

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR  
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**8 June 2000-25 April 2001**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2001**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 19**



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#### NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
ACHR	Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
ACU	Asian Clearing Union
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADEOS	Advanced Earth Observation Satellite
AFACT	Asia Council for the Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport
AFFA	ASEAN Freight Forwarders Association
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
ALTID	Asian land transport infrastructure development
APAA	ASEAN Port Authorities Association
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APDC	Asian and Pacific Development Centre
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APETIT	Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism
APT	Asia-Pacific Telecommunity
ARC	Asian Reinsurance Corporation
ASCOBIPS	Association of Shippers' Councils of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASPAT	Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair
BIMST-EC	Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation
BIS	Bank for International Settlements
CCOP	Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia
CGPRT Centre	Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific
CIRDAP	Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific
CITYNET	Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECDC	economic cooperation among developing countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
EU	European Union
FADINAP	Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FASA	Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations
FDI	foreign direct investment
FIATA	International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations
GDP	gross domestic product
GIS	geographic information systems
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
HRD	human resources development
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAPH	International Association of Ports and Harbours
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICT	information and communication technologies
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IRCA	International Railway Congress Association

## ABBREVIATIONS *(continued)*

IRF	International Road Federation
IRU	International Road Transport Union
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IT	information technology
ITC	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IULA-ASPAC	International Union of Local Authorities - Asian and Pacific Section
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LOGOTRI	Network of Local Government Training and Research Institutes in Asia and the Pacific
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NGO	non-governmental organization
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSShD	Organization of Railways Cooperation
PATA	Pacific Asia Travel Association
PECC	Pacific Economic Cooperation Council
PIANC	Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses
PIARC	World Road Association
RB	regular budget
RCM	Regional Coordination Meeting
RESAP	Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development
RICAP	Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific
RNAEM	Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACEP	South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SME	small and medium-sized enterprise
SNA	System of National Accounts
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPECA	Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TISNET	computerized trade information system
UIC	International Union of Railways
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WHO	World Health Organization
WINAP	Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
XB	extrabudgetary

# **Introduction**

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period from 8 June 2000 to 25 April 2001, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at the fifth meeting of its fifty-seventh session on 25 April 2001.

## **Chapter I**

### **ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION**

#### **Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 57/1. Regional call for action to fight the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in Asia and the Pacific | 57/5. Integration of Asian and Pacific developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system   |
| 57/2. Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000   | 57/6. Implementation of the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme, Strategies and Implementation Modalities for the Asian and Pacific Region, 2001-2005 in support of the Bali Declaration on Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Energy and Sustainable Development |
| 57/3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly |   |
| 57/4. Regional cooperation in information and communication technologies for development  |   |

## **Chapter II**

### **WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION**

#### **A. Activities of the subsidiary bodies**

2. During the period under review, the following meetings of subsidiary bodies, and an ad hoc ministerial conference, were held: Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation, Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas, Committee on Statistics, Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development, Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex III to the present report. The reports of those bodies and the ad hoc ministerial conference to the Commission reflect the discussions held, the agreements reached and the decisions taken by them.

#### **B. Other activities**

3. Lists of publications issued, meetings held and advisory services provided in the calendar year 2000, under the programme of work, 2000-2001 of the Commission, are given in annex V to the present report. To the extent possible, the TCDC modality was applied in those activities, as reported in document E/ESCAP/1221.

#### **C. Relations with other United Nations programmes**

4. The secretariat maintained close and regular liaison with United Nations Headquarters and cooperated with the departments concerned, as well as with the secretariats of the other regional commissions, on projects of common interest.

# Chapter III

## FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

### A. Attendance and organization of work

5. The fifty-seventh session of the Commission was held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, from 19 to 25 April 2001. The session comprised two segments. The Senior Officials' Segment was held from 19 to 21 April 2001 and the Ministerial Segment from 23 to 25 April 2001.

6. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members:

Armenia	Myanmar
Australia	Nepal
Azerbaijan	Netherlands
Bangladesh	New Zealand
Bhutan	Pakistan
Brunei Darussalam	Philippines
Cambodia	Republic of Korea
China	Russian Federation
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Samoa
Fiji	Singapore
France	Sri Lanka
India	Tajikistan
Indonesia	Thailand
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Tonga
Japan	Turkey
Kazakhstan	Tuvalu
Kiribati	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Lao People's Democratic Republic	United States of America
Malaysia	Uzbekistan
Maldives	Vanuatu
Mongolia	Viet Nam
	Hong Kong, China
	Macao, China

7. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Argentina, Austria, Canada, Chile, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Romania, Slovakia and South Africa attended. Representatives of the Holy See attended under Council decision 244 (LXIII).

8. The session was attended by an official of the Regional Commissions New York Office.

9. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, United Nations Population Fund and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

10. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Monetary Fund, Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunication Union and United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The International Atomic Energy Agency and World Food Programme were also represented.

11. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian Clearing Union, Asian Development Bank, Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Asian-Pacific Postal Union, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Asian Reinsurance Corporation, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, Commonwealth of Independent States, Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, Forum Secretariat, International Organization for Migration, International Pepper Community, Mekong River Commission, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, Typhoon Committee Secretariat and WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

12. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations in general consultative status: Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, HelpAge International, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council on Social Welfare, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Organization for Standardization, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Muslim World League, World Muslim Congress, World Veterans Federation and Zonta International; and from the following organizations in special consultative status: Baha'i International Community, Disabled People's International, Global Eco-Village Network, International Federation of Non-governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse, Pan-Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association, Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises.

13. Representatives of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Japan International Cooperation Agency and SIRA International Corporation Pty Ltd. also attended the session.

14. The list of participants is given in document ESCAP(LVII)/INF.1/Rev.2.

15. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected HE Mr Ismail Shafeeu (Maldives) Chairperson.

16. Following its past practice, the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegations Vice-Chairpersons: HE Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir (Bangladesh), Hon. Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk (Bhutan), HE Mr Khy Tainglim (Cambodia), HE Mr Zhang Yesui (China), HE Dr Makarim Wibisono (Indonesia), HE Dr Kamal Kharrazi (Islamic Republic of Iran), HE Mr Kiyohiro Araki (Japan), HE Mr Phongsavath Bouppha (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Hon. Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok (Malaysia), HE Mr Ulziisaikhan Enkhtuvshin (Mongolia), HE U Soe Tha (Myanmar), HE Mr Prithvi Raj Ligal (Nepal), HE Mr Nawid Ahsan (Pakistan), Hon. Effen C. Moncupa (Philippines), HE Mr Choi Sung-hong (Republic of Korea), HE Mr Sergey I. Kruglik (Russian Federation), Hon. Mangala Samaraweera (Sri Lanka), HE Dr Surakiart Sathirathai (Thailand), Hon. Jean-Alain Mahe (Vanuatu) and HE Mr Nguyen Tam Chien (Viet Nam).

17. The Senior Officials' Segment of the session met in three Committees of the Whole to consider agenda items 1-3 and 6-12. Committee of the Whole I elected HE Ms Rosalinda V. Tirona (Philippines) Chairperson and Ms Noumea Simi (Samoa) and Mr Ananda S. Gunasekara (Sri Lanka) Vice-Chairpersons. Committee of the Whole II elected Mr Abdol Reza Ghofrani (Islamic Republic of Iran) Chairperson and Mr Ufuk Ekici (Turkey) and Dr Paul Haggie (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Vice-Chairpersons. Committee of the Whole III elected Ms Nathanon Thavisin (Thailand) Chairperson and Ms Halimah Abdullah (Malaysia) and Mr Joseph Yun (United States of America) Vice-Chairpersons.

18. The Commission also constituted a Working Group on Draft Resolutions, under the chairmanship of Mr Ashok Sajjanhar (India), to consider draft resolutions presented during the session. Mr John Griffin (Australia) and Mr Jeon Dae-wan (Republic of Korea) were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the Working Group.

## B. Agenda

19. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ESCAP/L.145/Rev.1, E/ESCAP/L.146 and Corr.1 and 2).

4. Membership of the Commission.

(This item was deleted as no application for membership was received.)

5. Policy issues for the ESCAP region:

- (a) Implications of recent economic and social developments (E/ESCAP/1198);
- (b) Balanced development of urban and rural areas and regions within the countries of Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/1199);
- (c) Regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, 25-27 June 2001 (E/ESCAP/1229).

6. Management issues: report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of Commission resolution 53/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and related matters (E/ESCAP/1200).

7. Emerging issues and developments at the regional level:

- (a) Regional economic cooperation (E/ESCAP/1201-1204, E/ESCAP/1230);
- (b) Environment and natural resources development (E/ESCAP/1205, E/ESCAP/1206 and Add.1, E/ESCAP/1207);
- (c) Socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas (E/ESCAP/1208-1210, E/ESCAP/1211 and Corr.1);
- (d) Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development (E/ESCAP/1212-1213);
- (e) Statistics (E/ESCAP/1214-1215);
- (f) Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries (E/ESCAP/1216).

8. Programme planning:

- (a) Implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001; and proposed programme changes for 2001 (E/ESCAP/1217-1218);
- (b) Draft programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003 (E/ESCAP/1219 and Corr.1);

- (c) Calendar of meetings and training programmes, April 2001-March 2002 (E/ESCAP/1220).

9. Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions (E/ESCAP/1221).
10. Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies (E/ESCAP/1222-1226).
11. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1227 and Add.1).
12. Date, venue and theme topic for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1228 and Add.1).
13. Other matters.
14. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

### **C. Account of proceedings**

20. The session was declared open by the Chairperson of the fifty-sixth session, HE Mr Kamal Kharrazi (Islamic Republic of Iran). The Executive Secretary of ESCAP read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered an address. HE Mr Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address.

#### **Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP**

21. The Executive Secretary welcomed those attending the session. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister of Thailand for inaugurating the session, thus reaffirming the country's dedication and commitment to the aims and ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and the role of ESCAP in bringing together the countries of the region.

22. Since the fifty-sixth session of the Commission, the improved growth performance of the ESCAP region had been a source of much encouragement. In an increasingly globalizing world, however, sustained growth of the region's economies depended to a large extent on a favourable external environment. Uncertainties continued to cloud the growth prospects for the United States and Japanese economies, posing serious challenges for governments of the ESCAP region, which had to grapple with problems of widespread poverty, malnutrition and disease.

23. ESCAP remained firmly committed to assisting the developing countries of the region, in particular the least developed countries, in building their

capacity to cope with the numerous challenges ahead. In that effort, the secretariat looked forward to the support and cooperation of the members and associate members.

#### **Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations**

24. In his message, the Secretary-General noted that the fifty-seventh session was taking place at a critical time. While the economic performance of the region as a whole had continued to improve, the external environment offered reasons for concern, notably the slowdown in the United States and the continuing distress faced by the Japanese economy.

25. It was a measure of some satisfaction that world leaders meeting at the Millennium Summit in New York in September 2000 had pledged to halve the proportion of the world's people living in conditions of extreme poverty by 2015. There was a need to sustain that momentum and to turn that political declaration into concrete deeds. A major opportunity to do so would occur in May 2001 in Brussels, where the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries would examine the array of problems facing the world's 48 least developed countries, 13 of which were in the Asian and Pacific region. Market access for developing country goods would be at the top of the agenda in Brussels, since probably no single change would make a greater contribution to the battle to rid the world of abject and dehumanizing poverty.

26. ESCAP had an important, catalytic role to play in ensuring implementation of the Millennium Summit commitments, in making the voices of developing countries heard in Brussels, and in helping to seize the many opportunities of globalization and make it a positive force for all the world's people.

#### **Inaugural address by the Prime Minister of Thailand**

27. The Prime Minister of Thailand, speaking on behalf of the Government and people of Thailand, extended a warm welcome to those attending the session.

28. He noted that the theme of the current session was an appropriate one for the Commission to consider. As a result of its deliberations, a meaningful and constructive model, or models, for balanced development and sustained growth could be identified. That would prove useful and timely to member governments in overcoming the Asian economic and financial crisis as well as the impending world economic slowdown.

29. The prospects for the Asian and Pacific region, in which over 800 million poor people lived, or 67 per cent of the world's absolute poor, on an average income of one US dollar per day, were most worrisome. The outlook for Asian economies was extremely precarious and fraught with difficulty owing to severe financial constraints and disruptive foreign exchange volatility. The plight of the absolute poor, already precarious,



would deteriorate further in the light of lower economic growth prospects in both developed and developing economies. It was imperative that correct and effective actions to generate sustainable growth to alleviate poverty be one of the highest national priorities.

30. However, it was evident that existing or traditional policy responses had proved ineffective, and indeed futile, in addressing those problems. The standard and quality of life in the Asian and Pacific region continued to deteriorate, and the incidence of poverty had not declined correspondingly, either qualitatively or quantitatively.

31. What was needed were new approaches or new frameworks or strategies for generating sound and sustainable economic development, and a new set of policy responses for different income groups with varied application suitable to either the urban or the rural sectors, that could address, overcome and resolve the fundamental imbalances and inequities in each economy, and that would ensure a balanced response to the dichotomy between the urban and rural sectors, the farm and the factory, and the traditional and the modern in each country.

32. What was needed was no longer a singular or fundamental economic development model that could be uniformly applied. There seemed to be no simple model, one that could chart a uniform path to rapid, sustained, equitable and balanced growth for all citizens. The approach needed to be rethought and reformulated.

33. The current shortcomings and failure of traditional models and the responses of the former "Asian tiger" economies demanded a reassessment of such approaches. Domestic fiscal stimulus combined with increasing export growth might not necessarily lead to sustainable economic growth and increasing employment. Indeed, despite the use of all known fiscal and monetary stimuli, the Japanese economy continued to contract owing in large part to the attitude of the Japanese consumer, who preferred to save rather than consume for fear of an impending economic slowdown and heightened job insecurity.

34. Another prime example of inadequate policy response was that developing economies in Asia had cloned their development growth on United States or Japanese virtues, based on accelerating growth through exports; the acceptance of globalization measures; the adoption of free market principles; financial liberalization through the adoption of Western or Group of Seven business and banking standards; and reliance on external capital inflows to finance economic growth. Those countries had seen their balance of payments turn from positive to negative; they had suddenly become untouchables, financial pariahs and "non-transparent" borrowers overnight, owing to irrational foreign investor fear which had led to sudden and abrupt capital outflows and subsequent balance-of-payments difficulties.

35. The recent financial crisis and subsequent demands for banking reforms in Asia based on so-called "BIS standards", that had yet to be implemented fully among the G-7 economies, had caused massive financial clean-up costs and major roadblocks; those had ultimately become true moral hazards forcing the transfer of private debts to the public sector and had placed a severe and unfair burden on the poor in developing economies.

36. Implementing BIS standards and guidelines would be useful to make the region's financial system strong, but the timing of their application must be consistent with the state of its economic development and existing limitations.

37. Adherence to a new set of transparent and good governance banking standards had not only created massive public debts but also ensured that those economies would be unable to cope with the problem of poverty alleviation, let alone generate adequate economic growth, or avoid economic recession or contraction in the near term.

38. The need to find new and varied responses to the new economic, social and political realities of attaining sustained economic growth, ensuring social equity and responding effectively to prevailing economic difficulties, given the very limited resources, was the primary task and the challenge, which should be placed on the agenda of the current session of the Commission. A new solution was urgently required.

39. Thailand today was at a true crossroads in the process of economic and social development. The path the country had followed in patterning its production and growth strategy to increase national wealth through an export orientation based on an open economy and a free enterprise system had created a paradoxical anomaly. The "flying geese" formation model, which had initially enabled Thailand to compete well in the Asian context, was now an obstacle.

40. The Asian miracle and success were predicated on the principle that economies could achieve rapid sustained growth as long as their exports would increase exponentially without end. Financing such rapid economic growth in the bubble era of easy money was not a problem because external financing was always available. There was no cause for alarm if the balance of payments remained positive, although it was an illusion because external capital inflows were in reality short-term loans and not true assets.

41. Since the majority of external inflows and new investment relied more on debt creation and were not equally related, the Asian economies in the 1980s and 1990s were the darlings of fund managers, and their stock markets were the leading playground for investors. That era had come to an end in 1997, and that development model had become obsolete.

42. The issue facing the region was how to cope with a new set of economic realities, new requirements, and how best to overcome them in

regenerating growth, creating wealth, and sustaining equitable distribution of income and opportunities for people.

43. Thailand was making a realistic assessment of the situation and all its ramifications, by taking stock and reassessing all of the country's resources, problems and limitations, both domestically and externally. The country was reviewing all its options and re-examining its development strategies. It was going back to basics in every sense of the word, and especially in the light of the new and less-than-friendly world environment.

44. Thailand was looking inward to its original strengths and unique local know-how, and matching them with new marketing and communication technology.

45. The expected worldwide slowdown would have a serious impact on the outlook for growth and restructuring of the social and economic fabric of Thai society. There was a need to review and rearrange priorities in concert with the new constraints of ongoing fiscal and monetary problems of high indebtedness, stagnant economic growth, a malfunctioning banking system, and a downturn in the trade and payment outlook.

46. The question to be answered and the strategy to be adopted could not fully follow the new information and communication revolution, which was based on physical and intellectual property accumulation as in the West. Thailand and developing economies did not have the process, the capacity or the resources for such intellectual property accumulation. Even in the areas of traditional strength, such as agriculture, biotechnology and genetic engineering, advances in the West had proceeded from academic to industrial production. Ownership of intellectual property was a closed avenue of new growth.

47. The region could also not rely on adopting or importing discarded industries or products of low value, or on the promotion of export industries requiring high import content and low-cost labour with low domestic value added. It could no longer rely on external financing simply to pay for imported equipment, technology, patents and raw materials to sell to a market that continuously sought higher quality at lower cost. The export-processing-zone modalities, which were good for footloose industries or environmentally ruinous heavy industries, should no longer be the dominant priority for industrial development.

48. There was a need to look inward to new products and small and medium-scale industries that were unique, and crafted from domestic inputs, traditional or local know-how with special appeal for the new market. The modalities of new production should not be to clone a Western product or involve mass production at ever-lower production cost, but to promote and support small and medium-scale industries that could satisfy a new breed of consumers at a competitive and fair price along internationally accepted

standards. The need was for old products for new markets, globalization based on localization, and a more balanced and deeply endogenous response to new realities and new markets.

49. The process of development was an unending quest to produce competitively, to find new buyers and expand market horizons, which would create increased wealth and additional employment, ensure security and build a stable society with a vibrant economy. The hope was to develop a balanced way to attain such growth with grace, style and harmony.

## **Policy issues for the ESCAP region**

### **Policy statement by the Executive Secretary**

50. The Executive Secretary stated that for several years the ESCAP region had enjoyed a reputation for economic dynamism. In the aftermath of the Asian economic and financial crisis of 1997, that reputation had been somewhat tarnished. Nevertheless, the region's economic performance had strengthened in 2000. A favourable external environment, complemented by national efforts, was essential to maintain the growth momentum of the region. However, an increasingly unfavourable external environment, including the slowdown in the economy of the United States and the lack of recovery in that of Japan, was likely to reduce the projected growth rates for 2001 indicated in the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2001*. Several other factors were also likely to have a negative impact on the region's growth performance, such as volatile oil prices, rising levels of public debt, demographic dynamics, the substantial increase in flows of international migration and the "push-pull" factor in rural-urban migration, along with the impact of free-market economic policies.

