

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 collaboration and related arrangements between the secretariat and 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 69/2

Final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region⁵

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 58/201 on the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,⁶ and General Assembly resolution 59/245 on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation,

Recalling also its resolutions 67/1 on the Ulaanbaatar Declaration: Outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries, 63/9 on 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), 65/6 on support for the establishment of an international think tank of landlocked developing countries,

Taking note of the outcome document of the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/2,

Recalling the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,⁷ which was held from 20 to 22 September 2010, and General Assembly resolution 66/214, in which the Assembly decided to hold a comprehensive ten-year review conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014,

⁵ See chap. III, paras. 27-47.

⁶ *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28-29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.*

⁷ General Assembly resolution 65/1.

Taking note with appreciation of the Almaty Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Fourth Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 12 September 2012,⁸

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled “The future we want”,⁹ in which the Conference recognized both the serious constraints that the landlocked developing countries face in achieving sustainable development and the need for effective national policies, enhanced global support and appropriate mechanisms at all levels for implementing the Almaty Programme of Action,

Recalling also that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development invited the international community to speed up further the implementation of the specific actions in the five priority areas agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the declaration on the midterm review, in a better-coordinated manner, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities,

Recognizing that landlocked developing countries face complex challenges that highlight the need for both domestic policy reforms and changes in the global environment geared towards more inclusive and sustained growth of their economies,

Expressing concern about the continued vulnerability of the landlocked developing countries to the impact of global economic crises and to new and emerging challenges,

Noting that lack of direct access to and from the sea impairs the economic and social development of the landlocked developing countries and that their geographical disadvantage reduces their growth dynamics compared with coastal countries,

Underlining the desirability of World Trade Organization members considering general, as well as specific, support measures for landlocked developing countries, particularly in their accession process to the World Trade Organization, taking into account the special needs and particular challenges faced by these countries,

Taking note with appreciation of the convening of the Asian European Final Regional Review of the Almaty Programme of Action, which was organized jointly by the Government of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the secretariat of the Commission, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and held in Vientiane from 5 to 7 March 2013, and inaugurated by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic,

Also noting with appreciation the adoption of the Vientiane Consensus¹⁰ by the Asian European Final Regional Review of the Almaty Programme of Action, which identified several key broad priorities for the global review, including: (a) a stable macroeconomic framework, trade and investment, mobilization of domestic resources, promoting foreign private investment, public-private partnerships for closing infrastructure gaps and building productive capacities; (b) deepening regional economic integration as an enabler to tap expanding markets in neighbouring countries for their products and services; (c) diversifying their export base; (d) job-creating and inequality-reducing growth; (e) strengthening education and vocational training; (f)

⁸ A/67/386, annex.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

¹⁰ E/ESCAP/69/1, annex.

improving nutrition and health; and (g) promoting gender empowerment and social protection,

Recognizing the continued cooperation and collaboration between the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the secretariat of the Commission to support global, regional and national efforts of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States of the Asia-Pacific region,

Underscoring the importance of further enhancing the cooperation between the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the secretariat of the Commission within an appropriate framework of collaboration to support the full and timely implementation of the programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the Asia-Pacific region, with special emphasis on poverty eradication, reducing vulnerability and achieving other internationally agreed development goals,

1. *Requests* the countries of the region and international and regional organizations to endorse the Vientiane Consensus and urgently consider the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region to accede to the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in order to bring the think tank to its full operation;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries in forwarding the Vientiane Consensus as the Asia-Pacific regional input to the final global review of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014;

(b) To assist Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries, in cooperation with development partners and other international entities and taking into account their respective mandates, in implementing the recommendations of the Vientiane Consensus and in building their capacity to make appropriate policy responses that mitigate the impact of economic crises, restore growth, achieve the Millennium Development Goals and explicitly address the recent emerging development challenges to shape the development agenda beyond 2015 with sustainable development at its core;

(c) To submit to the Commission at its seventieth session a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting
1 May 2013*