

(f) To review the draft calendar of meetings prior to its submission to the Commission at its annual session;

(g) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for sessions of the Commission and committees subsidiary to the Commission, consistent with the need to ensure a results-oriented and focused agenda that is aligned with the developmental priorities of member States, as defined by them, as well as chapter II of its rules of procedure;

(h) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary on the identification of emerging economic and social issues and other relevant issues for incorporation into the provisional agendas and on the formulation of the annotated provisional agendas for Commission sessions;

(i) To be informed of ESCAP collaboration and related arrangements with other international and regional organizations, in particular on long-term cooperation programmes and joint initiatives, including those to be proposed by the Executive Secretary and conducted under the aegis of the Regional Coordination Mechanism;

(j) To carry out any other tasks entrusted to it by the Commission.

Resolution 68/10

Enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific⁹⁹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Reaffirming its unique role as the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region and its comprehensive mandate as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region,

Recalling the First Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation, which was held in Manila in 1963 under the auspices of the Commission and gave rise to the establishment of the Asian Development Bank,

Also recalling other important contributions of the Commission to regional economic integration and cooperation as reflected in the establishment of the Mekong River Commission, the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway, the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee, the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries,

Further recalling its resolutions 63/7 on international migration and development for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, 65/1 on the implementation of the Bali Outcome Document in addressing the food, fuel and financial crises, 66/4 on the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia, 66/5 on the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, and 67/2 on promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the theme topic for the sixty-eighth session “Enhancing regional economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region”,¹⁰⁰

⁹⁹ See paras. 364 to 378 above.

¹⁰⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 19* (E/2011/39-E/ESCAP/67/23), para. 298.

Noting the theme study for the sixty-eighth session, entitled *Growing Together: Economic Integration for an Inclusive and Sustainable Asia-Pacific Century*,¹⁰¹

Recognizing that the rapid economic growth in Asia and the Pacific is opening up significant opportunities for trade, investment and employment and has the potential to facilitate substantive progress in reducing poverty and closing development gaps across countries in the region,

Emphasizing the need for closer regional cooperation, which could make the region more resilient to future crises and bolster the capacity of countries in the region to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

Also emphasizing that, in the wake of the global financial crisis, regional economic integration could play a critical role in driving the Asian and Pacific region's march to an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future,

Further emphasizing the need to substantially enhance the degree of connectivity in the region, including through investment in physical transport, energy and information and communications technology infrastructure, and improvements in trade and transport facilitation,

Emphasizing that cooperation among countries in the region is critical in order to tackle common risks and vulnerabilities, such as those related to food and energy insecurity, disasters and pressures on natural resources,

Noting that current institutional frameworks for economic integration differ in their membership and scope,

1. *Calls upon* all members and associate members to strengthen the role of the Commission in enhancing regional economic integration and cooperation, including in all subregions of Asia and the Pacific;
2. *Decides* to convene the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Integration in 2013, marking the fiftieth anniversary of the First Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation, to review the theme study¹⁰¹ for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission;
3. *Calls upon* all members and associate members to further promote regional economic integration and cooperation and to formulate and implement coherent policies to increase the effectiveness of existing cooperation mechanisms;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:
 - (a) To strengthen the role and capacity of the secretariat in the area of regional economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region;
 - (b) To support the convening of the First Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Integration in 2013;
 - (c) To report to the Commission at its seventieth session on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting
23 May 2012*

¹⁰¹ ST/ESCAP/2629.