51. The process of globalization had served to accentuate differences between economies and societies in the region. In an increasingly interdependent world, notions of responsibility and accountability appeared to have been cast aside in favour of short-term gains. Poverty in Asia remained widespread and the impression of progress and prosperity in the region had to be seen in perspective.

52. At the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000, the world's leaders had pledged to eliminate extreme poverty by 2015. Against that background, the Executive Secretary expressed his vision for ESCAP to 2005 as comprising the transfer of proven best practices in poverty eradication in the region to developing members and associate members in different environments; reversing the weakening positions of developing members arising from the process of globalization and strengthening their negotiating position; and the detection and tackling of common social problems and issues in the region, including the increasingly serious problem of HIV/AIDS.

53. The Executive Secretary noted that ESCAP had both strengths and weaknesses and there was a need to capitalize on its strengths and remedy its weaknesses. He had therefore asked the United Nations Office for Project Services to carry out a management consultancy project to improve the efficiency of ESCAP through the introduction of modern management techniques, a process similar to reforms in several other international organizations.

54. The first phase of the management consultancy project had been driven largely by considerations of "process change". The next would focus on a "re-engineering" of ESCAP programmes and its conference and secretariat structures, leading up to the review in 2002 of the implementation of Commission resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and providing a blueprint for the future work of ESCAP. He therefore looked forward to hearing the views of heads of delegations in the course of the Ministerial Round Table as to what they expected from ESCAP.

55. The Executive Secretary stressed that ESCAP could not go on doing everything. It needed to adopt more innovative approaches such as ICT, both within the secretariat and externally, in helping countries to bridge the digital divide. Bigger and better projects involving two or more divisions within the secretariat had to be formulated. He planned to mobilize resources by visiting the capitals of several non-traditional donor countries. He hoped eventually to be in a position also to tap private sector resources. He was setting up a Private Sector Advisory Group, comprising private sector chief executive officers from the region, to assist and advise him in carrying forward the work of ESCAP. Similarly, steps had been taken to promote a true sense of partnership with the World Bank, ADB and UNDP. ESCAP was organizing the Third Asia Development Forum with the World Bank and ADB, to be held in June 2001, and the Executive Secretary had been privileged to address the Meeting of UNDP Resident Representatives in Asia and the Pacific, which had been held in Beijing earlier in April. The Executive Secretary was convinced of the need to work more closely with ESCAP partners in development, both within and outside the United Nations system.

56. The Executive Secretary then turned to some of the issues that had been at the forefront of the global agenda. He referred to important regional conferences at the ministerial level relating to financing for development and sustainable development, which had been organized by ESCAP to articulate a regional perspective to be presented at forthcoming global events. The International Conference on Financing for Development sponsored by the United Nations would be held in Mexico in 2002. In that connection, ESCAP, in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia and with the cooperation of ADB and UNCTAD, had organized the High-level Regional Consultative Meeting on Financing for Development in Jakarta in August 2000. The recommendations emerging from

that Meeting had been incorporated in the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference. Following the Meeting, the secretariat had undertaken an in-depth study on financing for development, which had subsequently been published as part two of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2001*.

57. With regard to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in South Africa in 2002, preparatory work at the regional level would be significant in shaping the agenda for the Summit. The major thrust of the Summit should be the impact of poverty and globalization on the environment. Ecological poverty, which was the result of the degradation of the natural resource base, was the most sombre dimension of poverty and was evident in many areas of the region.

58. The Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 2001-2005, adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, held in Japan in 2000, provided a framework for action on issues of vital concern to the region. ESCAP would be collaborating with ADB, UNEP and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in organizing five subregional intergovernmental meetings, two regional round tables and a regional preparatory meeting. The process would enable developing countries to articulate their concerns regarding the implementation of Agenda 21 and facilitate the identification of initiatives to overcome any constraints.

59. The Executive Secretary noted that another important event in which stakes were high for developing countries was the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference, scheduled to be held in Qatar in November 2001. The theme topic of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission had related to the fair and equitable integration of developing countries into the international trading system. That had been followed by the Meeting of Eminent Persons, or "Friends of the Chair", hosted by the Chairman of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission, HE Mr Kamal Kharrazi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Eminent Persons had emphasized the importance of "sustainable integration" which took into account the level of development of, and the situation prevailing in, each country. Notwithstanding the many WTO agreements, integration continued to elude most developing countries. Any new round of negotiations had to be predicated on assuring the developing countries a level playing field and removing imbalances by faithful implementation of existing agreements and the built-in agenda, as putting new issues on the WTO agenda would be divisive and could result in a repeat of the Seattle debacle. For its part, ESCAP would continue to work closely with WTO and UNCTAD to assist developing countries in successfully raising their concerns and advancing their common interests in

future negotiations. The principle of universality of membership of WTO had to be pursued so that those economies of the region that were not yet members, over half of them, could gain early accession.

60. The Executive Secretary stated that it was his intention to pay special attention to the needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries of the ESCAP region. ESCAP had been active in the regional preparatory work for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which was to be held in Brussels in May 2001 and which he planned to attend. He also planned to visit the Pacific subregion in August 2001, and would have discussions with leaders of the Pacific island delegations attending the Commission in the coming days to explore the feasibility of organizing a ministerial meeting during his visit.

61. Infrastructure redevelopment continued to be a daunting challenge for developing countries. Opportunities emerging from globalization and leapfrogging developments in technology eluded them because they lacked the necessary infrastructure. ESCAP attached considerable importance to the ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, to be held in Seoul in November 2001, at the generous invitation of the Government of the Republic of Korea. That Conference would address issues of vital significance for the economic and social development of the region.

62. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary observed that the challenges facing the region were manifold. ESCAP, through its catalytic role, could help to address those challenges and bridge the gap between the middle- and low-income countries of the region. He looked forward to working with the members and associate members in translating that vision into reality.

#### **Implications of recent economic and social developments**

63. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1198 entitled "Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues", and the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2001*. The Commission noted the excellent preparatory work and documentation of the secretariat outlining recent economic and social developments in the region and their policy implications.

64. The Commission noted that economic recovery in the region had strengthened in 2000 and had been accompanied by a decline in inflation, despite rising energy prices and weaker exchange rates. That had, in turn, manifested itself in improvements in the social indicators in some countries. However, economic performance had varied, with some countries exceeding their 1999 GDP growth rates in 2000, and others falling short of them. In the crisis economies, recovery in 2000 had been primarily built upon a favourable external environment, allied to continuing macroeconomic and

financial sector reforms. However, a deterioration in the external environment meant that prospects for 2001 had worsened sharply.

65. It observed that the slowdown in the economy of the United States and uncertain prospects for the economic growth of Japan in 2001 meant that prospects for the global economy in 2001 were rather gloomy. That was likely to have a major impact on the region through a slowdown in export growth, particularly in the electronics and telecommunications sectors. The slowdown in the United States and Japan had been accompanied by volatility in the financial and capital markets, adding to overall uncertainty.

66. It held the view that, despite the recent progress, there was a risk that the slowdown in growth could lead to a further spread of poverty in some countries and the widening of income disparities both within and between countries. Additionally, there was a possibility of protectionist tendencies emerging in some countries. Moreover, the least developed countries remained acutely susceptible to adverse external circumstances.

67. Although the recent economic downturn was of a different character from the 1997 crisis, the Commission stressed that there was a need to continue improving financial and economic surveillance mechanisms, including the establishment of early warning mechanisms. It was suggested that ESCAP should be involved in the process of strengthening those mechanisms and assist in exploring new, non-traditional modalities to reduce the risks involved in the financial and commodity markets.

68. There was, in addition, a major need to sustain the reform agenda of the ESCAP region. That included measures to stabilize exchange rates, strengthen stock markets and promote regional trade liberalization. ESCAP could play a role in facilitating those efforts at the regional level. The Commission noted that instability in capital markets required close attention by governments and the international community. It was observed that national bond markets were useful in financing development expenditures.

69. In dealing with the slowdown, governments were faced with a major challenge. According to one estimate, during the period 1990-1994, rapid growth in East Asia had succeeded in lifting 174 million people out of poverty. Given that growth had slowed, the task of poverty eradication had become more complex. Addressing that problem would require a holistic pursuit of socio-economic development, including the creation of employment opportunities, the provision of basic services, the creation of infrastructure and the widening of credit availability. Poverty alleviation required the strengthening of the domestic framework for growth, based upon prudent macroeconomic management and the pursuit of structural reforms, which were predicated upon the promotion of effective and transparent governance, including an improvement of moral standards in government and society.

70. It was stated that the key to winning the war against poverty lay in empowering people through greater decentralization of the design and implementation of anti-poverty programmes, to which end it was the responsibility of governments to create an enabling environment to facilitate the empowerment of people and communities.

71. The Commission reiterated the crucial importance of human resources development as a strategy for poverty reduction and for enabling the Asian and Pacific region to address the challenges posed by, and to reap the opportunities of, globalization.

72. Several governments informed the Commission of their commitment to human resources development, for example, by incorporating the following in their policy frameworks: quality basic education, teachers' economic welfare and development, enhanced investment in expanding the pool of skilled human resources, entrepreneurship, and the removal of social, financial and regulatory obstacles to improving access to health and education services by the poor.

73. The Government of Japan underscored the importance of human security, which it was advocating to the international community, to strengthen the focus on ensuring the lives, livelihoods and dignity of individual people, in addressing diverse development issues such as human rights, poor health care, crime and environmental degradation. It informed the Commission that it had established the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, with a contribution of US\$ 80 million. As human security was a well-developed pillar of its assistance to developing countries, the Government of Japan expressed the hope that ESCAP, in collaboration with other organizations, would undertake more economic and social development projects reflecting that approach.

74. The Commission noted the close nexus of poverty and environmental issues. It stressed the importance of the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, held in Kitakyushu, Japan. In relation to the urban environmental issue, the Commission appreciated the support provided by the Government of Japan to assist in developing the capability of local governments in coping with environmental problems through the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment.

75. Recognizing the importance of sustainable development, the Commission emphasized the need for ecological and environmental protection through appropriate measures, including environmentally sustainable natural resources development and management. It noted with interest the existing subregional cooperation, particularly under the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation, and the Tumen River Area Development

Programme. The Commission also noted with appreciation the support given by the Government of Japan to the Core Fund for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation.

76. It took note of the importance attached by national governments to land and water resources management and flood control, and in particular to the need for the expansion of water supply and sewage treatment plants. National plans should consider ways of translating visions into actions, by developing policies, strategies and programmes for development. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the International Conference on Freshwater, to be held in Bonn, Germany, from 3 to 7 December 2001.

77. It cautioned that a global economic downturn was likely, together with the rise of "hidden protectionism" affecting the exports of countries of the region, and emphasized the need for the sustainable integration of developing countries and economies in transition into the world trading system. The Commission noted the importance of accession to WTO of countries that were not yet members and commended ESCAP for its activities in that area. In particular, it recommended that those activities should be continued, with a focus on technical assistance such as training.

78. It appreciated the potential contribution of subregional and bilateral trade agreements to the advancement of the global trade agenda and multilateral trading arrangements. In that context, it welcomed the ratification of the accession of China to the Bangkok Agreement.

79. It re-emphasized the importance of agriculture in economic development and recommended that commodity markets should be strengthened through further liberalization within the framework of WTO. It was important for the developed and the more developed among the developing countries to remove the high tariff and non-tariff barriers imposed on the goods and services produced in the least developed, landlocked and small island economies of the region in order to aid their development efforts.

80. It recognized the vital importance of transport in providing access to markets and opportunities to accelerate the process of economic and social development. It welcomed the announcement that the Government of the Republic of Korea was planning to host the second Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, to be held in Seoul from 12 to 17 November 2001.

81. It welcomed the steps being initiated by ESCAP in the study on financing for development as required by General Assembly resolution 54/196 of 22 December 1999 on high-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development. That was against the background of the high population growth rates and decline in ODA, which posed a serious challenge to the socio-economic development of some countries of the region.

82. It noted that developing countries were conscious of the contribution of FDI to economic growth. However, there was also a need to understand that, while FDI stimulated economic growth, it was also driven by economic growth. Growth was generated by FDI through imported capital, technologies and marketing capabilities. The reverse causality also existed, in that robust growth attracted substantial amounts of foreign capital and therefore the least developed countries would always be neglected. ESCAP had to stress the importance of growth in attracting FDI so that the least developed countries would not be marginalized. Some countries, despite going through reform and adjustment and following the right policies, had not been able to attract FDI.

83. The least developed and island developing countries continued to rely on ODA to meet their development needs. Concern was expressed that ODA flows were declining. The Commission also urged greater focus in the work of ESCAP on the Pacific island economies, especially that of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre in Port Vila.

84. The Commission emphasized microcredit schemes, especially in rural areas, as an important means of providing savings and credit mechanisms for those beyond the reach of the formal banking system. With regard to that system, the imposition of BIS standards of capital adequacy could result in a reduction of credit flows to the economy.

85. It agreed that in the information age intangible elements nurtured in people's minds, such as knowledge and creativity, had become the key to development. Education and training would enable people to partake of the fruits of globalization and advanced IT embodied in the so-called "new economy". More than ever before, governments were required to invest in human resources development to create a market-responsive and productive labour force. Furthermore, the Commission urged that concerted efforts, particularly in upgrading human resources development in ICT, be directed towards ensuring that developing countries had affordable access to ICT and the opportunities to participate actively in the new knowledge economy.

86. The Government of Japan informed the Commission that, through the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund, Japan was supporting ESCAP IT-related human resources development projects for implementation in the Greater Mekong Subregion and the Pacific island developing countries and least developed countries. In line with the priority that it accorded to human resources development, the Government of China informed the Commission that it would provide support for a secretariat project on distance education for remote areas, to be implemented in 2002.

87. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of India to host the Asia-Pacific telecommunications standards institute in New Delhi, for which substantial funds had been earmarked by the Government of India.

88. Building upon national action, the promotion of economic development at the regional level put a heightened premium on regional coordination and cooperation. Coordination was critical among the developing countries of the region in addressing the issues of market stability, environmental standards, worker dislocation and other development challenges. Coordination and cooperation were also required to make globalization more inclusive and equitable. Current developments in the world economy demanded new ways of cooperating in the global interest so that the burden of structural adjustment could be shared more equitably.

89. The Commission took note of the impact of the Asian economic crisis on the lives of people with disabilities. It noted with appreciation the cooperation extended by the Government of Japan to ESCAP in improving the access of disabled persons to basic infrastructure and services. It welcomed the intention of the Government to host various international disability conferences in 2002, the last year of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, including the high-level meeting to conclude the Decade in Shiga Prefecture. The Government of Thailand informed the Commission that it took great pride in receiving the Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award for 2001, and reaffirmed the importance it attached to underprivileged groups, particularly people with disabilities.

#### **Balanced development of urban and rural areas and regions within the countries of Asia and the Pacific**

90. The Commission commended the secretariat for the theme study and welcomed its recommendations. The issue of balanced development of urban and rural areas and regions within countries was timely. It noted that rural poverty was more widespread than urban poverty, and that the disparities could have a destabilizing effect on the countries. It also noted that past development strategies in some countries had been biased towards industrialization and urbanization, and focused on the intensive growth of key strategic industries and a few large cities. As a result, economic growth had been accompanied by the marginalization of rural areas, massive rural-urban migration and the exacerbation of rural poverty. In other countries, disparities were the result of rapid population growth and population pressure on a limited supply of rural land.

91. The Commission noted the interrelationship between urban and rural areas which formed one system, decisions in one area having an impact on the other. That necessitated balanced development so that no sector was adversely affected. It accepted that disparities could not be completely removed and that urbanization was an inevitable part of development, but stressed that measures needed to be taken to reduce disparities and minimize the need for migration and, where possible, promote rural-urban migration to small cities and rural towns.



92. Various delegations recounted the disparities existing between rural and urban areas and regions in their respective countries. The Commission expressed concern about the negative impact of massive rural-urban migration and rapid urbanization. Often, the most productive people moved to the urban areas, creating labour shortages in the rural areas. It recognized that urban areas were the engines of economic growth and needed to remain competitive in the global economy. It expressed concern that economic globalization and the emerging knowledge society would reinforce existing disparities and create new ones.

93. The Commission noted the urgent need to address the problem of disparities and raise the standard of living in the rural areas so that more people could stay in the countryside. Various delegations explained the measures their governments had taken to reduce disparities, including the development of infrastructure and housing, the decentralization and devolution of authority, the promotion of community-based initiatives, the empowerment of the poor and local governments, and greater participation by the non-state sector. They recounted their experiences with strengthening village-level planning, decision-making and implementation. The Commission recognized that there was no one approach that fitted all situations. It noted that decentralization of authority and, in particular, the decentralized management of public finance, had to be undertaken with extreme care, and that capacity-building of local government was urgently needed.

94. The Commission recognized that improved access to markets, credit, information and services could contribute directly to reducing disparities between urban and rural areas. In that context, it was recognized that the upgrading of transport and communications infrastructure and the development of national, regional and interregional corridors could make a critical contribution by facilitating access for rural populations to economic opportunities and social services.

95. The Commission stressed that the introduction of ICT and environmentally sound technologies in rural areas could facilitate their sustainable development significantly, thus contributing to poverty alleviation. It further noted the digital divide between rural and urban areas and pointed to the need to create digital opportunities in rural areas for income and employment generation, education, health and community development. The Commission requested the secretariat to facilitate the sharing of country experiences in the application of ICT for poverty alleviation as well as to undertake capacity-building, particularly training, in ICT. In that connection, it noted with appreciation the generous financial support provided by the Government of Japan to the project aimed at promoting ICT in the Greater Mekong Subregion, as well as to that promoting the use of ICT in the Pacific island developing countries.

96. The Commission emphasized that in order to meet the challenges of globalization, it was essential to

establish a balance between rural and urban areas, especially in economies dependent on agriculture. In that context, it took the view that the promotion of agro-based and agro-allied industries was an essential part of the balanced development policy. It stressed that one of the ways of promoting rural-urban balance was to promote SMEs, especially in less developed areas of the countries; in that context, the promotion of business and technology incubators would be highly useful. It requested that such activities be strengthened by the secretariat.

97. The Commission noted that extreme poverty existed in the urban areas as well. It recognized that while it was essential to improve living conditions in rural areas and alleviate rural poverty, it was also necessary to invest in urban areas and alleviate urban poverty. It stressed the need to improve urban management in order to make more efficient use of available resources and to practise good governance to create inclusive urban areas. In that respect, the development of basic urban infrastructure, the creation of employment and other income-generating activities, the support for community-based activities and the participation of population groups in the design and implementation of plans were considered to be critical.

