

Recalling its resolution 63/9 of 23 May 2007 on the implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), in which the Commission, inter alia, requested the Executive Secretary to undertake a detailed study on the establishment of a forum of Asian ministers of transport, including its organization and format, and to submit the findings to the Committee on Managing Globalization at its fourth session and to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session for their consideration,

Taking note of the support expressed for the establishment of the forum by the Committee on Managing Globalization, including the proposal that further discussion on the format and organization of the forum take place in conjunction with the discussion on the review of the conference structure of the Commission,⁴⁴

Convinced that the forum would play a significant role in providing strategic guidance for the regional development of transport, transit and the improvement of transport capacity, including promoting cooperation, contributing to regional integration and enabling countries to benefit from globalization, thereby further supporting the growth of output, trade and investment in the region,

Noting the need to avoid duplication of work with existing international organizations, such as the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization,

1. *Decides* to establish the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport as a regional mechanism within the framework of the conference structure of the Commission;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To convene the first session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport in 2009 and subsequently on a regular basis with the first session deciding its frequency;

(b) To coordinate the convening of the forum with the Committee on Transport;

(c) To ensure that a regional policy-oriented agenda is placed before the forum, addressing transport infrastructure, transit policy, facilitation, logistics, interregional and international transport linkages, financing and safety issues, as well as their economic, environmental and social sustainability;

(d) To encourage members and associate members to host sessions of the forum;

(e) To report to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008*

⁴⁴ See E/ESCAP/64/5, para. 50.

Resolution 64/6

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region⁴⁵

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 62/1 of 12 April 2006 and 63/4 of 23 May 2007 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region,

Taking note with appreciation of the report entitled "A future within reach: progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Asian and Pacific region",⁴⁶

Welcoming the three subregional forums on the Millennium Development Goals, which were held in Kathmandu in October 2006, in Hanoi in March 2007 and in Bishkek in July 2007, the outcomes of which have provided useful inputs to policy and implementation planning for the further strengthening of the Asian and Pacific regional road map,

Noting that the ESCAP secretariat has initiated discussions with existing regional partners and other United Nations entities to broaden the regional partnership in support of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including through the Regional Coordination Mechanism,

Welcoming the efforts made by countries, especially developing countries, and the overall progress made in the region in achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing its concern that a large number of countries are struggling to reach all the targets of the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing the importance of the regional partnership and of cooperation in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and also the necessity of assisting those countries in need in achieving the Goals, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island developing countries,

Noting that 2008 marks the halfway point towards 2015, the target year for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of countries in the region, especially the developing countries, that have made good progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, while remaining concerned that a large number of countries in the region continue to face major challenges, and emphasizes the need for concerted efforts in that regard in achieving the Goals by 2015;

2. *Encourages* countries in the region to make further efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015;

⁴⁵ See paras. 327 to 346 above.

⁴⁶ E/ESCAP/64/37.

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the existing regional 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 through the partnership;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, within her mandate and in close coordination with member States and United Nations entities and multilateral financial institutions, to continue, among other things:

(a) To reinforce regional partnerships on the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) To assess progress towards achieving all Goals and targets in the ESCAP region and to transmit a progress assessment to the Economic and Social Council, in particular to its annual ministerial review, for its consideration;

(c) To assist countries in the region in achieving the Goals, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island developing countries;

(d) To make further efforts to advocate the Goals in order to focus the attention of policymakers and other stakeholders;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth 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 to the Commission at that session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008*

Resolution 64/7

Financing for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in the ESCAP region⁴⁷

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁴⁸

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 62/186 of 19 December 2007 on external debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries,

Recalling further the ministerial declaration of the 2007 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council adopted on 10 July 2007,⁴⁹

Recalling its resolutions 62/1 of 12 April 2006 and 63/4 of 23 May 2007 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region,

Having considered the report entitled "A future within reach: progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Asian and Pacific region",⁵⁰

Underlining that the quality and the effectiveness of development assistance is an important element in achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Underlining also the need for the harmonization and coordination of aid policies and actions among governments, donors, the United Nations and other development agencies,

Reiterating that, in the common pursuit of growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, a critical challenge is to ensure the necessary internal conditions for mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private, sustaining adequate levels of productive investment and increasing human capacity and, in this context, recognizing the crucial task of enhancing the efficiency, coherence and consistency of macroeconomic policies, an enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector, and attracting and making effective use of international investment and assistance, while also recognizing that efforts at creating such an environment should be supported by the international community,

Emphasizing that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth, stressing the importance of debt sustainability to efforts to achieve national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, inviting creditors and debtors to continue to use, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, mechanisms such as debt swaps to alleviate the debt burden of low- and middle-income developing countries with unsustainable debt burdens that are not eligible for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and taking note of the discussions of and assessment by the Paris Club on the proposal for debt-for-equity in Millennium Development Goal projects,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized,

Bearing in mind that the World Bank estimate of the additional foreign aid required to reach the Millennium Development Goals globally by 2015 is between 40 billion and 60 billion dollars per year,

Recognizing that challenges, such as rising food and energy prices, and global economic uncertainties, compounded by climate change, have the potential to decelerate global and developing countries'

⁴⁷ See paras. 327 to 347 above.

⁴⁸ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

⁴⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 and corrigendum (A/62/3 and Corr.1), chap. III, sect. C.*

⁵⁰ E/ESCAP/64/37.