

**D. Establishment/strengthening of national facilitation coordination mechanisms**

A comprehensive and integrated approach, with the involvement of relevant government ministries/agencies and the private sector, is required to address transport facilitation challenges effectively. Such collaboration is crucial to the formulation and implementation of various facilitation measures. Some countries in the ESCAP region have in place coordination mechanisms that could fulfil all of the tasks required and should be further strengthened to ensure that they are fully effective. In addition, mechanisms should be developed to promote the exchange of experiences.

**E. Promotion of joint control at border crossings**

Joint control at border crossings at the bilateral level, including single window clearance, single stop inspection, joint customs control, establishing priority clearance for certain kinds of goods (for example, perishable goods) on a reciprocal basis and reduction of control agencies at border crossings should be promoted in line with international standards. However, the complexity of joint controls and differences from border crossing to border crossing in the implementation of joint controls needs to be fully recognized and specific comprehensive and detailed studies and designs for each border crossing need to be undertaken before implementing joint control. In this regard, the sharing of experiences among member countries can help in ensuring optimum design in terms of infrastructure and operations.

**F. Promotion of economic zones at border crossings, dry ports and logistics centres**

Recent developments in free economic zones and joint free economic zones at border crossings, as well as dry ports and logistics centres, have provided new opportunities for authorities and road transport operators to overcome many difficulties in international road transport. The potential benefits in terms of facilitating international road transport and logistics need to be exploited.

**G. Further application of facilitation tools**

Facilitation tools, such as the time/cost-distance methodology, can help identify impediments to international transport as well as possible remedies. They should be further expanded and promoted with the support of transport ministries and other authorities as well as transport operators. The use of facilitation tools can help refine projects and measure the benefits derived.

**Resolution 68/5**

**Asia-Pacific Years of Action for Applications of Space Technology and the Geographic Information System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017<sup>86</sup>**

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

*Recognizing* the importance of regional cooperation in the areas of disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management as well as environment and development,

*Convinced* that applications of space technology and the Geographic Information System contribute significantly to addressing issues relating to disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management as well as environment and development,

*Cognizant* of the efforts to strengthen regional cooperation in the applications of space technology and the Geographic Information System, such as the Asia-Pacific

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<sup>86</sup> See paras. 154 to 174 above. See also paras. 110 to 137 above.

Regional Space Agency Forum, which was established in 1993 and has created initiatives, such as Sentinel Asia, Space Applications For Environment, and the Regional Readiness Review for Key Climate Missions, as well as the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization,

*Taking note* of the contributions of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) Beijing Office to the provision, for countries in the Asia-Pacific region, of all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management to support the full disaster management cycle,

*Taking note also* of the contributions of Sentinel Asia to disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region, such as by bringing together space agencies and disaster management agencies, and noting with satisfaction that the final phase of this initiative will start in 2013 with the objective of establishing a comprehensive disaster management support system,

*Acknowledging* the capacity-building and development activities undertaken by the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific to assist members in enhancing their knowledge of space technologies and the Geographic Information System,

*Recognizing* contributions made by the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific as an important initiative of ESCAP in promoting regional cooperation in space applications, in particular through its education and training network,

*Mindful* of the need for enhanced efforts at the national and regional levels to make practical and operational use of space technology and the Geographic Information System to support disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to address issues relating to environment and development in socially beneficial areas, such as water resource management, food security, public health, forest monitoring and biodiversity,

1. *Proclaims* the period from 2012 to 2017 the Asia-Pacific Years of Action for Applications of Space Technology and the Geographic Information System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, to commence on the first day of World Space Week, 4 October 2012;
2. *Decides* that the objective of the Asia-Pacific Years of Action should be to enhance efforts at the national and regional levels to broaden and deepen the contribution of space technology and the Geographic Information System to addressing issues related to disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management as well as environment and development by increasing relevant activities at the national, subregional and regional levels;
3. *Welcomes* the proposed holding of the Intergovernmental Meeting to Prepare a Plan of Action for the Asia-Pacific Years of Action, to be hosted by a member State by the end of 2012;
4. *Encourages* all members and associate members to participate actively in the Intergovernmental Meeting and its preparatory process;
5. *Invites* United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations and other stakeholders to participate in and contribute to the Intergovernmental Meeting and its preparatory process;

6. *Invites* members to make use of programmes offered by the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific for capacity-building in space technologies and the Geographic Information System;

7. *Calls for* continued support to activities under the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in promoting space technology applications;

8. *Invites* member States to carry out activities relevant to the Asia-Pacific Years of Action, including:

(a) Hosting workshops in cooperation with United Nations bodies and other international/intergovernmental organizations as well as regional and subregional entities, such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization and the Asian Development Bank;

(b) Promoting initiatives such as Sentinel Asia, Space Applications For Environment, the Regional Readiness Review for Key Climate Missions, and Asia-Oceania experiments of Global Navigation Satellite Systems that include the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System;

9. *Invites* all relevant specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system as well as intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations and other stakeholders to take action in support of the Asia-Pacific Years of Action;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the organization of activities associated with the Asia-Pacific Years of Action in collaboration with other regional initiatives;

11. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-second session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution and at its seventy-fourth session on the progress made in the attainment of the objectives of the Asia-Pacific Years of Action.

*Fifth plenary meeting  
23 May 2012*

#### **Resolution 68/6**

#### **Asia-Pacific regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014<sup>87</sup>**

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

*Recalling* that the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/234 of 22 December 2010, decided to convene a special session during its sixty-ninth session in order to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>88</sup> and to renew political support for actions required for the full achievement of the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action,

*Also recalling* that the General Assembly, in the same resolution, called upon the United Nations Population Fund to undertake an operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, and invited all other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to contribute, as appropriate, to the special session as well as to its preparation,

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<sup>87</sup> See paras. 175 to 203 above.

<sup>88</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.