98. The Commission noted that while FDI was one of the major engines for economic growth, it generally tended to neglect poor regions, thereby reinforcing regional disparities. It stressed the need for ESCAP to enhance the promotion of FDI in regions which had not attracted adequate numbers of investors. The need for infrastructure development to improve access to basic services, to improve connectivity and to link isolated and economically backward areas and regions to markets was also stressed. That was essential for economic growth as it would create new economic opportunities for such areas and regions. However, while infrastructure development was necessary, it alone was not sufficient. There was also a need to develop human resources so that people could access new technologies and so seize the new opportunities. It noted that while people needed to be empowered with knowledge, more and more knowledge was becoming inaccessible for developing countries because of patents and intellectual property rights.

99. The Commission noted that the emergence of regional trade blocs created the opportunity to establish cross-border links between regions as a means of developing economically backward areas and promoting economic development. Transport corridors could link regions in adjacent countries for the benefit of the countries concerned. Some delegations provided examples of international infrastructure projects that had helped, or could help, the development of regions and countries.

100. The Commission endorsed the conclusions of the theme study. It stressed that human resources development and education were critical to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas and to prepare people for economic globalization and the emergence of the

knowledge society. It stressed that farmers and rural enterprises needed capacity-building and information so that they could take part in the global economy, and that modern telecommunication technology could provide them with the necessary information. The Commission emphasized the importance of establishing safety nets for groups in society that were negatively affected by the process of economic globalization and the emergence of the knowledge society. It requested the secretariat to continue its research on the balanced development of urban and rural areas and regions within countries, in particular strengthening rural-urban linkages in view of globalization. It requested the secretariat to play a facilitating role in the sharing of information, expertise and experiences and the dissemination of best practices, and to provide technical assistance to countries to reduce disparities between urban and rural areas and regions within countries.

#### **Regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, 25-27 June 2001**

101. The General Assembly, in its resolution 55/13 of 3 November 2000 on review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects, called upon the regional commissions to be actively involved in the preparatory activities and to participate at the highest level in the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS. In pursuance of that resolution, special consideration of regional preparations for that event had been included on the agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission.

102. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1229 on regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, to be held in New York from 25 to 27 June 2001. It expressed its support of the analysis and conclusions of the document.

103. The Commission noted that, at conservative estimates by UNAIDS and WHO as of the end of 2000, the Asian and Pacific region had an estimated number of 6.4 million people living with HIV/AIDS. While the number of such persons, as well as the rates of HIV prevalence in countries and areas of the ESCAP region, still seemed relatively low compared with the worst affected parts of the world, experience cautioned that valuable time would be lost if intervention was not made at the early stages of the epidemic. Even relatively low prevalence rates would translate into huge numbers of people, given the large population base of the Asian and Pacific region.

104. The Commission further noted that over 50 per cent of new infections were occurring among young people below the age of 24 years. Thus the importance of HIV prevention programmes for youth was emphasized. Such programmes needed to take into account the great diversity of that group, while recognizing that all young people needed accurate information and access to services.

105. Key factors in the spread of HIV/AIDS in the region were denial, discrimination and stigma; lack of access to information and services; commercial sex; injecting drug use; and migration and population mobility. The key elements of best practices in addressing HIV/AIDS included high-level political leadership; the adoption of a coherent national strategy and action plan; a balanced approach to prevention and care; increased and sustained resource levels; and the scaling-up of pilot responses to national-level responses.

106. The Commission recognized that HIV/AIDS was a development challenge for the region. It underscored the need for members and associate members to take timely action to curb the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It recognized that HIV/AIDS was a threat to the human security of the Asian and Pacific region. Political commitment at the highest level was understood as essential for the region to combat HIV/AIDS effectively.

107. The Commission emphasized the need for a concerted regional approach to addressing HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific. It commended the Executive Secretary for his vision and leadership in organizing the special session on HIV/AIDS, as a regional input for the special session of the General Assembly, and for placing the issue high on the regional agenda. Given the scale of the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, the Commission stressed the importance of the role of ESCAP in forging a framework for regional cooperation to address HIV/AIDS, and in promoting more awareness of the issue.

108. The Commission also commended the secretariat for integrating HIV/AIDS into its work on human resources development and non-formal education. It expressed appreciation of the high quality of the secretariat's work, in cooperation with UNAIDS and other relevant regional and international bodies.

109. The Commission recognized that HIV/AIDS was not just a public health issue, but a development issue that needed to be addressed in national policy and planning. It was necessary for governments to acknowledge the complexity and scope of the HIV/AIDS problem and its far-reaching consequences, which included decreased life expectancy, loss of skilled labour, lower agricultural productivity, as well as the impact of morbidity and mortality on family income-earners.

110. The Commission stressed the need for the full involvement of civil society and other groups, such as government agencies, medical and scientific bodies, the media, the private sector and the pharmaceutical industry, in mounting an expanded national and regional response to fight HIV/AIDS. It called for the scaling-up of services, support and community care activities for people living with HIV/AIDS. The Commission also emphasized the need to target vulnerable groups, particularly youth, in prevention programmes. The Government of Australia expressed the view that



programmes for prevention and care needed to focus on people living with HIV/AIDS and their carers, sex workers, injecting drug users, men who had sex with men, and communities with a high incidence of infection.

111. The Commission welcomed the ASEAN initiative to include a special session on HIV/AIDS in the forthcoming ASEAN Heads of Government Summit, to be held in Brunei Darussalam late in 2001. The inclusion of HIV/AIDS in the agenda reflected the high priority accorded to HIV/AIDS by ASEAN governments.

112. Regarding development assistance for work to combat HIV/AIDS, the Government of Australia reported that in 2000 it had pledged \$A 200 million for a major global HIV/AIDS initiative, to be disbursed over a six-year period. The Government of Japan indicated that it would provide development cooperation funds amounting to US\$ 3 billion for the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative, which included HIV/AIDS, and indicated that it would implement the Initiative in the Asian and Pacific region.

113. Furthermore, some ESCAP members were involved in other international HIV/AIDS initiatives, including planned follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS. In that regard, Australia would convene a regional ministerial meeting on HIV/AIDS and development in the Asian and Pacific region, to be held in Melbourne on 9 and 10 October 2001. France planned to organize an international meeting of donors, international organizations, pharmaceutical companies and people living with HIV/AIDS, on access to AIDS treatment in developing countries, to be held in Dakar on 30 November and 1 December 2001. Thailand would host the Fifth International Conference on Home and Community Care for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, to be held in Chiang Mai in December 2001, which would be the first time that a meeting in that series would be held in a developing country.

114. The Commission urged all members to participate at the highest level in the special session of the General Assembly and to include in their delegations those directly affected by HIV/AIDS and other members of civil society. That was important, as the special session would have historic significance in securing the global commitment of all stakeholders, including international financial institutions, the pharmaceutical industry and civil society.

115. One delegation indicated that it looked forward to the special session of the General Assembly to provide a clear political direction to improving the availability of affordable drugs to people with AIDS who lived in poverty.

116. The Commission adopted resolution 57/1 on the regional call for action to fight the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in Asia and the Pacific.

117. As part of the special programme on HIV/AIDS, eminent speakers were invited to deliver addresses, including two former heads of state/government, the Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS, the Chairman of the Asian Business Coalition on AIDS and the Thai Business Coalition on AIDS, as well as a young person living with HIV/AIDS. The participation of the two former heads of state government, from Zambia and Thailand, respectively, made possible a South-South, Africa-Asia dialogue to facilitate consideration of the direction in which the Asian and Pacific region could proceed to address HIV/AIDS. Summaries of the statements made by the speakers are given below.

#### *Executive Secretary*

118. The Executive Secretary highlighted the importance of promoting South-South dialogue and multisectoral collaboration in the search for solutions to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. He urged the Asian and Pacific region to break the conspiracy of silence surrounding HIV/AIDS which facilitated its spread. Even though HIV rates were as yet comparatively low in Asia, the region's large population meant that those rates would in future translate into massive numbers of infections. Political leadership, coordination and adequate resources were key components in fighting HIV/AIDS. He noted the threat of HIV/AIDS to human security in the Asian and Pacific region and urged the Commission to intervene at an early stage to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

#### *HE Mr Kenneth Kaunda, former President of Zambia*

119. HE Mr Kenneth Kaunda informed the Commission of Africa's experiences in confronting the HIV/AIDS pandemic over two decades. Referring to the high toll that the pandemic had taken in Africa, he explained that it had taken a long time for Africa to realize the scale of the disaster. He noted that, despite certain successes in Senegal and Uganda, HIV/AIDS continued to leave a trail of death and suffering, especially among young people.

120. Drawing on the African experience, he welcomed the efforts to reduce the price of antiretroviral drugs. He underscored the need to focus on prevention programmes and develop mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness of drugs. He also stressed that affordable drugs were not a substitute for effective and sustained prevention programmes. He warned of the danger that an HIV strain resistant to existing drugs could emerge. He welcomed South-South cooperation in breaking the silence on HIV/AIDS and called attention to activities being undertaken by ECA.

121. By the end of the current decade, he estimated that AIDS would have caused more deaths in Africa and Asia than all the armed conflicts of the twentieth century. He urged the Commission to declare total war on HIV/AIDS, war that would be waged by every nation, community and family. He drew a parallel between fighting AIDS and fighting a real war, in which

the role of leaders was crucial. He called upon all leaders, including religious and cultural leaders, to take action.

*HE Mr Anand Panyarachun, former Prime Minister of Thailand*

122. HE Mr Anand Panyarachun recounted his experience in mounting a nationwide HIV/AIDS prevention programme in 1991. That programme had been recognized by UNAIDS as a best practice in the world. A prerequisite for establishing the programme was his government's acceptance that the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Thailand was being driven by commercial sex, injecting drug use, cultural practices such as the sale of children and young women into sex work, and men who had sex with men.

123. In identifying the noteworthy features of the Thai programme, he cited the following: political commitment at the highest level; early intervention; a multi-level and multi-pronged strategy; increased budgetary allocations; education campaigns; the use of the mass media to promote public awareness; peer education for young people in the workplace; prevention interventions among drug users; the promotion of condom use, particularly focusing on clients of sexual services; the involvement of civil society, including people living with HIV/AIDS, and the private sector in mounting an expanded national response; and the protection of the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS.

124. He noted that recent findings had validated Thailand's approach. They showed that (a) behavioural change had reduced new HIV infections from 143,000 in 1991 to 29,000 in 2001; (b) since 1993, an estimated 2 million fewer people had become HIV-infected than would otherwise have been the case; and (c) the percentage of adult men visiting sex workers had fallen and condom use had increased dramatically. He urged the Commission to act early, as Thailand had, to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS.

*Ms Kathleen Cravero, Deputy Executive Director, UNAIDS*

125. In her statement, Ms Kathleen Cravero indicated that HIV had brought about a global epidemic that far exceeded the projections of a decade earlier. It was estimated that over 36 million people worldwide were living with HIV or AIDS at the end of 2000. After sub-Saharan Africa, which had 25 million adults and children living with HIV/AIDS, Asia had the next highest number of infections, with a current estimate of 7 million people. There were clear warning signs that the epidemic would escalate in many countries if urgent action was not taken.

126. In Asia, the epidemic was no longer confined to "special high-risk groups", such as injecting drug users, sex workers and men who had sex with men; HIV/AIDS was becoming rampant among the general population.

127. Ms Cravero cited as key lessons the importance of leadership, a focus on young people, women and girls, the involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS, and the simultaneous pursuit of prevention and care efforts in the fight against the epidemic. She further emphasized that the General Assembly had recognized HIV/AIDS as a human security issue and one of the most serious obstacles to long-term sustainable development. She urged the Commission to send a strong and compelling message to the special session that Asia and the Pacific recognized the seriousness of HIV/AIDS and would rise to meet the unprecedented challenge before the region.

*Mr William Black, Chairman of the Asian Business Coalition on AIDS and the Thai Business Coalition on AIDS*

128. Mr William Black noted that the global spread of HIV/AIDS and its impact on business and business stakeholders (suppliers, communities, the workforce and the general public) had highlighted the unique position of, and urgent need for, the business sector to respond to the epidemic. While the business sector was full of good leaders, they had not yet become adequately engaged in combating HIV/AIDS, which had to be recognized as a business issue. One way to make progress was through public-private sector synergies, as called for by the United Nations Global Compact. He urged the Commission to put HIV/AIDS in the workplace on the agendas of governments and the private sector, which he also urged to join as partners in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

*Young person living with AIDS*

129. A 27-year-old health educator from the Philippines shared her experiences in living with HIV/AIDS, including the antecedents of her infection. Those included difficult family circumstances, marked by parental rejection and violence in her childhood, dependence on peers for emotional support, teenage pregnancy and her decision to keep her child. Confronted with no other means of remunerative employment that would enable her to support her child, she had resorted to commercial sex work. At the age of 20, while engaging in sex work, she had been infected with the virus.

130. She underscored the value of having the support of an NGO that provided her with care under conditions of confidentiality. Following training, she was employed in her current position as an NGO health educator. In her experience, it was easier to speak with youth rather than adults, who often denied their vulnerability to AIDS. She urged the Commission to implement HIV/AIDS education in schools, and programmes for out-of-school youth, in close consultation with young people themselves, using their culture and their language in conveying youth-friendly messages on HIV/AIDS. She drew the attention of the Commission to young people's need for access to information services as a protective factor for youth as a high-risk group.

### **Implementation of Commission resolution 53/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission**

131. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1200, containing an interim report on the reform measures undertaken at ESCAP pursuant to resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission.

132. The Executive Secretary, in his introduction of the progress report, noted that a comprehensive review of the reform efforts would take place at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission in 2002, as called for in resolution 53/1. He informed the Commission that some efficiency gains had already been achieved with respect to the functioning of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, that increased levels of secretariat interaction had resulted in the formulation of interdivisional projects, and that inter-agency coordination had been further strengthened. He drew the particular attention of the Commission to the following three issues: (a) his plans to strengthen the secretariat's IT capabilities; (b) the implementation of procedures for the systematic evaluation of programmes and projects; and (c) the introduction of modern management techniques and broader organizational changes based, in part, on recommendations emerging from the management consultancy undertaken by UNOPS.

133. The Commission commended the Executive Secretary on his initiative in revitalizing ESCAP and in making the Commission more responsive to the needs of its members and associate members. It expressed support for the ongoing restructuring process. In particular, it encouraged ESCAP to take into account the recommendations of the UNOPS management consultancy. Special emphasis was placed on its finding that ESCAP activities were spread too thinly over a broad range of issues and that a new organizational focus was imperative.

134. The Commission supported the Executive Secretary's efforts to revitalize ESCAP and noted his vision for ESCAP, according to which the secretariat should focus on three primary areas: (a) poverty alleviation, (b) addressing problems arising from globalization in the region, and (c) emerging economic and social issues. Reform efforts would have to take that vision into account and the ESCAP programme of work could be formulated accordingly.

135. The Commission noted a number of issues on which the future programme of work of ESCAP could focus. Those included issues, among others, affecting small island developing countries, gender, HIV/AIDS, poverty alleviation, the digital divide, the strengthening of national IT capabilities, regional transport logistics and environmental management. The exact agenda, in accordance with a new vision, could be further discussed in order to evolve a consensus among the members and associate members.

136. The Commission noted that the visibility of ESCAP in the region should be enhanced. ESCAP would need to demonstrate how it could add value and where its comparative advantages lay. The secretariat would need to utilize modern communication tools, in particular the Internet, in order to publicize its services and disseminate the results of its work.

137. The Commission highlighted the importance of strengthening the ability of ESCAP to monitor programmes and evaluate the impact of its activities. It stressed that carrying out more transparent and verifiable programme monitoring and impact assessment was an essential step towards ascertaining and enhancing the effectiveness of ESCAP. Accordingly, appropriate indicators would have to be devised to measure achievements, including results-based budgeting.

138. The Commission observed that ESCAP should play a lead role in coordinating developmental activities in the region. To that end, the secretariat should collaborate closely with other bilateral and multilateral organizations and agencies active in Asia and the Pacific. Moreover, it should seek to involve civil society more closely, including NGOs and the private sector, in order to ensure the relevance of its projects and programmes.

139. The Executive Secretary emphasized the need for a more focused approach and road map for realizing the new vision in order to make ESCAP more effective and visible. He assured the Commission that the revitalization process under way would take place in close coordination with the members and associate members and ACPR, in order to ensure that the programme of work of ESCAP would be member-country-owned and demand-driven. At the same time, ESCAP had launched a detailed internal review of its programme of work and technical cooperation projects, and had put in place four committees on cross-cutting substantive and managerial issues to support that process. Furthermore, the Executive Secretary had initiated a campaign to enhance the visibility of ESCAP and to secure extrabudgetary funding from both traditional and non-traditional donors in Europe. As a result of those developments, he assured the Commission that the secretariat would be in a position to present a comprehensive reform package to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session affecting the conference, programme and secretariat structure of ESCAP.

### **Emerging issues and developments at the regional level**

#### **Regional economic cooperation**

140. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/1201); the document on emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme: regional economic cooperation

(E/ESCAP/1202); the reports on the implementation of Commission resolution 56/1 on the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009 (E/ESCAP/1230); the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/1203); the Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (E/ESCAP/1204); and the report of the Meeting of Eminent Persons ("Friends of the Chair") on Integration of Asian Developing Countries into the International Trading System (ESCAP(LVII)/INF.2). The Commission expressed appreciation of the comprehensive documentation that was found to be of high quality.

#### **Report of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its eighth session**

141. The Commission endorsed the recommendations, conclusions and decisions as contained in the report of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/1201).

142. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue to accord high priority to its work in assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition to integrate more effectively into the multilateral trading system. In particular, priority attention should be given to capacity-building and training activities for trade negotiations, the implementation of WTO agreements, enhanced understanding of WTO accession procedures and the integration of various WTO agreements into national legal frameworks. The Commission commended the secretariat for the Memorandum of Understanding between ESCAP and WTO and the joint WTO/ESCAP training programme on WTO issues, and recommended that such collaboration and joint activities should be continued. It recognized the importance of the continuation of ESCAP activities aimed at assisting the countries of the region which were not yet WTO members to gain early accession.

143. The Commission noted that market access remained a problem for many developing countries, especially the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as for countries with economies in transition. It emphasized that the main purpose of international efforts in that sphere should be the establishment of stable, predictable and non-discriminatory terms for those countries.

144. The Commission cautioned against overloading the WTO negotiating agenda with non-trade issues. It also emphasized that negotiations and reviews currently under way, as mandated by the Uruguay Round agreements, should adequately address the concerns of developing countries. The implementation issues and concerns of developing countries should also be fully addressed. Some delegations stressed that no new negotiations should be initiated beyond those already mandated by the Uruguay Round agreements, while others expressed support for a new round of negotiations which should be sufficiently broad-based and balanced to reflect the interests of all WTO

members. In that regard, the Commission noted a proposal to convene an informal ministerial meeting of trade ministers of Asia and the Pacific prior to the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference; however, a consensus on the agenda should be reached before the informal meeting was convened.

