eventually make their deployment cost-competitive;

(d) To encourage the rapid dissemination of existing new and renewable energy technologies to developing countries;

(e) To make their research institutions accessible to researchers and technologists from developing countries;

(f) To proactively facilitate, by working with intellectual property rights holders, the transfer of new and renewable energy technologies to developing countries by considering, on a voluntary basis, the reduction of technical and licensing costs;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To coordinate with the multilateral funding agencies with a view to enhancing financial and technology flows for the development and deployment of new and renewable energy technologies in developing countries;

(b) To facilitate synergies with regional groupings, such as the Economic Cooperation Organization, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, to promote the development of renewable energy technologies proactively by establishing links with the Commission;

(c) To establish an institutional cooperation mechanism with the active engagement of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and expert research institutions in the region so as to draw up a programme of cooperation by identifying activities on development, demonstration and capacity-building pertaining to various renewable energy technologies;

(d) To increase participation in public-private partnerships and initiatives that are designed to expand the use of renewable technologies through innovative policy options and practical measures, such as the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, the International Biofuels Forum and the Global Bioenergy Partnership;

(e) To submit to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session a report on the progress made in implementing the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008*

Resolution 64/4

Implementation of the Seoul Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific³⁷

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the increasing impact of globalization and the substantial growth in output, trade and investment being experienced by many countries in the Asian and Pacific region,

³⁷ See paras. 100 to 111 above.

Stressing the crucial role of economic and social infrastructure, including transport facilities and services, water, wastewater treatment, energy, power supply, telecommunications, education, health and welfare facilities in supporting development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that inadequate infrastructure facilities and services have strong adverse effects on production and transaction costs and on levels of social and personal health and welfare, which are affecting development efforts and preventing the countries of the region from realizing their full development potential,

Realizing that, typically, infrastructure requirements are significantly larger than budget provisions and that innovative solutions are needed in order to raise financing for the development of infrastructure, improve the efficiency of infrastructure operations and create incentives to promote the maintenance of infrastructure,

Taking note of the Seoul Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Seoul from 2 to 4 October 2007,

Noting the strong support expressed at the Ministerial Conference for regional cooperation in meeting infrastructure development challenges,

Welcoming the offer made by the Government of Indonesia at the Ministerial Conference to organize the next biennial Ministerial Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2009,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,³⁸ the 2005 World Summit Outcome,³⁹ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁴⁰ and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,⁴¹ all of which support and promote the concept of public-private partnerships in the development process,

Reiterating the importance of the ten universal principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption,

Convinced of the important role that multisectoral solutions, including public-private partnerships, can play in infrastructure development,

Realizing the need to address a number of issues of major concern to both the public and private sectors that impede the development of effective partnerships,

Recognizing the need to enhance or create an environment conducive to private sector participation in the provision of infrastructure facilities and services, including:

- (a) Formulating a public-private partnership policy framework;
- (b) Reforming legislative and regulatory regimes;
- (c) Encouraging the member States to establish institutional mechanisms and partnership performance assessment tools to promote good governance of public-private partnerships;
- (d) Enhancing the capacity of the public sector to implement public-private partnerships,

Convinced that the application of information and communications technology has considerable potential to improve the governance of public-private partnerships,

Recognizing that the standardization of terminology, contracts, processes and procedures reduces the transaction costs of public-private partnerships and is a prerequisite for the introduction of information and communications technology and e-governance initiatives,

Noting the significant progress made in certain countries that have facilitated and promoted public-private partnerships,

Commending the work of the United Nations regional commissions for their ongoing work in:

- (a) Establishing a global public-private partnership alliance and corresponding networks at the regional and national levels;
- (b) Developing training materials to support capacity-building for public officials;
- (c) Assessing the readiness of countries for public-private partnerships and developing action plans to improve such readiness in participating countries;
- (d) Creating Internet-based training and resource facilities,

Recognizing the important contribution that bilateral donors, international financial institutions and other organizations are making in order to assist countries to reach their full development potential in supporting economic growth, social development and poverty reduction through their public-private partnership endeavours,

³⁸ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

³⁹ See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

⁴⁰ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap I, resolution 1, annex.

⁴¹ *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.

1. *Urges* members and associate members, as appropriate, to consider:

(a) Placing high priority in national development agendas on infrastructure development;

(b) Recognizing that public-private partnerships can be an effective means to complement the efforts of Governments in developing and providing infrastructure facilities and services;

(c) Promoting the role of public-private partnerships in infrastructure development;

(d) Developing and implementing policies on public-private partnerships at the regional, subregional, national and subnational levels;

2. *Invites* members and associate members, as appropriate, to review and assess their:

(a) Public-private partnership, sectoral and other relevant policy frameworks and action plans for infrastructure development;

(b) Public-private partnership readiness and to identify key issues to be addressed by Governments in promoting the role of public-private partnerships in infrastructure development;

(c) Processes and procedures for implementing public-private partnerships, including effective management over their life cycle;

(d) Legislative, regulatory and institutional environments for public-private partnerships at the general and sectoral levels in order to identify any impediments to their effectiveness;

(e) Capacity to implement public-private partnerships and evaluate their impact on development;

3. *Encourages* members and associate members, as appropriate, to actively engage in regional cooperation initiatives, including:

(a) Participation in regional networking arrangements;

(b) Development and delivery of educational and training programmes;

(c) Development and sharing of databases on, inter alia, public-private partnership projects, statistics, laws, guidelines and model agreements;

(d) Standardization of terminology, contracts, processes and procedures related to public-private partnerships;

(e) Provision of technical assistance;

4. *Requests* United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, international financial institutions and other organizations, bilateral donors and the relevant offices of the United Nations Secretariat to provide further technical assistance, to support national and regional capacity-building and to facilitate the sharing of experiences related to public-private partnerships in infrastructure development;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close collaboration with donor countries and development partners:

(a) To assist members and associate members in meeting infrastructure development challenges through: (i) regional and interregional cooperation in the development of public-private partnerships; and (ii) the organization of meetings and regional networking arrangements aimed at promoting the exchange of experiences and information;

(b) To assist members and associate members on a mutually agreed basis in their capacity-building programmes, including public-private partnership policy framework formulation, legislative and regulatory reform and the administrative arrangements for public-private partnerships;

(c) To provide technical support, upon request, to help assess the public-private partnership readiness of members and associate members;

(d) To undertake a periodic review of the progress made in infrastructure development through public-private partnerships and to report to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008*

Resolution 64/5 Establishment of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport⁴²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Mindful of the increasing impact of globalization and the substantial growth of output, trade and investment being experienced by many countries in the Asian and Pacific region,

Stressing the crucial role of efficient, reliable and cost-effective transport services, including infrastructure, facilitation and logistics, in supporting continued growth through the improved competitiveness of exports and the reduced cost of imports,

Recognizing the need for the transport sector to respond rapidly and effectively to the demands being placed on it,

Noting the strong support expressed at the Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in November 2006, for the establishment of a forum of Asian ministers of transport as a formal regional mechanism to facilitate close collaboration and more frequent interaction between members and associate members in order to address emerging issues,⁴³

⁴² See paras. 100 to 112 above.

⁴³ See E/ESCAP/63/13, para. 3.