145. The Commission noted with concern the surge in hidden forms of protectionism. The abuse of anti-dumping and safeguard measures was of particular concern, given the current global economic downturn. It requested the secretariat to undertake a study on the implications of such measures for national economic development.

146. There had been a phenomenal rise in the number of regional trading arrangements and the Commission, while noting the important role those could play in promoting intraregional trade, stressed that such initiatives should complement and advance the multilateral liberalization process. The Commission commended the work of the secretariat in revitalizing the Bangkok Agreement.

147. The Commission emphasized that, in order to gain from the ongoing process of globalization and liberalization, it was essential for countries to continuously work on strengthening national capacity for promoting industrial competitiveness. ESCAP was urged to organize training programmes, workshops and seminars on technology transfer and human resources development, including industrial skills promotion and the application of IT.

148. The Commission emphasized that SMEs were important factors in the industrial development process as they generated employment, encouraged entrepreneurship, promoted industrialization in rural areas and utilized national resources efficiently. It recommended that ESCAP should assist countries in creating networks of such enterprises to encourage production and marketing and the use of electronic commerce to conduct business. It was also suggested that ESCAP should consider undertaking studies aimed at identifying the economic sectors with comparative advantage, particularly in countries dependent on labour-intensive industries and primary products.

149. Although recovery in 2000 had been faster than initially expected, owing in large part to strong demand for the region's exports in electronic goods, a likely slowdown in world economic growth in 2001 could dampen the growth prospects of the region. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue to monitor and analyse the recovery process so that the developing countries of the region could participate more effectively in the globalization process, and stability in the region could be sustained. The need for policy options that included trade facilitation measures to promote intraregional trade was stressed.

150. The Commission held the view that the intraregional flow of investments was currently at a low level and efforts from both the private sector and governmental agencies were necessary for promoting

such flows. Efforts should be made to liberalize national policies for attracting FDI. ESCAP should undertake activities in exploring and promoting industrial complementarities in emerging and fast-growing industrial sectors, with a view to promoting intraregional flows of FDI.

151. The Commission requested the secretariat to promote and assist regional and subregional mechanisms for monitoring cross-border financial flows, while ensuring that such work did not duplicate ongoing work in other forums.

152. The Commission noted the importance of FDI for national economic development, with particular reference to its role in the transfer of technology. It recommended that the secretariat should continue its work in building national capacity for the attraction and implementation of FDI.

153. The Commission emphasized the benefits of IT for SMEs. It was observed that, although IT was important for SMEs, their capacity to use it was very limited. ESCAP was urged to provide the necessary support for building infrastructure and other assistance in promoting the application of IT in small manufacturing companies and businesses.

154. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Meeting of Eminent Persons ("Friends of the Chair") on the Integration of Asian Developing Countries into the International Trading System. It agreed that the recommendations of the Meeting served as a starting point for consideration by the member countries.

155. The Commission adopted resolution 57/5 on integration of Asian and Pacific developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system.

156. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting the twelfth meeting of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation, and to the Government of Viet Nam for its offer to host the thirteenth meeting in 2001.

#### **Emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme: regional economic cooperation**

157. The Commission felt that ICT was central to the creation of the emerging global knowledge-based economy and was significantly improving the competitiveness of the industrial and service sectors. It also brought significant changes to markets, the management of business and corporate governance. The Commission therefore stressed that concerted national efforts, complemented by regional cooperation, were necessary to promote the wide application in, and transfer of, ICT to the countries of the region, especially developing countries.

158. The Commission urged the secretariat to strengthen its activities relating to capacity-building, particularly human resources development, the networking of ICT institutions and the promotion of the dissemination of information and experience.

159. The Commission welcomed the initiative of the Government of Thailand to prepare and submit to it at the current session a draft resolution on regional cooperation in ICT for development. The Commission adopted resolution 57/4 on regional cooperation in information and communication technologies for development.

160. The Commission further noted with appreciation that India had hosted the Regional Round Table on Information Technology and Development, held in New Delhi in June 2000, which had made a substantial contribution to the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July 2000, and whose recommendations had been taken fully into account during the preparation of the above draft resolution.

161. While emphasizing the vital importance of the private sector in the development and diffusion of ICT, the Commission held the view that the active participation of all stakeholders, including the public sector and civil society, were vital for maximizing the benefits accruing from the introduction and application of ICT. It further stressed that the least developed countries, island economies, and economies in transition particularly required assistance in the transfer and application of ICT.

162. While pointing out the vital importance of the SME sector for countries in the region, the Commission emphasized the need to promote the application of ICT by SMEs to improve their competitiveness in the global market. The Commission felt that while the prime responsibility for the promotion of SMEs was with the countries themselves, ESCAP could complement national efforts by encouraging regional cooperation among governments in promoting low-cost, high-speed Internet access for SMEs; promoting homogeneous laws and regulations related to electronic commerce; designing joint training programmes to improve the ICT literacy of entrepreneurs; and fostering cooperation among service providers and the sharing of information.

163. The Commission noted with appreciation the important role played by the Technical Consultancy Development Programme for Asia and the Pacific, in enhancing consultancy service capabilities at national and regional levels. In that regard, it welcomed the offer of the Government of India to make the Consultancy Development Centre of India a permanent secretariat for the execution of Programme activities, as well as the generous financial support provided by that Government to the Programme for promoting its services and training programmes. The Commission further urged all donors, and members of the Programme in particular, to provide financial support for its various programmes.

164. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Government of Japan was assisting in the implementation of a programme aimed at helping developing countries to take advantage of ICT. It further welcomed the generous financial support provided by the Government of Japan for phase VII of the Forum for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China with the objective of promoting the use of ICT for institutional and capacity-building, in particular for private sector development and trade expansion in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

165. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Republic of Korea had hosted the Regional Consultation Meeting on Strengthening the Technology Incubation System for Creating High-technology-based Enterprises, held in Seoul in August 2000. The Commission stressed the importance of business and technology incubators for fostering technology and knowledge-based SMEs, and requested the secretariat to commence implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting promptly, especially with respect to the promotion of business and technology incubators, the training of the managers of incubators, the evaluation of incubation programmes and the networking of national business incubation associations. The Commission appreciated the offer of support from the Republic of Korea in assisting the secretariat to undertake follow-up activities.

166. Biotechnology could bring profound changes in many areas of development and several of the countries of the region had comparative advantages in the field of biotechnology because of their climatic conditions and biodiversity. The Commission therefore welcomed the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Korea to develop a new project on the establishment of a biotechnology information network in Asia. It felt that the project would help to bridge the biotechnological knowledge gap and promote the sharing of experiences and best practices, and requested the secretariat to formulate an appropriate project proposal at the earliest opportunity.

167. The Commission noted that, as countries prepared for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, a major challenge would be to reverse the growing marginalization of those countries. Making their integration into the world trading system more meaningful and beneficial would require concrete actions to strengthen their supply capacity and improve their market access. Market access problems, especially those concerning tariff escalation and tariff peaks, should be addressed.

168. The Commission noted that the multi-year programmes envisaged under the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance needed to be agreed and funded, as they could make an important contribution to strengthening the supply capacity of the least developed countries.

#### **Report on the implementation of Commission resolution 56/1 on the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009**

169. The Commission reiterated the importance of the coordinating role of ESCAP in the provision of technical assistance to the countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion and in involving neighbouring countries in the development of the Subregion. It also expressed appreciation of the technical, logistical and financial support for the development of the Subregion provided by other international organizations and institutions.

170. It was suggested that the secretariat continue to support the technical assistance activities under the Trade Facilitation Working Group of the Greater Mekong Subregion, such as the establishment of national institutional arrangements for trade facilitation in the Subregion and national studies and seminars on regulatory, procedural and documentation systems for international trade.

171. The Commission acknowledged with appreciation the important and timely initiative taken by the Government of Japan for the IT programme for private sector development in the Greater Mekong Subregion under phase VII of the Forum for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China, which aimed to promote the use of IT and IT-related human resources development and institutional capacity-building in the Subregion.

172. The Commission stressed that, in the course of implementation of resolution 56/1, effective networking at all levels and cooperation should be sought with the Greater Mekong Subregion countries, neighbouring countries, international and intergovernmental agencies in related fields, the private sector and NGOs.

#### **Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology**

173. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Governing Board of APCTT as contained in the report on the Centre (E/ESCAP/1203).

174. It expressed appreciation of the useful activities of the Centre in implementing the four principal areas of its work programme. APCTT was encouraged to proceed with the implementation of the recommendation made at the fifteenth session of the Governing Board for establishing a subregional network for promoting technology transfer and strengthening subregional cooperation among Central Asian countries, other countries of the ESCAP region and countries outside the region, and to proceed with the implementation of a regional cooperative policy mechanism to promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

175. The Commission further appreciated the activities of the Centre in the fields of IT and biotechnology. It was noted that the focus was on areas of emerging interest and those in which the countries of the Asian and Pacific region possessed comparative and competitive advantages in terms of biodiversity. A proposal was made for a project on the establishment of a biotechnology information network in Asia, to be implemented by APCTT in cooperation with ESCAP. The Commission further emphasized the importance of environmentally sound technologies in the economic and social development process and called for the further strengthening of the transfer of such technologies to developing countries.

176. The Commission noted with interest that APCTT had successfully launched the Technology Bureau for Small Enterprises, which was jointly executed by the Small Industries Development Bank of India, as a pilot exercise to facilitate an integrated technology-finance package for the benefit of SMEs in the region. Another initiative, the Technology Bureau for International Industrial Partnership, was being implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry of the Government of India, UNIDO and the Small Industries Development Bank of India and could be used as a model for replication.

177. The Centre was directed to continue and expand its activities with respect to technology management, technological capacity-building and human resources development in knowledge-based technologies in order to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs in the global economy. It should also strengthen its activities for the upgrading and modernization of technologies in traditional areas, such as food and vegetable processing, medicinal plants, agrotechnology along with biotechnology, as well as pursue programmes aimed at the convergence of traditional and new and emerging technology, including ICT. APCTT should continue to advise its members on successfully assimilating and adapting imported technologies.

178. The Commission stressed the importance of the transfer, application and development of technologies applicable to rural areas and for balanced urban and rural development. It noted with interest the experience of the Government of China in the implementation of its Sparks programme and requested APCTT to disseminate and popularize that and similar experiences of other countries.

179. The Commission suggested that APCTT should examine the beneficial role that ICT could play in enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of SMEs in the region. As those enterprises constituted the backbone of industry in most developing countries, special programmes to create the requisite awareness, competencies and other support structures for SMEs needed to be designed and implemented for the benefit of developing countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island countries, as well as countries with economies in transition.

180. The Commission welcomed the initiative of APCTT in the field of technology business incubators as highly important for supporting new business start-ups trying to commercialize new ideas and adopt new technologies. To that end, the Centre was requested to assist developing countries through appropriate capacity-building mechanisms, including human resources development and training programmes in setting up business incubators.

181. While noting the efforts of APCTT in strengthening its institutional framework, the Commission urged member countries to provide the required institutional support for APCTT and work towards the speedy establishment of an endowment fund. The Commission welcomed the consideration being given by the governments of China and the Republic of Korea to second professional staff to the Centre.

182. The Commission gratefully acknowledged the substantial institutional and programme assistance received from the governments of Germany and the Netherlands and from UNDP. It expressed gratitude to all members for providing institutional support to APCTT and especially to the Government of India for providing host facilities.

#### **Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery**

183. The Commission considered the report of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Governing Body of RNAEM, held in Rongcheng, China in October 2000, and endorsed the recommendations, including the upgrading of RNAEM from a network to a centre, contained therein.

184. Despite its difficult financial situation, several of the activities undertaken by RNAEM, including the exchange of information on and the development of agricultural machinery, promoting women's involvement in agriculture, agro-based metal industries, enhancing design capabilities and strengthening the national farm machinery institutes of participating countries through training and the provision of equipment, were appreciated. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue such activities.

185. The Commission endorsed the expansion of activities in the areas of post-harvest food processing technology, the mechanization of horticultural crops, low-cost surface-covered cultivation, and agricultural waste and by-product utilization.

186. It was also recommended that RNAEM should provide countries with technical assistance programmes and consultancy services in the field of agro-industries in rural areas.

187. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the Government of China was considering hosting the regional office in Beijing and hoped a decision could be reached by the Government on that issue as early as possible. It directed the secretariat to discuss the matter in detail with the Government of China.



188. It expressed gratitude to the Government of China for providing programme funds for RNAEM for the period 2000/01 and to the Government of India for its offer to host Agrimach, the meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Governing Body in India in November 2001; it directed the secretariat to seek donor funds to hold those events.

#### **Environment and natural resources development**

#### **Report of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000**

189. The Commission had before it the report of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, held in Kitakyushu, Japan from 31 August to 5 September 2000 (E/ESCAP/1205). It expressed deep appreciation to the Government of Japan, Fukuoka Prefecture and the city of Kitakyushu, for hosting the Conference. In keeping with the priority sustainable development issues of the region, it recognized that the outcomes of the Conference would provide useful guidance in the implementation of Agenda 21 and also in regional and subregional preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002.

190. The Commission observed that, despite significant progress in the development of environmental laws and policies and the strengthening of environment-related institutions, the quality of the environment, both regionally and globally, continued to deteriorate. From that perspective, it noted the importance of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 2001-2005 and recommended that it should be implemented for the benefit of all members and associate members. It also noted the activities which had been carried out at the national level in many countries in the region to further the implementation of Agenda 21. It noted the importance of integrating environment and economic policy-making to achieve sustainable development, and urged the secretariat to incorporate that aspect in the overall programme of ESCAP activities to facilitate training and the exchange of experiences.

191. The Commission supported the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment which, along with other outcomes of the Ministerial Conference, provided a solid foundation for dealing with issues of sustainable development and acted as an instrument for sharing best practices in urban environmental management. In that connection, it noted with appreciation that the Government of Japan would host the first Kitakyushu Initiative Network meeting later in 2001. Noting that several cities, including Nonthaburi in Thailand and Kanpur in India, had been nominated for participation in the Network, the Commission requested the secretariat to further elaborate the activities to implement the Kitakyushu Initiative so as to promote broader

participation by local governments, as well as to develop terms of reference for the Network, which should include the provision of technical assistance in such areas as urban planning and management, urban transport planning, natural disasters and urban settlements.

192. The Commission adopted resolution 57/2 on the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000.

193. The Commission welcomed the efforts of Japan to organize the Eminent Persons Forum for Asia and the Pacific in cooperation with ESCAP and UNEP. The Forum would consider critical sustainable development issues such as poverty and the environment, environmentally sound technologies, and the environment and economics. It also noted the intention to submit the findings of the Forum to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

194. To facilitate the implementation of Agenda 21, the Commission called for an increase in traditional ODA as well as new and additional funding for sustainable development, particularly for the least developed countries. It also called for the development of training programmes and forums for the exchange of experiences, institutional networking and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. It was suggested that the secretariat should coordinate the formulation of a regional environmental information system for member countries. The Commission noted that efforts towards sustainable development in the region had been greatly hindered by the persistence of poverty and illiteracy, and called upon the international community to fully support developing countries in their endeavours towards eradicating poverty and reducing illiteracy.

195. The Commission stressed the importance of regional and subregional cooperation in addressing sustainable development issues for the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference. It noted with appreciation the work undertaken by UNEP and its cooperation with ESCAP, through its Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in particular its work in the areas of coastal and marine environment, biodiversity, environmental monitoring, climate change and sustainable energy development.

#### **Report of the High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development**

196. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1206, the report of the High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development, held in Bali, Indonesia in November 2000, and document E/ESCAP/1206/Add.1, containing a review of the outcome. It expressed satisfaction with the successful organization of the Meeting and conveyed deep appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for its generous support in hosting the Meeting.



197. The Commission noted with satisfaction the relevance of the issues on sustainable energy brought out at the High-level Regional Meeting and endorsed the outcomes, namely, the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme, Strategies and Implementation Modalities for the Asian and Pacific Region, 2001-2005 and the Bali Declaration on Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Energy and Sustainable Development.

198. The Commission noted the enormous challenge confronting the region in attaining sustainable energy development and called for more concerted individual and collective efforts in implementing the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme. It requested the secretariat to strengthen its technical assistance and catalytic role in facilitating the implementation of the Programme, including assisting countries in their capacity-building for the formulation of sustainable energy policies and facilitating technology transfer. It also called upon the international community and donor agencies and countries to provide financial and technical support for sustainable energy development.

199. The Commission noted that energy was a crucial element for social and economic development and that energy consumption in the region would continue to increase in support of enhanced economic activities and improved quality of life. While recognizing the continued dependence on fossil fuel, it emphasized the need for utilizing those resources efficiently, through the increased use of clean-coal technologies and alternative sources of more environmentally sound fuels, such as natural gas and renewable sources of energy. The Commission also noted with interest various measures and efforts undertaken by countries in the development and management of energy resources in a sustainable way through (a) the formulation of energy policies towards using alternative sources of energy, including renewable sources of energy, such as hydro, solar, wind, biomass and biogas, (b) the adoption of cleaner technologies, and (c) the promotion of energy efficiency.

200. The Commission emphasized the significance of renewable energy, which could reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and noted that relevant experience and knowledge were available in some countries of the region in the successful promotion of renewable energy technologies in such fields as solar thermal, solar photovoltaic and wind energy. It noted the suggestion made by the delegation of India that other developing countries could share their experience on the commercialization of renewable energy technologies for decentralized applications as well as grid quality power. It requested the secretariat to promote and facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices in the region.

201. The Commission also took note of the heightened awareness on energy efficiency and its potential in the region and requested the secretariat to intensify its activities in further promoting energy

conservation and efficiency. It further took note of the need for the promotion and encouragement of subregional forums, where appropriate, for the formulation and implementation of environmentally friendly energy policies, as well as possible transboundary energy resources development and transfer.

202. The Commission adopted resolution 57/6 on implementation of the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme, Strategies and Implementation Modalities for the Asian and Pacific Region, 2001-2005 in support of the Bali Declaration on Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Energy and Sustainable Development.

#### **Issues related to the environment and sustainable development of natural resources**

203. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1207.

204. The Commission endorsed in general the conclusions and recommendations made by the secretariat regarding the emerging issues and developments at the regional level. It was, however, emphasized that ESCAP, when drawing up its programmes, should fully take into account national plans and concerns.

205. The Commission stressed the importance of adopting an integrated approach to water resources management, to include water-related hazard management, a national water policy, improved public awareness of water resources conservation and water-use efficiency, and greater public participation.

206. The Commission noted the importance of the ESCAP project on capacity-building in the strategic planning and management of natural resources, as well as the need for strategic plans for water resources development through the sharing of experiences and information exchange.

207. The Commission noted the appreciation expressed by one delegation for the technical assistance provided by ESCAP in preparing a new national flood management strategy, and the request for continued assistance.

208. The Commission supported ESCAP activities in capacity-building in the strategic planning of natural resources and the preparation of national water visions for action, as well as involvement in the preparation of the World Water Assessment Programme with other United Nations agencies. It also supported the involvement of ESCAP in the Third World Water Forum to be held in Japan in 2003.

209. One delegation mentioned the need to adopt approaches, inter alia, for the conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater, as well as the need for more stress on such matters as drilling in hilly, rocky terrain, and cheaper and more effective drilling-rig design. The delegation also emphasized the importance of countries undertaking relevant action at the national level before regional initiatives were considered.

210. The Commission commended the secretariat for having carried out successfully a range of activities in the assessment and development of the mineral, hydrocarbon, energy and marine resources potential of North-East Asia, including the use of GIS, and recommended that the secretariat should continue to strengthen subregional cooperation through initiating related projects in the above fields.

211. The Commission noted that IT and satellite images were good tools for cost-effective integrated land and water resources management, and natural disaster mitigation. It further noted with satisfaction that space technology applications had been enhanced in several areas of water resources management in the region, particularly by facilitating the identification of prospective groundwater and recharge zones, assisting in watershed management, and helping to monitor adverse weather conditions.

212. The Commission noted the progress made in implementing the second phase of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP II), which had been launched by the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in New Delhi in November 1999. It called for effective implementation of the recommendations emanating from the Conference. Some countries had augmented their national- and basin-scale water management strategies through the integrated use of remote sensing and GIS. RESAP II served as an effective vehicle for sharing that expertise in a spirit of regional cooperation. The Commission urged the secretariat to design and further promote the applications of those technical tools to enhance water resources and natural disaster management, responding to the needs of developing countries, particularly with respect to their economic and financial condition.

#### **Socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas**

213. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1208, E/ESCAP/1209, E/ESCAP/1210 and E/ESCAP/1211 and Corr.1, relating to socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas. It commended the secretariat for the quality of the documents and generally endorsed the recommendations contained therein.

#### **Report of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas on its third session**

214. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee contained in document E/ESCAP/1208.

215. The Commission emphasized that economic growth was necessary for sustainable poverty alleviation, and that policies promoting broad-based growth should be vigorously pursued by countries. The elements of broad-based growth should include (a) the

eradication of absolute poverty, (b) the fulfilment of the basic needs of people, including social services, and (c) the reduction of income inequality. Growth policies should also promote social integration to avoid unanticipated social upheaval, which could undermine basic conditions for future economic growth.

216. The Commission noted that globalization had created both opportunities and challenges. Economic liberalization, facilitated by advanced transportation and ICT, increased trade and capital flows, and enhanced opportunities for countries to pursue efficient economic growth. On the other hand, policies mainly based on the market mechanism widened the gap between the rich and the poor as the latter group had difficulty participating in the market-driven growth process. That seriously affected their social welfare. In that regard, the Commission underscored the prime importance of identifying appropriate social safety net systems based on best practices to empower the poor.

217. Poverty was manifested by a lack of income and purchasing power, which in turn was attributable to a lack of productive employment. Therefore, employment policy should receive priority along with economic liberalization strategies. The role of micro enterprises and the informal sector was highlighted in the generation of income and employment.

218. The Commission noted that economic development could lag behind social development and that high levels of human development could be achieved despite that lag. Results of studies advocating specific approaches to poverty reduction were applicable in some countries, but not all. Because of difficulties in disentangling the causes and consequences of poverty, the Commission strongly advocated a holistic approach to poverty reduction. However, it was noted that poverty alleviation strategies were more efficient when the poor were divided into various segments in need of different poverty-reduction packages. The Commission observed that special measures were needed, such as non-discriminatory practices, social mobilization, stakeholder participation and self-help schemes.

219. Many delegations shared good practices in alleviating poverty, such as the introduction of IT in local governance and agriculture, social insurance coverage for the poor and unemployed, and special programmes for the poor and other vulnerable groups. It noted that positive results in poverty alleviation in the development of less developed areas within a country could be achieved when economic linkages with neighbouring areas and other countries were strengthened. The representative of the Republic of Korea, while referring to the experience of that country in rural poverty alleviation through the Saemaul Undong programme, offered to share his country's experience with other countries and introduce some programmes for the vulnerable groups in those countries.

220. The Commission underlined the vital regional cooperation role of ESCAP and requested the secretariat to continue to play an advocacy and catalytic role in poverty alleviation efforts. It requested the secretariat to develop mechanisms for formulating regional integrated development plans and cooperation on technology transfer, human resources development and capacity-building, including the facilitation of study and the exchange of successful experiences and lessons from the proven practices of countries in the region.

221. The Commission noted the widely varying demographic situation among countries in the region. In some countries, rapid population growth was among several factors contributing to poverty. In other countries, fertility had fallen below the replacement level and the proportion of older persons was increasing rapidly. The Commission recognized that the demographic situation was a factor in economic development and needed to be taken into account in efforts to alleviate poverty. It observed that the third session of the Committee had provided a forum for much useful discussion on demographic dynamics and economic and social development. It requested the secretariat to continue its research and dissemination of information on demographic issues and their relationship to development. It also requested the secretariat to continue to provide policy guidance and technical assistance in areas related to demographic dynamics, such as that for health and other services occasioned by an ageing population.

222. The physical remoteness and special situation of Pacific countries acted as a constraint on balanced growth, particularly access to infrastructure facilities and services by the poor. The Commission noted the special needs of the countries with economies in transition in poverty alleviation efforts. It requested that regional cooperation and technical assistance be directed to those special needs.

223. The Commission emphasized the importance of human resources development for tackling poverty. In that regard, the provision of education and health services was highlighted. In emphasizing the importance of basic education as a foundation for all human resources development programmes, the Commission also stressed the need to ensure the quality of, and access to, education for all, including through lifelong learning. Furthermore, the Commission noted the importance of vocational training for young people, in view of the serious unemployment prevailing in many countries in the Asian and Pacific region, especially in the rural areas.

224. The Commission recognized the value of the secretariat's human resources development activities on training national human resources working in various areas of poverty alleviation. It called upon the secretariat to continue to implement human resources development training activities for the capacity-building of national personnel in poverty alleviation and rural development programmes.

225. The Commission emphasized the important role of ESCAP in continuing to provide assistance to members and associate members to fulfil the commitments of the World Summit for Social Development and the further initiatives arising from the special session of the General Assembly held in Geneva in June 2000 to review its progress. Special attention should be given to improving national capacity-building, implementing effective social policies, sharing experiences of poverty alleviation, creating and strengthening networks of social protection, developing human resources, and improving the status of women, older persons and disabled persons.

226. The Commission reiterated the priority to be accorded to disadvantaged, vulnerable, marginalized and excluded groups. It noted the various programmes that had been implemented in countries targeting the disadvantaged groups. The continued importance of social protection programmes specifically targeted towards stabilizing the livelihoods of older persons, disabled persons, women, children and indigenous populations was stressed. The Commission requested the secretariat to devote greater attention to the area of social protection, including social safety nets, and social security benefits as well as social services, and continue to provide technical assistance and support to members and associate members through the implementation of projects, exchange of experience and information, training and other forms of assistance.

227. The Commission, noting the fast-growing proportion of older persons in the region's population, emphasized the urgent need to bring older persons into the mainstream of development. It recommended that support should be given to the role of the family and the exchange of experience between the young and older persons to generate better understanding and relationships between generations. The Commission recommended that studies and analysis should be conducted on the social and economic consequences of ageing in the region. It further requested the secretariat to continue to give high priority to ageing-related issues and to implement and coordinate activities in support of, and preparation for, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, to be held in 2002, and in the follow-up of its outcome.

228. The Commission placed significant emphasis on improving the status of disabled persons. Measures taken included increased access to education, job training and opportunities, improved living conditions, better health and extension of services through community-based approaches. The Commission recognized the importance of capacity-building for people with disabilities in order to increase their participation in the mainstream development process. It noted that NGOs had a significant role to play in reducing the dependency of persons with disabilities. The importance of fostering barrier-free environments for disabled persons was highlighted. It also noted the importance of maintaining the momentum of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 to

promote a barrier-free society for all, including the consideration of a framework for those initiatives to be continued beyond the conclusion of the Decade in 2002.

229. One delegation requested additional information on the implementation and outcome of the project on social development management information systems implemented by the secretariat because of the importance of SOMIS in integrated socio-economic planning.

230. The Commission recognized efforts and achievements in the region on the empowerment of women through measures such as the setting up of schemes for self-support groups to fund economic activities, and promoting women's participation in local governance. It noted that, to facilitate women's participation in economic development, initiatives which had been taken included provision of children's day-care centres and vocational training for women.

231. The Commission noted with satisfaction that poverty alleviation schemes had recognized the particular hardship of female-headed households among the poor. It noted the establishment under such schemes of social safety nets for the benefit of women, which included monthly allowances, employment-creating schemes, health insurance, educational aid and other basic needs.

232. The Commission adopted resolution 57/3 on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

233. The Commission attached great importance to balanced development and noted that many delegations had taken various measures to reduce disparities through human resources development, education and lifelong learning, the development of off-farm employment (such as food processing and tourism) in rural areas, the linking of industries and urban and rural areas, and the improvement in access in rural areas to infrastructure and services, in particular ICT and credit. In that respect, it urged the secretariat to take the initiative in the development of mechanisms for the sharing of experiences between countries.

234. The Commission noted that urban poverty alleviation required greater attention, both in the range of interventions and the scale of financial outlays, because it remained an area of significant and persistent neglect in public policy. Urban poverty alleviation required the integration of an area approach, a beneficiary approach and a community approach. The Commission expressed the need for support from the secretariat for the development of urban infrastructure. It noted that urban and rural areas were closely interlinked, but that disparities continued to exist between rural and urban areas and regions within countries. It also noted that social values and patterns of power distribution played a vital role in the creation and removal of disparities.

235. The Commission stressed the importance of assisting rural communities to alleviate their poverty by promoting special measures, increased investment in rural areas and efficient governance. Several countries described the special poverty alleviation programmes and models they had initiated, such as broad-based rural development, rural vision movements, such as the Samurdhi Movement, and non-farm employment creation. The Commission emphasized the importance of creating opportunities, strengthening the social protection system at the community level and empowering the poor. It also emphasized that a pro-poor rural development approach based on stable macroeconomic policies and the participation of rural communities was necessary to alleviate rural poverty.

236. The Commission emphasized that increased agricultural productivity, sustainable rural and agricultural development, expansion of agro-industries and creation of rural employment were the fundamental means to alleviate rural poverty. In view of the fact that natural resources and the environment had been degraded through inappropriate agricultural practices, poverty and other social problems were affecting farmers. It noted the importance of restructuring the agricultural sector and developing its technological base at the level of farming communities and farmer organizations to establish an ecological balance. The Commission called on the secretariat to accord high priority to providing assistance in sustainable agricultural development.

237. The Commission noted that ICT could create opportunities for the poor to participate more effectively in economic and social development. It also noted that the development of ICT connections between remote rural areas and urban centres could reduce rural-urban disparities, thus contributing to poverty alleviation. The Commission also pointed out the challenges arising from the further marginalization of some segments of the population by increasing disparities between ICT "haves" and "have-nots". It requested the secretariat to strengthen regional cooperation assistance in that area through a concerted and integrated approach involving all stakeholders to better understand and effectively utilize ICT for poverty alleviation.

238. The Commission noted the important role of technology in improving agricultural productivity and increasing the value added of the agro-based industry, resulting in income and employment generation for poverty alleviation. In that regard, it stressed the need to develop a technological basis for the agricultural systems for farming communities for overall sustainable development. The Commission further stressed that SMEs and micro-enterprises in the formal and informal sectors had a very positive effect on poverty alleviation through the provision of jobs and income. Therefore, it emphasized that medium and micro-enterprises could be assisted through the provision of advisory services and information on potential markets, facilitation of access to credit, and training programmes.

## **Report of the Regional High-level Meeting in Preparation for Istanbul + 5**

239. The Commission stressed the importance of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the special session of the General Assembly (Istanbul + 5). It welcomed the results and endorsed the recommendations of the Regional High-level Meeting in Preparation for Istanbul + 5 for Asia and the Pacific, held in Hangzhou, China, in October 2000, as contained in document E/ESCAP/1209. It noted that considerable progress had been made in achieving the two goals of the Habitat Agenda, namely, adequate shelter for all, and sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, but that low levels of economic and technological development and inadequate international cooperation had hindered further achievements. It expressed the hope that Istanbul + 5 would help the countries to achieve the goals of the Habitat Agenda.

240. The Commission recognized that shelter problems, rural-urban migration, urbanization, poverty alleviation and environmental problems were closely related, and that poverty alleviation was essential for the sustainable development of urban and rural areas. It stressed that empowerment of local authorities and stakeholder participation in decision-making were critical to address shelter problems. It recognized the need to localize the Habitat Agenda and institutionalize its implementation through the establishment of Habitat committees at the national, subnational and municipal levels. It underlined the need for close collaboration between ESCAP and UNCHS in efforts to promote the sustainable development of urban and rural areas.

### **Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas**

241. The Commission endorsed document E/ESCAP/1210 and expressed satisfaction with the progress in the implementation of the resolutions and decisions relating to socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas.

### **Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific**

242. The Commission endorsed document E/ESCAP/1211 and Corr.1 and expressed satisfaction with the programme activities that had been carried out by the Centre in 2000. It acknowledged the results achieved in the research projects on the effects of trade liberalization on agriculture and on the food security strategies for the southern Pacific island countries.

243. The Commission recommended that the Centre should continue and strengthen collaborative

programmes for research and development as well as human resources development and information services with the members and associate members of ESCAP, covering a broad range of issues, including mitigation of damage caused by El Niño-induced abnormal weather conditions, stabilization of upland agriculture, feed crops development and agricultural policy analysis.

244. The Commission expressed special concern over the continuing unstable condition of both the institutional and the programme support resources of the Centre, and urged members and associate members to consider a substantial increase in funding and early and timely allocation of the funds, as well as the provision of the services of experts, so as to ensure the effective implementation of the programme activities at the Centre. It also requested the ESCAP secretariat to assist the Centre to mobilize financial resources for its activities, recognizing the important role of coarse grains, pulses, roots and tuber crops for food security and the rural economy in the region.

245. The Commission expressed appreciation of the contributions, in cash or in kind, or both, received from the governments of Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

### **Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development**

246. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1212 and E/ESCAP/1213. It endorsed the report of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development on its third session, including the recommendations it contained. It recognized that the provision of adequate and efficient infrastructure facilities and services was inextricably linked with economic growth and social progress, especially the eradication of poverty and environmental degradation. Unfortunately, in the Asian and Pacific region, a range of infrastructural and institutional barriers still inhibited the provision of truly cost-effective transport linkages and therefore the competitiveness of products and resources in the global market.

247. The Commission acknowledged with appreciation and satisfaction the leading role of ESCAP and the work undertaken by the secretariat to promote the sustainable development of transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure in the region. In particular, it noted the reiteration by the countries of their strong support for the implementation by the secretariat of studies and operational activities to meet their priority needs and concerns. It also appreciated the ongoing efforts of the secretariat to strengthen cooperation with other United Nations bodies, and regional and international organizations active in the development of transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development in the region.

248. The Commission expressed deep gratitude for the generous contributions of the governments of Australia, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, and the Republic of Korea, and of UNDP, UNAIDS, IsDB, ADB, the Japan Transport Cooperation Association and the Nippon Foundation to the activities in the field of transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development.

249. The Commission noted the importance of the regional action programme of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, and underscored the importance of the commitment and active participation of members and associate members for the successful implementation of the Action Plan. It noted the updated information provided by the delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Nepal with respect to their national focal points nominated to oversee and report on the implementation of the regional action programme. The Commission urged members and associate members to provide information on the current status of implementation of projects under phase I of the Action Plan. It also recognized the significant contribution of country reports on infrastructure development and on the transport sector in assisting the work of ESCAP in the area of infrastructure development.

250. The Commission noted with satisfaction that 61 of the 64 projects incorporated in the regional action programme of the Action Plan (phase I) had been implemented or were in the process of being implemented.

251. The Commission noted the importance of private sector participation in the development, financing, operation and management of infrastructure development. It requested the secretariat to undertake initiatives that would assist countries in facilitating the creation of an environment conducive to private sector participation in the infrastructure sector. In that respect, a number of delegations apprised the Commission of measures they had taken to encourage such participation.

252. The delegation of India reiterated its offer made at the fifty-third session to host an Asia-Pacific telecommunications standards institute in New Delhi, for which funding support was available from the Government. It requested that the specialized agency concerned intervene to give final shape to the proposal.

253. The Commission welcomed the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure to be held in 2001, believing that it provided an opportunity to sharpen focus on the new and emerging trends in infrastructure development and the required action, with a view to enhancing the application of ICT to facilitate the further development of transport.

254. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for considering the hosting of the second Ministerial Conference on

Infrastructure in Seoul from 12 to 17 November 2001 and requested the secretariat to provide full cooperation in the pending matters so as to facilitate the formal preparatory work. It also welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the Expert Group Meeting in Preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, to be held in Jakarta in June 2001, and urged experts from the transport and communication sectors to attend.

255. The Commission recommended that in order to ensure that the Ministerial Conference provided an appropriate platform for in-depth discussion and decision-making, the agenda should focus on the issues critical to the region in the area of transport and communications. That would both focus and facilitate proceedings and assist members and associate members in identifying appropriate representation within their delegations.

256. The Commission suggested that the activities proposed for incorporation in phase II of the regional action programme should be target-oriented, demand-driven and economically viable, and that the identification of priority areas should be undertaken in consultation with member countries. It invited members and associate members to identify priority project areas within the context of the regional action programme for phase II of the Action Plan and provide information on relevant national activities, in order to facilitate regular review of the progress in implementation of the regional action programme.

257. The Commission reaffirmed its support for the Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID) project and recommended that it should be a priority project under phase II of the Action Plan. It also noted that the development of the Trans-Asian Railway and Asian Highway links, as well as the development of Asia-Europe transport links, corresponded to the objective needs of the countries of the region.

258. The Commission stressed the importance of developing rail and road transport corridors within Asia and linking Asia with Europe and West Asia. It noted the newly established international transport links between member countries in the Trans-Asian Railway and Asian Highway network, including (a) the North-South Corridor linking the Russian Federation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and providing the landlocked countries of the Caucasus and Central Asian subregion access to ports in the south of the Islamic Republic of Iran, (b) the Tehran-Saveh-Hamedan-Khoshrovi border highway, (c) the link of Abu-Khamal to Dair-Alnoor in the Syrian Arab Republic, (d) the section along the ravine of the Arak-Khosravi border and Khorramshahr to the Iraqi border, thereby linking the ESCAP railway network with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asian region railway network, and (e) the connection between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Armenia by highway link.

259. The Commission recognized the importance of the facilitation of transit and cross-border transport movements through bilateral and subregional agreements, and through accession to, and implementation of, the international transport conventions listed in Commission resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992. It noted the progress made by some countries in acceding to those conventions. It requested the secretariat to formulate an appropriate framework agreement for the Asian Highway network for the consideration of the countries concerned. The Commission noted the strong interest expressed by the Russian Federation to be included in the Asian Highway network, and asked the secretariat to complete the study on the road network connecting China, Kazakhstan, the Korean peninsula, Mongolia and the Russian Federation at an early date.

260. The Commission noted the active support provided by the secretariat to the SPECA Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing in the Central Asian subregion.

261. The Commission reiterated that high priority should be given to activities that would promote safe and environmentally sustainable transport, in particular rail and road safety improvements and the reduction of air pollution by road transport. In that context, it noted with appreciation the generous financial support offered by the Government of India for a project on a road safety database. It requested the secretariat to submit the related project profile to the Government for consideration.

262. The Commission noted that the proposed meetings of the chief executives of railways and of highway administrations would provide forums in which to discuss new initiatives and promote cooperation and the exchange of experiences. It noted the expertise gained by India in the field of railways and its readiness to share that expertise with other countries.

263. With regard to the development of the Northern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway, the Commission requested that demonstration runs for container block-trains be undertaken on an all-route basis. It also welcomed the convening of the expert group meeting on the preparation for those runs in Bangkok from 16 to 18 May 2001 for the countries participating in the project.

264. With particular reference to the development of railways in the Southern Corridor, the Commission noted that progress since the expert group meeting held in Dhaka in May 1999 had been slower than anticipated. That was of concern to the Commission, especially in view of the ongoing construction of the Kerman-Zahedan and Mashhad-Bafq links in the Islamic Republic of Iran which would, inter alia, close one of the missing links in the Southern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway. The Commission noted the action being taken by Bangladesh in conducting a feasibility study on the connection of its railway network with that of Myanmar.

265. The Commission noted the developments in the Northern Corridor where, following the historic summit in June 2000 between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, an agreement had been reached on reconnecting the railway systems of the two countries and completing the only missing link in the Northern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway. It noted that the railway network in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea needed substantial modernization in order to meet international standards and support safe and efficient transport. In that context, the Commission noted the request of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the secretariat for assistance in its efforts to carry out modernization of its railways and to obtain the necessary donor funding.

266. The Commission supported the initiative of the secretariat to implement a joint project with the UNDP-Tumen Secretariat for the development and prioritization of road networks in the Tumen River Area of North-East Asia.

267. The Commission recalled discussions at its fifty-sixth session during which it had recognized the need for the provision of a regional adviser to address the problems of land transport sector development, with particular reference to landlocked countries and economies in transition. In that context, it urged the secretariat to enhance its dialogue with the countries concerned and to provide advisory services to meet their development needs.

268. The Commission recognized that water transport was one of the key sectors contributing significantly to the acceleration of economic growth and foreign trade. In that context, it expressed appreciation to the secretariat for conducting the study on regional shipping and port development strategies, using the Maritime Policy Planning Model. Several delegations referred to the series of country-level seminars that had assisted them in formulating national plans and strategies. The Commission requested the secretariat to update the study periodically.

269. The Commission emphasized the importance of the secretariat activities to assist countries, upon request, in reviewing their national positions with respect to the anticipated new round of General Agreement on Trade in Services negotiations on maritime transport services and in providing a forum for sharing information and experiences on best practices.

270. The Commission requested the secretariat to undertake an analysis of various ship registration schemes with a view to identifying best practices and assisting countries in attracting national and international tonnage to their registries, and to assist member countries, upon request, in reviewing the viability of their national flag fleet.



271. The Commission requested that high priority be given to the work on multimodal transport and logistics, with a focus on creating greater awareness and a better understanding of the industry among government agencies and enhancing the knowledge of logistics service planners and operators. It noted the substantial work undertaken by the secretariat on multimodal transport and logistics in ASEAN, and requested that similar activities be initiated in other subregions. In that context, and noting the recent political developments in the Korean peninsula, the Commission requested the secretariat to take an early initiative to assist in the development of an integrated transport and logistics system in the North-East Asian subregion. It noted the importance of the secretariat activities related to the commercial development of regional ports as logistics centres. It requested the secretariat to promote the adoption of a harmonized legal framework for the freight-forwarding industry and multimodal transport operations in the region.

272. Stressing the importance of collaboration among key stakeholders in the maritime sector, the Commission requested the secretariat to take further initiatives to maintain the dialogue between the stakeholders on a regular basis. In that regard, it was pleased to note that the Government of the Republic of Korea was considering providing funds for the second tripartite forum among shipowners, shippers and ports leading to sustainable dialogue on a regular basis. It requested the secretariat to promote the dialogue among key stakeholders in the maritime sector at the national level to help settle controversial issues.

273. The Commission reaffirmed the important role of tourism in the socio-economic development of Asian and Pacific countries, and noted that it had become a significant source of foreign exchange for a number of countries. It recognized that tourism could also contribute to poverty alleviation. It reiterated that tourism should be given high priority in the ESCAP programme and urged the secretariat to intensify its activities in that sector.

274. Noting that the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region provided a comprehensive framework for strengthening national capabilities and encouraging regional cooperation, the Commission affirmed its commitment to implementing the Plan of Action.

275. The Commission was pleased to note that the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism, which had been established by ESCAP in 1997, had been functioning as an effective mechanism for promoting cooperation in tourism education and training. It requested ESCAP to extend its full support to ensure the effective operation of APETIT. It urged donor countries, agencies and the private sector to extend financial support to its activities. The Commission was pleased to note that the APETIT Conference on Tourism Education and Training in the Asia-Pacific Region would be held in

Khajuraho, India in August 2001. It noted with appreciation the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of APETIT in the Kish Free Zone in November 2001.

276. The Commission requested the secretariat to organize forums for sharing information and experiences on best practice initiatives to promote barrier-free tourism among countries of the region. It also suggested that the secretariat should conduct a study on the development of tourism facilities for people with disabilities. It took note of the positive steps taken by Japan in recently enacting a law for promoting easily accessible public transport infrastructure for older persons and the disabled.

277. The Commission endorsed the Macao Declaration on Human Resources Development in the Tourism Sector in the Asian and Pacific Region and the Bali Declaration on Barrier-free Tourism for People with Disabilities.

278. The Commission requested the secretariat to undertake activities to develop community- and village-based tourism. It also requested the secretariat to organize (a) a seminar on electronic commerce and IT in the tourism sector, (b) a seminar on fostering SMEs in the tourism sector, particularly in home-stay or bed-and-breakfast businesses, and (c) training-of-trainers programmes on tourism. It requested ESCAP to strengthen activities to promote tourism in the Greater Mekong Subregion. The representative of the Russian Federation requested ESCAP assistance in promoting investment for tourism development in the Primorskiy, Kamchatka and eastern Siberian region. The representative of Sri Lanka requested ESCAP assistance pertaining to (a) the environmental management of tourism development and cultural preservation, (b) the development of lesser-known tourism attractions, (c) integrated zoning plans for systematic tourism development, and (d) barrier-free tourism for people with disabilities.

## Statistics

### Report of the Committee on Statistics on its twelfth session

279. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Statistics on its twelfth session (E/ESCAP/1214), held in Bangkok from 29 November to 1 December 2000.

280. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Statistics and expressed appreciation of its role in upgrading the statistical capabilities of countries in the region. ESCAP activities aimed at improving the comparability of statistics within the region were considered important, especially in the era of globalization.



281. The Commission took note of the major conclusions and decisions of the Committee at its twelfth session. It also endorsed the secretariat's programme of work for 2002-2003 and the priority areas identified earlier by the Committee, namely the 1993 SNA, poverty statistics, gender statistics, statistics on the informal sector and environment statistics. It agreed that ICT and the knowledge-based economy were of emerging importance for statistical work, and decided that those topics be included as an additional priority item in the programme of work, 2002-2003. The Commission also decided that ICT and the knowledge-based economy should feature in the medium-term plan and that an amendment to the plan should be made accordingly at the earliest opportunity.

282. The Commission concurred with the Committee's conclusion that the thrust of the statistics programme lay in promoting statistical development in the region. It urged the secretariat to continue to assist in the building of national statistical capabilities, and recognized that extrabudgetary resources were often necessary in that regard. In particular, it asked the secretariat to develop projects for the benefit of the countries in the areas of ICT, statistical classifications, the International Comparison Programme (ICP), and statistics on social issues, and called on donors to help enhance statistical capacity in those areas. A number of specific workshops and training courses were also suggested for inclusion in the programme of work.

283. The Commission reiterated the importance of sound and credible statistical data collection systems and the need for effective dissemination of data to support the decision-making process. Successful planning and implementation of policies and programmes required timely, relevant and high-quality statistical information. It noted that the economic crisis of 1997 had significantly raised the demand for comprehensive and frequent data in some countries.

284. The Commission recognized the importance of the framework of national accounts in providing a unified system of definitions and techniques for international comparability. It noted the role of ESCAP in providing technical assistance in improving the capacity of the countries to compile national accounts. To assist countries to subscribe to the Special Data Dissemination Standard of IMF, the Commission encouraged cooperation between ESCAP and SIAP and the countries to raise the level of key statistics to international standards of timeliness, periodicity and quality. It also felt that there was a need to exchange ideas with a view to improving methodologies in the conduct of surveys in the manufacturing sector and the compilation of the monthly index of industrial production.

285. The Commission emphasized the importance of purchasing power parities and ICP in general, for conducting cross-country comparisons of GDP and

other economic aggregates and in raising statistical capabilities. It recognized the need to address issues concerning data sources and compilation techniques, and the apprehension of some countries as to the possible adverse policy implications of purchasing power parities in such areas as the determination of development assistance. It therefore welcomed the formation of a regional coordination body to steer the implementation of ICP in the region. The Commission encouraged members and associate members to participate actively in ICP and urged the World Bank and other donors to extend adequate funding.

286. The Commission recognized the need for the development of appropriate concepts and methodologies in the measurement of activities of the informal sector. It expressed appreciation of the achievements of the Expert Group on Informal Sector Statistics (the Delhi Group), including the recommendation on including "place of work" in questionnaires for labour force surveys, in order to obtain data for estimating employment in the informal sector. It noted that the recommendations of the Delhi Group would be considered by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

287. The Commission noted that a handbook for the measurement of the "non-observed economy" was being developed by a team led by OECD. It heard a suggestion that, because of differences in national conditions relating to informal sector activities, there was a need to develop country-specific handbooks for that purpose.

288. Noting that poverty reduction was a priority issue for discussion at the current session, the Commission underscored the importance of better poverty statistics. It felt that it was appropriate for the Committee on Statistics to initiate activities to develop standard methods aimed at facilitating international comparison of statistics on poverty.

289. The Commission recognized the increasingly important need for timely and comprehensive environment statistics in the national development planning process. It called for more efforts to strengthen national capacity-building to collect and compile environment statistics and to promote the sharing of experiences in that field, particularly among developing countries. In that regard, the Commission underscored the importance of the series of ongoing subregional training workshops in environment statistics for countries of the ESCAP region, and noted with appreciation that the Government of India had hosted the second workshop for selected South Asian countries in Hyderabad from 2 to 14 April 2001.

290. The Commission recognized the importance of harmonizing and rationalizing the basic development indicators used for measuring the goals set by global conferences, with a view to lessening the data burden on countries. It encouraged members and associate

members to become fully involved in the ongoing review of development indicators. The Commission welcomed the fact that China was participating in the "Friends of the Chair" advisory group on indicators of the United Nations Statistical Commission, with the important task of providing technical inputs on developing indicators. The Commission was informed of the long experience of China in using composite indicators for making comparisons of social and economic development, at both national and provincial levels. It heard with interest of problems that might affect development indicators, including restrictions in the selection of indicators owing to differences in scope, coverage and quality of data, difficulties in quantifying certain indicators such as those on human rights, and limitations of some indicators in describing development progress. It was proposed that ESCAP organize training courses or workshops on the methodologies, limitations and problem areas related to human development and gender development indicators.

291. The Commission observed that, while the *Human Development Report* of UNDP had statistical flaws, it had created awareness of the wide gaps in the quality of life between developing and developed countries. National human development reports offered an analysis of the human development situation and also provided for comparison between countries. The view was expressed that additional components, such as culture and civilization or political conditions, could be taken into account in the Human Development Index. It was further suggested that efforts should be made to identify the main components of the indicators, within an international standardized framework, with a view to enabling individual countries to make adjustments.

292. The Commission recognized the importance of international standards and classifications in the generation of internationally comparable data. It noted the status of the implementation of activity and product classifications and encouraged countries to learn from each other. It noted with satisfaction that members and associate members were adopting international classifications and standards such as the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Third Revision (ISIC, Rev. 3), the Central Product Classification and the International Standard Classification of Occupations 1988. In regard to the ongoing revisions to ISIC, the Commission noted that the United Nations Statistical Commission had agreed to the recommendation of the Technical Subgroup of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications for ISIC to adopt the definition of the North American Industry Classification System of the information sector as a starting point towards convergence of the two classifications. However, in order to clarify the scope of the IT industry, the suggestion was made that "information dissemination and services" might be a better name for the "information sector" in the next version of ISIC.

293. The Commission noted that the rapid adoption of ICT in the region, including the improving access to the Internet, had created a significant demand for indicators and statistics capturing the impact of those technologies on society. It endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on Statistics on the role of IT and its impact on statistical work, and accordingly encouraged national and international statistical systems to urgently improve their capabilities to provide related data and information.

294. As one means to promote consistent national approaches for defining and measuring the knowledge-based economy, the Commission agreed with the suggestion made in the Committee on Statistics that the United Nations Statistics Division or ESCAP should prepare a manual on measuring IT-related activities. It requested the secretariat to facilitate the sharing of regional experiences on the measurement of the digital economy through training and other means, and obtain extrabudgetary funding for that purpose, if necessary. The secretariat was also requested to produce a document on best practices for the measurement of electronic commerce activities in the region. Moreover, the Commission recommended that the Committee on Statistics and its subsidiary bodies should include statistics on the information society on the agenda of their future sessions.

295. The Commission noted with gratitude that, since the fifty-sixth session, the secretariat had received generous extrabudgetary assistance which had contributed significantly to the implementation of operational activities under the statistics subprogramme. Bilateral donors included the governments of the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea. UNFPA had been a prominent multilateral donor, while other assistance had been provided by UNIFEM, UNDP and the World Bank. ADB, OECD and the World Tourism Organization had also collaborated with the secretariat on several activities.

#### **Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific**

296. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1215, containing the report on SIAP.

297. The Commission appreciated the useful role of SIAP in imparting training to statisticians and data processing personnel in members and associate members in the Asian and Pacific region. It acknowledged that the new strategies and initiatives of SIAP in its statistical training activities had contributed positively to the development of national statistical capabilities in the region. It noted with interest that SIAP had revised the content of its training courses to make them more relevant to the statistical training needs of the region. The Commission also approved the shift in emphasis on specialized statistical topics in the outreach training programme of the Institute. Several members and associate members requested that training opportunities at SIAP for their statisticians be expanded.

298. The Commission endorsed the initiatives by SIAP to collaborate with the national statistical offices in implementing its outreach programme. It emphasized that greater collaboration between SIAP and those offices through its outreach programme was vital in upgrading the skills and knowledge of national statistical office statisticians in the various fields of official statistics. It urged members and associate members, as well as international organizations and agencies, to provide strong support to the Institute's collaborative efforts. The Commission recommended that such cooperation should be enhanced. Several delegations offered to collaborate with SIAP in organizing statistical training courses under the outreach programme.

299. The delegations also expressed interest in collaborating with SIAP in terms of providing and sharing technical expertise, particularly in the training activities.

300. The Commission commended SIAP for its proposal to introduce distance learning via the Internet for capacity-building in official statistics. It recognized that the programme would benefit the national statistical offices by making it possible for more statisticians to receive SIAP training than was currently achieved. The Commission urged that SIAP expedite the implementation of that activity, and suggested that the learning process should be cost-effective and easily accessible by the beneficiaries.

301. The Commission also noted the usefulness to the national statistical offices of the research-based training programme in official statistics. Many members and associate members expressed interest in availing themselves of the training facility at SIAP for their statisticians.

302. The Commission endorsed the work programme of SIAP for 2001/02. It was suggested that SIAP might explore the possibility of organizing a regional training activity on the application of advanced IT in the collection and compilation of statistical data.

303. The Commission took note of the demand by members and associate members for country courses in the statistical fields of their interest. Those topics included, among others, economic and social indicators, statistical issues related to human development indicators, statistical modelling techniques, time series and forecasting techniques, control of non-sampling errors, small area estimation, statistical classification systems, and industrial production indices.

304. The Commission discussed financial matters relating to the Institute, including cash contributions by ESCAP members and associate members. It urged them to make fresh cash contributions and, if possible, to increase the amount of their cash contributions. The Commission encouraged those which had not yet made a contribution to SIAP to do so, particularly if they had been receiving assistance from SIAP on a sustained

basis. It recognized the diversification and expansion of the financial resource base of SIAP as an extremely important issue, since the training responsibilities of SIAP were increasing and the training activities had to be planned in advance.

305. The Commission expressed gratitude to the host Government of Japan for its intended contribution to SIAP for the fiscal year 2001/02 of US\$ 1,750,300 in cash and US\$ 1,917,700 in kind. It also thanked the Government of Japan for the contribution to SIAP, through JICA, of fellowships to the participants in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area-based courses. The Commission expressed gratitude to the governments of China and India for the announcements of their cash contributions to SIAP in 2001/02 of US\$ 40,000 and US\$ 15,000, respectively. The Commission also placed on record its gratitude to those ESCAP members and associate members which had made cash contributions to the institutional budget of SIAP.

306. The Commission acknowledged with deep appreciation the contributions of other international organizations, FAO, WHO and UNEP, for their collaboration with SIAP in the implementation of its training activities. It also expressed gratitude to UNDP for its programme support to SIAP in the data collection, data compilation and statistical analysis required in the preparation of national human development reports.

307. The Commission expressed its thanks to the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the United States Census Bureau for providing resource support in specific subjects at SIAP training courses through their experts. It also acknowledged with deep appreciation the collaboration with SIAP of the national statistical offices of China, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea in the organization of regional courses, and of Cambodia, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and the Philippines in the organization of country courses.

#### **Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries**

308. The Commission had before it the report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its fifth session (E/ESCAP/1216). It applauded the efforts of the secretariat in the preparation of a comprehensive report and strongly endorsed the recommendations contained in the report, which would serve as the regional input to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Brussels in May 2001.

309. The Commission noted with concern that the development goals stipulated in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s remained largely unmet. Therefore, it recommended that the new programme of action to be adopted at the

Conference in 2001 should address that predicament with a fresh approach and firm understanding in order to improve economic and social conditions in the least developed countries.

310. The Commission recognized that social services, particularly education and health, and access to those services by the poor and women, were crucial to promoting development in the least developed countries. It further recognized that the improvement of transport and communication services at the national, subregional and regional levels would reduce costs, facilitate access to social services and encourage broad-based growth in the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries.

311. Noting the importance of a meaningful and beneficial integration of the least developed countries into the world economy, the Commission urged the international community to grant those countries better access to their markets through, inter alia, the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers and the relaxation of rules of origin, and to provide increased financial and technical assistance.

312. The Commission recognized that appropriate national policies to encourage public and private savings, attract FDI and use ODA effectively were critical to sustaining development efforts, and requested the international community to consider ways of consolidating avenues to better distribute and enhance their assistance.

313. The Commission requested the secretariat to ensure that the recommendations endorsed in the report were incorporated in the activities in its programme of work. In view of the specific problems facing each of the countries, it urged the secretariat to prepare a comprehensive results-oriented action plan tailored to the needs of each least developed country.

314. The Commission noted with appreciation the various activities implemented by the ESCAP secretariat and its Pacific Operations Centre for the benefit of the least developed and island developing countries. It urged the secretariat to give particular consideration to the problems of the island developing countries, especially their economic and environmental vulnerability. It requested the secretariat to implement activities that would improve access to international markets, increase the use of ICT, enhance the absorptive capacity for major investments and strengthen institutional capacity in those countries. In the context of environmental vulnerability, the Commission requested the secretariat to initiate activities to address the issues dealing with the threat of climate change and rising sea level.

315. The Commission expressed appreciation of the offers of technical cooperation and trilateral cooperation received from various countries in the region. It also recognized the need for partnership between government, NGOs and the private sector in order to achieve sustainable national economic development.

## **Programme planning**

### **Implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001; and proposed programme changes for 2001**

316. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1217 and E/ESCAP/1218. It noted that the report on the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001 contained information related only to the first half of the biennium 2000-2001, and that an in-depth analysis for the biennium would be made at the end of 2001 and submitted to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session in 2002.

317. The Commission noted with satisfaction the overall implementation status of the programme of work. It also noted with satisfaction that the focus of the programme of work was being shifted from producing publications to increasing the number of group training activities and the dissemination of data and information through ESCAP web sites. It suggested that all recurrent publications should be shifted gradually to ESCAP web sites. It also suggested that the web sites should be hyperlinked with all related sites of other United Nations bodies, so that integrated and synergized information would be available to members and associate members.

318. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Government of China had co-sponsored seven ESCAP projects in 2000 to promote the sharing of experiences among the countries in the region, and welcomed its offer to continue cooperation with ESCAP in the future.

319. The Commission was informed of the follow-up action to the recommendations emanating from the Regional Round Table on Information Technology and Development, held in New Delhi in June 2000. It welcomed a scheme initiated by the Government of India to provide connectivity to the remote and rural areas through the setting up of community information centres. To bridge the digital divide and enable people to benefit from services facilitated by IT, the scheme aimed to provide connectivity for clusters of villages, which also served as single-point delivery centres for government-to-citizen services and information. The Commission noted the request of the Government of India that ESCAP provide technical and other required support for the extension of similar schemes to other countries in the region.

320. With regard to the format of the report, the Commission noted with appreciation that the part of section II of the report (E/ESCAP/1217) pertaining to the subprogramme on social development provided an in-depth analysis. In that connection, it was proposed that analysis of programme implementation by each subprogramme be more consistent, following the format of the subprogramme on social development. It was also proposed that the secretariat might report on the implementation of the programme of work in tabular

format, covering all programme activities in addition to the conventional report, which only highlighted the accomplished programme of work. The proposed format would provide the members and associate members of the Commission with a complete picture of the implementation of the programme of work, including unaccomplished activities, and would therefore facilitate the provision of further guidance by the Commission to the secretariat.

321. The Commission considered and endorsed the programme changes for 2001, along with their justification, contained in document E/ESCAP/1218.

#### **Draft programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003**

322. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1219 and Corr.1. It noted that United Nations Headquarters was undertaking a comparative review of the results-based programme budget proposals of UNCTAD, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the five regional commissions, including ESCAP. The results-based programme budget proposals would be further considered by CPC at its forty-first session to be held in New York in June-July 2001. In that connection, the Commission was anxious to receive feedback from Headquarters as well as CPC on the revised indicators of achievement. The secretariat was in the process of recruiting an external consultant to conduct the training course on impact monitoring and evaluation for programme managers and project staff towards the end of 2001. It was also in the process of discussing with the Government of Germany the possibility of conducting a course on results-based budgeting (using a logical framework approach) for project planning, monitoring and impact assessment. It suggested that other donors should also agree to include funds in the individual project budgets for that purpose.

323. The Commission requested the secretariat to continue research and analytical work on new challenges and opportunities for the economies in the region arising from the globalization and liberalization process and on new approaches for the promotion and enhancement of good governance. High priority should be attached to macroeconomic policy issues of the emerging economies in the region. In that context, ESCAP should aim to be the Asian and Pacific "think tank".

324. The Commission noted the request of the Government of India that ESCAP include in its future programme of work activities related to, inter alia, urban water supply and wastewater management; urban settlement and urban transport planning, including disaster preparedness and disaster management; GIS; space applications; electronic governance; technology transfer; and agriculture and services which were under WTO negotiations. The request also included regional workshops and seminars for the sharing of experiences based on privatization initiatives taken by India, and

activities in shipping, ports and inland water areas through Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation. The Commission noted the willingness of the Government of India to participate actively in the awareness programmes concerning the WTO agreements, as well as studies on population based on the current census. It welcomed the announcement of the Government of India that it had established the National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics, and its offers to provide training for six customs officers of other countries of the region, subject to suitable funding arrangements.

325. The Commission noted the high-priority programme activities identified by the Government of Thailand under the subprogrammes on regional economic cooperation (1-4-101, 1-4-102, 1-4-208, 1-4-210 and 1-4-211), social development (3-2-904, 3-4-204, 3-4-209, 3-4-210, 3-4-217, 3-4-218, 3-4-226, 3-4-227 and 3-4-401), environment and natural resources development (5-4-103, 5-4-105, 5-4-203, 5-4-204, 5-4-205, 5-4-206, 5-4-209 and 5-4-303), and transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development (6-4-216, 6-4-217 and 6-4-218). It also noted the high-priority subprogramme areas identified by the Government of the Russian Federation, which were the subprogrammes on regional economic cooperation, environment and natural resources development, and transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development, especially those items related to the development of transport infrastructure in Asia and the Pacific. Human resources development, science and technology and the promotion of sustainable development were highlighted by the Government of Indonesia as areas in which ESCAP could be an effective agent.

326. It was also suggested that, as the regional arm of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP should strengthen its role as a regional coordinator for socio-economic activities implemented by various international organizations in the region. The need for the ESCAP programme of work to focus on regional priority issues, such as the alleviation of poverty, social concerns and the development of IT, was highlighted.

327. The Commission emphasized that the programme of work, 2002-2003 would benefit from a further sharpening of its focus by limiting the scope of its work and by assessing the effectiveness of its activities. The proposal was made that, at the project formulation stage relating to project activities for implementation of the biennial programme of work, a needs assessment for that activity should be carried out to ensure that the activity would meet the needs of the members and associate members concerned.

328. The Commission endorsed the draft programme of work, 2002-2003 contained in document E/ESCAP/1219 and Corr.1, on the understanding that the programme of work for that biennium would require further review and adjustment in conjunction with the outcome of the in-depth review on the implementation of resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997 by the Commission

at its fifty-eighth session in 2002. The programme of work, 2002-2003 is given in annex I to the present report.

#### **Calendar of meetings and training programmes, April 2001-March 2002**

329. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1220. To increase the cost-effectiveness of ESCAP training activities, it was proposed that more of such activities be conducted over the Internet. It approved the tentative calendar of meetings and training programmes for the period April 2001-March 2002 as contained in the document.

#### **Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions**

330. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1221 and information paper ESCAP(LVII)/INF.3.

331. The Commission welcomed the efforts of the secretariat to sustain the implementation of TCDC/ECDC promotional and operational activities and the number of its beneficiaries throughout 2000. It noted that, since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in 1978, there had been a tremendous increase in TCDC activities. In that regard, it was recognized that, while the secretariat had been implementing various programmes and training activities for the beneficiary countries, especially the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, and economies in transition, much remained to be done if TCDC was to achieve its full potential.

332. TCDC contributed to the enhancement of national, regional and collective self-reliance, and it had proved to be a viable and beneficial undertaking among the countries in the region. It was recognized that South-South cooperation had become an indispensable mechanism for minimizing the risks of globalization and maximizing its benefits. TCDC was also an essential complement to the North-South partnership.

333. The Commission noted with concern that the fundamental and most significant impediment was the lack of sufficient resources to implement TCDC activities. It urged that efforts continue to be made by ESCAP to mobilize extrabudgetary resources from both traditional and non-traditional donors in order to tap the full potential of TCDC.

334. The Commission expressed appreciation to the governments of Malaysia and Singapore for sharing their experience and expertise with other members and associate members, under the third-country training programme cooperation arrangement. In particular, the governments of Samoa and Tonga emphasized the usefulness of the training course on

national economic management and poverty eradication under the ESCAP-Malaysia third-country training programme, and the training courses on tourism management and development for South Pacific countries and on trade promotion strategies, under the ESCAP-Singapore third-country training programme. They requested that more training programmes be organized for the Pacific island developing countries. The Commission was pleased to note that the Government of Singapore concurred with the requests of Samoa and Tonga for three training courses on (a) the cultural and social implications of tourism and the use of IT in tourism marketing; (b) trade promotion strategies, including WTO issues; and (c) IT, to be conducted under the ESCAP-Singapore third-country training programme. The Commission emphasized that it was imperative for the beneficiary countries to take positive and proactive complementary measures, including the allocation of resources from their national budgets and the use of resources from their respective UNDP national provisions, to facilitate their participation in TCDC activities.

335. The Commission recognized the usefulness of ESCAP TCDC sensitization workshops and in-country consultations. It urged that those activities be organized on an annual basis to reinforce the TCDC national focal points, update information on TCDC opportunities, and facilitate the exchange of experience on TCDC and related matters among the participating countries.

336. The Commission noted with appreciation the financial and in-kind contributions made by the Government of China within the framework of TCDC over the past 20 years, as well as the hosting of more than 100 projects and activities to promote TCDC in the region and to upgrade the capability of other members and associate members, especially the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, and the economies in transition.

337. The Commission noted the TCDC activities implemented by India under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme and welcomed the offer to share its expertise, experience and capabilities with other developing countries through its network of research and scientific institutions.

338. The Commission noted that the Government of Indonesia had successfully organized eight training programmes within the framework of TCDC in 1999-2000, including some in cooperation with ESCAP. It had also conducted 12 training programmes with the support of the Government of Japan through JICA in 2000 for the benefit of around 500 participants, including those from Asia and the Pacific. The Government had also benefited from the training programmes organized by other countries in the region, including participation in TCDC sensitization workshops and other programmes supported by ESCAP.

339. The Government of Pakistan had been implementing TCDC programmes, including the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme and the Self-financing Scheme, under which educational facilities had been offered to 43 beneficiary countries, including those from Asia, in the fields of medicine, pharmacy and engineering.

340. The Government of Singapore had provided training to more than 15,000 participants from 138 countries in the period 1992-2000 in the areas of English language, productivity, civil aviation, port development and management, IT, trade promotion and economic development, finance and banking, civil service and judicial reforms and so on. Under the ESCAP-Singapore third-country training programme established in 1997, an average of two training courses had been organized annually for 94 officials from 19 ESCAP members and associate members in the areas of tourism management, trade promotion, and social and urban development. Under the programme, the Government had contributed training awards worth S\$ 65,000 in 2000, which would be increased to S\$ 75,000 in 2001. The Government looked forward to working closely with ESCAP in sharing development experience with other members and associate members in the region, and participating in the ESCAP annual TCDC sensitization workshops.

341. The Executive Secretary expressed appreciation to the countries which had been organizing TCDC activities for the benefit of other members and associate members. He urged that those countries *make further efforts to provide, in their national budgets, the requisite local currencies, which would be complemented by the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund, to enable ESCAP to further enhance TCDC activities for the benefit of the countries, especially the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, and economies in transition.*

342. The Commission expressed appreciation to the governments of China, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea for providing annual extrabudgetary resources to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund. The cooperation arrangements of ESCAP with the governments of China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore in organizing operational TCDC activities to enhance capabilities and management skills in various priority areas of interest to the beneficiary countries, with special emphasis on the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, and economies in transition, were fully recognized. TCDC constituted an important aspect of economic cooperation among members and associate members of ESCAP. It played an important role in promoting economic cooperation and development in the region. The Commission urged that the sustained efforts of ESCAP be continued to further enhance the benefits, especially for the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, and economies in transition.

343. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the total extrabudgetary resources available to ESCAP for the implementation of its technical cooperation activities in 2000, which had amounted to US\$ 14.78 million, represented only a marginal increase over the previous year's amount of US\$ 14.69 million. The extrabudgetary resources represented about 32 per cent of the total resources of US\$ 43.17 million available to ESCAP in 2000. The remaining US\$ 28.39 million was from the regular budget, and was primarily for staff costs. Of the extrabudgetary resources received for 2000, US\$ 4.2 million, or 28.39 per cent, had come from sources within the United Nations system; the remaining US\$ 10.58 million, or 71.61 per cent, came from donor and participating developing countries and other *intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.*

344. Bilateral donors and participating developing countries had contributed a total of US\$ 9.58 million for the ESCAP technical cooperation programme and the regional institutions. Among them, Japan remained the largest bilateral donor to ESCAP, followed by Germany, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea. Twenty developing members and associate members had also contributed to the ESCAP technical cooperation programme, the largest being China, followed by India.

345. The generous contributions of the bilateral donors and developing members and associate members had enabled the secretariat to initiate the implementation of 69 technical assistance projects under its programme of work, with a financial outlay of US\$ 6.52 million. The remaining amount of US\$ 3.06 million had been allotted for institutional and programme support to the three regional institutions, namely the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, as well as the special regional project on the Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, and for the Pacific Trust Fund.

346. In addition to cash contributions in 2000, donors and developing members had provided about 305 work-months of the services of experts on non-reimbursable loan, which had enhanced the implementation capacity of the secretariat's technical cooperation programme.

347. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the suggestions made by the secretariat in paragraphs 28, 29 and 31 of document E/ESCAP/1221. Those suggestions included (a) requesting all existing donors and cooperation partners to at least maintain and, where possible, to increase the level of their extrabudgetary contributions for the implementation of ESCAP technical cooperation activities; (b) requesting all traditional bilateral donors to earmark some funds under their respective annual funding programmes for the conduct, on an ad hoc



basis, of ex post facto impact evaluation of selected technical cooperation projects implemented under their respective funding programmes; and (c) reiteration by the Commission of its previous appeal to participating members and associate members to consider increasing the level of their minimum contributions to US\$ 2,000 by the least developed countries and US\$ 30,000 by other developing countries towards the institutional costs of the three regional institutions. The Executive Secretary affirmed that intensified efforts would be made by the secretariat to mobilize additional resources for ESCAP priority programmes from traditional as well as non-traditional donors.

348. The Executive Secretary expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to all donor countries, developing members and associate members, funding agencies within the United Nations system and other organizations for their generous and invaluable extrabudgetary contributions. He urged the Commission to endorse his suggestions for measures to enable the secretariat to cope with the constraints it was facing. He emphasized that enhanced contributions from donors as well as members and associate members were essential for the implementation of the large number of activities within the approved programme of work.

349. The Commission took note of the following contributions pledged by members and associate members for 2001.

350. *Bangladesh.* The representative of Bangladesh announced that his Government's intended contribution for 2001 would remain the same as that for 2000.

351. *Brunei Darussalam.* The representative of Brunei Darussalam announced that his Government would contribute US\$ 15,000 to SIAP and US\$ 10,000 to APDC.

352. *Cambodia.* The representative of Cambodia announced that his Government would contribute US\$ 2,000 towards the ESCAP programme of work.

353. *China.* The representative of China announced that his Government would make the following contributions to the ESCAP programme of work for China-ESCAP cooperation projects: RMB 1,000,000 and US\$ 190,000 (including US\$ 40,000 for the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund, US\$ 40,000 for SIAP and US\$ 10,000 for the Pacific Trust Fund). In addition, China would continue to make contributions in United States dollars to the relevant subsidiary institutions of ESCAP. The representative of China called on ESCAP to further exert its efforts in exploring more sources of funding for its technical cooperation activities and in increasing the cost-effectiveness of such activities.

354. *India.* The representative of India announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

	US\$
(a) APCTT	100 000
	(in national currency)
(b) CGPRT Centre	10 000
(c) SIAP	15 000
(d) RNAEM	15 000

The representative of India also reiterated the offer to share the country's expertise, experiences and capabilities with other developing and least developed members, especially in the area of enhancing academic exchange with countries in the region towards generating a sustained pool of expert manpower and resources for space technology applications, ICT, conducting seminars, symposia and workshops for enhancing human resources development, and providing consultancy services to ESCAP for the implementation of the second phase of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development. India would formalize a long-term strategy with ESCAP in such areas.

355. *Indonesia.* The representative of Indonesia announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

(a) APCTT	US\$ 5 000
(b) CGPRT Centre	Rp 318 690 000
(c) SIAP	US\$ 30 000

In addition, Indonesia would contribute US\$ 40,000 to CCOP.

356. *Islamic Republic of Iran.* The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

	US\$
(a) ESCAP programme of work	20 000
(b) APCTT	5 000
(c) SIAP	10 000
(d) RNAEM	15 000

In addition, the Islamic Republic of Iran would contribute US\$ 5,000 to APDC.

357. *Japan.* The representative of Japan announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

	US\$
(a) Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	1 520 500
(b) Core fund for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation	100 000
(c) CGPRT Centre project funding	235 525
(d) SIAP and an in-kind contribution equivalent to	1 750 300
	1 917 700



Japan would continue to provide expert services through JICA to ESCAP on a non-reimbursable loan basis, in the areas of environmental policy, energy efficiency, Asian Highway development, women in development, trade and industry, geological surveys and marine transport. In addition, Japan would contribute US\$ 134,000 to APDC. As Japan placed emphasis on the necessity for a systematic evaluation of the impact of technical cooperation projects on beneficiary countries, it would try to earmark some funds for conducting such evaluation in the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund projects.

358. *Lao People's Democratic Republic.* The representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic announced that his Government would communicate its intended contributions to the secretariat at a later date.

359. *Macao, China.* The representative of Macao, China, announced that his Government would contribute US\$ 12,000 to SIAP and US\$ 8,000 to APDC.

360. *Malaysia.* The representative of Malaysia announced that her Government's intended contribution for 2001 would remain the same as that for 2000.

361. *Myanmar.* The representative of Myanmar announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

	US\$
(a) ESCAP programme of work	2 000
(b) CGPRT Centre	1 000
(c) SIAP	1 000

362. *Nepal.* The representative of Nepal announced that, despite being a least developed country, his Government would make the following contributions:

	US\$
(a) ESCAP programme of work	3 000
(b) APCTT	1 500
(c) CGPRT Centre	500
(d) SIAP	1 000

In addition, his Government would contribute US\$ 5,500 to APDC.

363. *Netherlands.* The representative of the Netherlands announced that, subject to final confirmation, his Government would contribute 2.0 million guilders, which was the same level as in 2000.

364. *Pakistan.* The representative of Pakistan announced that his Government would contribute US\$ 15,000 to SIAP and US\$ 5,000 to APDC.

365. *Philippines.* The representative of the Philippines announced that her Government would maintain its intended contributions to ESCAP for 2001 at the same level as in 2000.

366. *Republic of Korea.* The representative of the Republic of Korea announced that his Government would contribute a total of US\$ 562,000 in 2001, of which US\$ 400,000 would be for the Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund and US\$ 75,000 for APDC. Further details of the intended contributions would be communicated to the secretariat at a later date.

367. *Russian Federation.* The representative of the Russian Federation noted that, in the context of the Secretary-General's initiatives on the Global Compact, the ESCAP secretariat should consider establishing ESCAP-private sector partnerships. The Government of the Russian Federation, in its turn, was considering establishing a special trust fund for cooperation between the private sector of the Russian Federation and ESCAP. It would maintain close involvement in and the provision of support to project activities under SPECA. His Government would inform the secretariat of the ways and means, and volume, of intended extrabudgetary contributions to ESCAP at a later date.

368. *Samoa.* The representative of Samoa announced that her Government would make financial contributions to the ESCAP programme of work for TCDC activities and for the work of SIAP. The details would be conveyed to the secretariat in due course.

369. *Singapore.* The representative of Singapore announced that her Government appreciated the cooperation between ESCAP and Singapore under the Singapore-ESCAP third-country training programme, and would increase its allocation for 2001 towards the programme to S\$ 75,000 for three courses, to be conducted jointly with the ESCAP secretariat. The three courses covered (a) the cultural and social implications of tourism and the use of IT in tourism marketing; (b) trade promotion strategies, including WTO issues; and (c) IT.

370. *Sri Lanka.* The representative of Sri Lanka announced that her Government would make the following contributions:

	US\$
(a) CGPRT Centre	1 000
(b) SIAP	10 000

In addition, Sri Lanka would contribute US\$ 4,500 to APDC.

371. *Thailand.* The representative of Thailand announced that her Government would make the following contributions:

	US\$
(a) APCTT	15 000
(b) CGPRT Centre	30 000
(c) SIAP	20 000

In addition, Thailand would contribute US\$ 40,000 and B 1,021,825.20 to CCOP, US\$ 12,000 to the Typhoon Committee, and US\$ 1,000 to the Tropical Cyclones Trust Fund.

372. *Viet Nam.* The representative of Viet Nam announced that in 2001 his Government would maintain the same level of its intended contributions as in 2000.

373. In announcing the intended contributions for 2001, several delegations emphasized that their governments attached great importance to the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and the training activities of regional institutions, and pledged to continue their support and cooperation. They also expressed support of the secretariat's plans to intensify its efforts in mobilizing additional extrabudgetary contributions from traditional and non-traditional donors. Strong support was also given to the proposal for the conduct, on an ad hoc basis, of ex post facto impact evaluation of selected technical cooperation projects implemented by ESCAP. That evaluation process would have to involve at least some of the intended beneficiaries of such projects.

374. Several delegations from the Pacific island countries reported on their financial difficulties and urged the Commission to continue to provide financial assistance for their participation in the intergovernmental meetings of the Commission.

375. Several delegations expressed the need to exert further efforts in securing adequate institutional and programme support funds for the three regional institutions of ESCAP. The Commission urged that, apart from stronger programme support from donor countries and cooperation partners, beneficiary participating countries of those institutions should exert greater efforts in increasing their institutional support contributions to them.

376. The total pledges of contributions to ESCAP for 2001 made by 19 members and associate members amounted to approximately US\$ 7.54 million, comprising US\$ 5.62 million in cash and an estimated US\$ 1.92 million in kind. Those amounts did not include contributions announced for CCOP, APDC, the Typhoon Committee and the Tropical Cyclones Trust Fund.

377. The Commission noted that the total pledges did not include possible contributions from other member and donor countries which had made no announcement of intended contributions at the current session, or the value of several unquantified contributions pledged. In addition, extrabudgetary resources to be received from UNDP, UNFPA, other agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, for projects executed by ESCAP, were not reflected in the total pledges.

378. The Executive Secretary expressed appreciation to members, associate members and donor countries for

the intended contributions announced at the current session. While noting the proximity of the level of intended contributions for 2001 to that announced in 2000, he pledged to intensify the secretariat's efforts in exploring with traditional and non-traditional donors the possibility of their providing more resources for ESCAP technical cooperation activities. He reiterated the determination of the secretariat to make the most cost-effective use of those contributions for the benefit of the developing members and associate members, in particular the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as the economies in transition, through ESCAP technical cooperation programmes. He made reference to the existing heavy burden of host countries to the three regional institutions, and urged all beneficiary countries to increase their financial support to those institutions so as to alleviate the financial constraints encountered by them. He also urged that more affluent members of the Commission seriously consider allocating more funds for TCDC activities, including those conducted under third-country training programmes.

## **Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies**

### **Asian and Pacific Development Centre**

379. The Commission had before it the annual report of APDC for 2000, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1222).

380. The Director of APDC reported that in 2000 a special session of the General Council had approved the medium-term business plan incorporating the project portfolio. The Council had also approved several new programme areas, namely, trade, IT, economic and financial development, and urban development. Subsequently, two donor missions had been undertaken, mainly to secure funding. The Director stated that responses had been positive and he was confident that many of the projects submitted would be implemented.

381. The Director further reported that the impact of the financial crisis was still very much evident but, despite the limited resources available, APDC continued to implement programmes and projects for its members. Those included a series of gender-related training workshops: a Pacific gender training assessment for national machineries, an Asia Pacific Women's Watch lobby training workshop; a short-term training course on microfinance for the Asian Confederation of Credit Unions; a training workshop for NGOs on savings-based financial services to low-income households; a workshop on the global context of local governments; and a Village Power 2000 workshop and conference.

382. The Centre had also produced a number of publications, including *Marginalised Women: Documentation on Refugee Women and Women in Situation of Armed Conflict*; *Asia-Pacific Post-Beijing Implementation Monitor 2000*; and *Asia-Pacific Development Monitor*.

383. For the financial year 2000, the situation for APDC remained bleak. Out of the total amount of US\$ 616,055 pledged in 2000, US\$ 199,968 (33 per cent) had yet to be remitted. Overall, the deficit for the year was US\$ 68,115.

384. The Director also reported that the General Council for 2000 had directed APDC to undertake an independent critical analysis and strategic positioning study for APDC.

385. The Director expressed deep gratitude for the continued support provided by member countries, notably the host country, Malaysia, and Japan.

386. A number of representatives commented favourably on the work of the Centre. However, it was suggested that the Centre should actively pursue donor funding for projects relating to regional trade, technology and industrial development, electronic commerce and issues on WTO agreements.

#### **Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia**

387. The Commission had before it the report of the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1223).

388. The Commission noted with appreciation that during the past year, CCOP, under the leadership of its new Director, had continued to make significant progress in the development of the human resources and technology of its member countries in the four sectors of energy, minerals, coastal management and geohazards, and geodata and information management. A total of 13 technical activities had been successfully completed. In the energy sector, a project relating to resource evaluation and planning had been continued, and seminars on exploration and production data management, small field development and the operation of gas pipeline systems had been organized. In the mineral sector, activities had focused mainly on geoscientific information on urban areas. The coastal management and geohazard sector had focused on the completion of the COASTPLAN project and the possibility of its continuation with funding from cooperating countries. The geodata and information management activities had been related to the establishment of the Southeast Asian Network of Geological Information Systems.

389. The Commission noted the strong commitment of the member countries of CCOP and the continued support of cooperating countries and organizations. It was pleased to note the continued cooperation between CCOP and ESCAP in undertaking joint activities and exchanging geoscientific information under the programme of work in order to avoid duplication of effort and to use the available resources effectively. It further noted the relevance and usefulness of CCOP

programmes to the economic advancement of its member countries through the development of their mineral resources and the application of geoscience information.

390. The Commission requested CCOP to consider closer cooperation with the private sector, principally for the purpose of income generation in support of its activities.

391. The Commission noted with appreciation the assistance extended by Denmark, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States and other cooperating countries and organizations, to the programme areas concerned. It noted with appreciation the excellent facilities and support provided by the Government of Thailand through the Department of Mineral Resources, which had facilitated the smooth and efficient operation of CCOP in Bangkok.

#### **Mekong River Commission**

392. The Commission had before it the report of MRC, which had been transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1224), and was presented by the Acting Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2000/2001.

393. The Commission noted with appreciation the important achievements and progress made in 2000 in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for 1999-2003 to establish a firm platform for a technically strong and financially secure MRC, including the restructuring of its Secretariat in Phnom Penh in July 2000 to focus MRC on river basin management.

394. The Commission also noted the successful mobilization of financial resources for the three core programmes of MRC, on water utilization, the environment, and basin development, and the important progress made in those core programmes together with several other major programmes of MRC, particularly the Capacity-building Programme, the Fisheries Programme, the Agriculture, Irrigation and Forestry Programme, the Tourism Programme, the Navigation Programme and the Hydropower Development Strategy. Apart from those programmes, it took note of the completion by MRC in 2000 of 10 studies and other work, and the continued implementation of other projects and activities under its work programme, which had recently been reorganized to comprise three categories of activities: a core programme, a support programme, and a sector programme. In addition, the Commission was informed of the strengthening of international cooperation by MRC, including regular dialogue meetings with the other two upstream riparian states, China and Myanmar, frequent consultation with the donor community and strategic partners, and frequent dialogues with other major river basin organizations, such as the Murray Darling Basin Commission. In that connection, the Commission was informed that China had also sent its experts to take part in several technical activities of MRC.

395. The Commission recognized the importance of coordination among various regional development initiatives to promote effective and sustainable development of the Mekong water and related resources, and stressed the importance of the implementation of its resolution 56/1 of 7 June 2000 on the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009.

396. The Commission noted that MRC had initiated a revision of the Strategic Plan for 1999-2003 with a view to reflecting fully the emerging needs and new strategic objectives in the coming five years, 2001-2005. It also noted with appreciation the renewed sense of ownership and commitment to MRC by the member countries, which had agreed to a new formula to increase their cash contributions to MRC from 2001 onwards, aiming at eventual self-reliance in financial terms. It took particular note, with satisfaction, of the financial support from the donor community with a combined value of more than US\$ 45 million already pledged in 2001 for the activities of MRC. It acknowledged with appreciation various important initiatives taken by the Government of Japan in the Greater Mekong Subregion and its commitment to the development of the Subregion.

#### **Typhoon Committee**

397. The Commission had before it the report of the Typhoon Committee, which was transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1225), and presented by a representative of the Committee.

398. The Commission noted with appreciation the important achievements and progress of work by the Committee and its members in 2000 on meteorological components, including observations, forecasts and warnings of typhoons; on hydrological components, including flood forecasts and warning, as well as storm surge forecasts; and on natural disaster reduction. It noted with appreciation the important contribution of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre in Tokyo in the continued provision of numerical weather products to the Committee members.

399. The Commission noted the increase in the number of subregional cooperation activities of the Committee in the fields of meteorology, hydrology, training and research, and the increased importance it attached to addressing the impacts of water-related disasters, including an increase in research on, and the improvement of, forecasting. It took particular note of the decision by the Committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the hydrological, disaster prevention and preparedness components in cooperation with ESCAP, WMO, the Typhoon Committee Secretariat and interested members. The Commission noted the continued support given by ESCAP to various activities of the Committee members, and the valuable contribution of WMO to the work of the Typhoon Committee since its establishment.

400. The Commission was informed that the Committee had agreed to restructure the Regional Cooperation Programme Implementation Plan, as had been proposed by its working group on the structure of the Plan, and had decided to re-establish the working group to continue refinement of the Plan. It took special note of the increased importance attached by the Committee to training activities, and of the initial results of the Typhoon Committee Research Fellowship Scheme, which put emphasis on the exchange programme among the Committee members. It also noted with interest the decision of the Committee to re-establish the Typhoon Research Coordination Group so as to increase the effectiveness of typhoon-related research activities in accordance with the needs of the members.

401. The Commission expressed gratitude to the Government of the Philippines for its continued hosting of the Typhoon Committee Secretariat, for providing a full-time meteorologist and support staff, and for the continued services of the Coordinator of the Secretariat. It also expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for providing the services of the hydrological expert to the Secretariat in 2000, and to the Government of Japan for the continued services of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre in Tokyo.

#### **Panel on Tropical Cyclones**

402. The Commission had before it the report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, transmitted under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1226), which was introduced by the representative of WMO.

403. The Commission noted with interest the achievements and activities of the Panel in 2000. It expressed appreciation to the Panel for its contribution to disaster reduction and preparedness measures through monitoring, forecasting and disseminating information on tropical cyclones and hydrological hazards, and for the excellent cooperation among its members in those activities.

404. The Commission also noted the continued efforts of the Panel to assign names to tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea in order to enhance public awareness, and encouraged that initiative.

405. The Commission also noted the importance attached by the Panel to capacity-building and the results of the regional technical conference on tropical cyclones and storm surges held in Thailand in November 2000.

406. It noted the support provided by the ESCAP secretariat for various activities of the Panel, especially those related to the hydrological and disaster preparedness components of its work and the continuing valuable contribution of WMO to the work of the Panel over the years. It also noted the decision of the Panel to request WMO, ESCAP and the Technical Support Unit of the Panel to make improved arrangements in the technical discussion of the next Panel session so as to

increase interaction among the national and subregional institutions involved in the mitigation of tropical cyclone disasters.

407. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of Thailand for hosting the twenty-eighth session of the Panel in Bangkok in March 2001, and to Pakistan for the support provided to the Panel in hosting the Technical Support Unit and providing a coordinator and a meteorologist. It took note of the valuable contribution of India to the work of the Panel and its continuous support, especially the forecasting services of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre in New Delhi.

408. The Commission noted that a trust fund had been established with WMO for the activities of the Panel, and encouraged the Panel members and other ESCAP members to contribute to that fund. It urged donor countries and institutions to provide support for the work of the Panel, and directed the ESCAP secretariat to continue to provide the Panel with substantive support within the framework of its own programme of work.

#### **Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission**

409. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1227 and Add.1, containing the report of ACPR.

410. The report of ACPR was introduced by the representative of Thailand as rapporteur. During the period under review, June 2000-March 2001, ACPR had held eight regular sessions and three sessions of the Open-ended Informal Working Group. It had also been briefed twice by the secretariat on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 and on the implementation of Commission resolutions and decisions. In addition, in preparing for the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, to be held in June 2001, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/13 of 3 November 2000, ACPR had been briefed on the subject to facilitate discussions at the current session of the Commission.

411. In keeping with its mandate, ACPR had continued to advise and assist the Executive Secretary and had regularly sought and received feedback from the secretariat on issues directly relevant to the work of ESCAP, in particular, information relating to enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of its programme delivery. ACPR had played an important role in reviewing the programme of work of the secretariat, including the proposed programme of work, 2002-2003, assisting the work of the subsidiary bodies, and in the preparations for high-level conferences.

412. The Commission noted that the period of coverage of the report had coincided with the appointment of Mr Kim Hak-Su as Executive Secretary

of ESCAP, whose forward-looking approach, dynamism and initiatives to date had paved the way for a better working relationship between ACPR and the secretariat. During that period, ACPR had discussed and reviewed a variety of issues and activities pertaining to the work of ESCAP, of which seven had warranted in-depth deliberation, exchange of views and cooperation between ACPR and the secretariat: review of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission; consideration and approval of the tentative work plan of ACPR for 2000/2001; review of the progress of implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the Commission; review of the proposed programme of work, 2002-2003; preparations for and review of one ministerial meeting, three intergovernmental meetings and five legislative committees and Special Body sessions; preparations for the current session of the Commission; deliberation on the theme topic for the fifty-eighth session; and review of the implementation of, and proposed changes to, the programme of work, 2000-2001, as of 31 December 2000.

413. The Commission appreciated the work undertaken by the Advisory Committee pertaining to the review of the outcome of the high-level and intergovernmental meetings and legislative sessions, and the advice rendered to the secretariat on the need to focus on lessons learned and best practices, particularly in relation to advisory services and technical assistance, and to ensure that recommendations emanating from meetings, seminars, workshops and other advisory activities focused on practical approaches to development. It supported the efforts of the Executive Secretary and noted his vision for ESCAP and his initiatives to rejuvenate the organization; it also supported his efforts to enhance the participation and contribution by the ministers and heads of delegations during the ministerial segment of the Commission, in particular during the Ministerial Round Table meeting. The Commission appreciated the transparent approach adopted by the Executive Secretary in regard to the filling of vacancies in the secretariat, including his efforts at succession planning, the recruitment of regional advisers and the procedure pertaining to the engagement of consultancy services and short-term staff. The Executive Secretary was commended for suggesting that the members and associate members of ESCAP should share their practical development activities and strategies with each other in order to advance development in the region.

414. The Commission expressed appreciation of the efforts undertaken by ACPR in guiding the work of the secretariat in accordance with the expectations of the members and associate members. It also commended ACPR for focusing its activities aimed at enhancing the ability of ESCAP to serve its members and associate members, and to act effectively as the coordinating body for regional inputs into upcoming major global meetings, including the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and follow-up to past global conferences on the environment, human settlements and children. It also

recognized the important role of ACPR in maintaining constructive and efficient dialogue between member countries and the secretariat. Further efforts should be made to strengthen the advisory role of ACPR with regard to the development and implementation of programmes, and resolutions and decisions, of the Commission.

415. The Commission noted with appreciation the work of the Open-ended Informal Working Group of ACPR, including the formulation of recommendations for improving the work of ESCAP. It also noted the very useful and constructive discussions which had been held during those meetings, in particular, concerning the future areas of work of the Commission as well as the preliminary discussions on the draft resolutions submitted for consideration at the current session of the Commission. It urged the secretariat and ACPR to cooperate in ensuring more effective and efficient reform of ESCAP, in line with the provisions of resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and with a new vision for ESCAP.

416. The Commission praised the effective work undertaken by both ACPR and the secretariat in improving the work and proceedings of the annual sessions of the Commission. It acknowledged the timely preparation and distribution of the documentation and resolutions, which had facilitated their consideration by members and associate members, and felt that there should be greater use of the Internet for the dissemination of ESCAP documents and publications, which would, in the process, reduce the financial burden on the organization. It also welcomed being kept informed of the Executive Secretary's plans to develop schemes for mobilizing extrabudgetary funding from the private sector and other non-traditional donors, while ensuring that projects should meet the recipients' needs. The future work would need to be correlated with a new vision that could be further discussed to evolve an agenda through consensus among members and associate members.

#### **Date, venue and theme topic of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission**

417. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1228 and Add.1. With regard to the venue, it decided that its fifty-eighth session would be held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. Concerning the dates for that session, the representative of Thailand noted that, owing to an important conference scheduled to be held in Bangkok in April 2002, it would be difficult for Thailand to host the session in that month.

418. The secretariat suggested the dates of 23-29 May 2002 for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the member governments and the Chairperson, would determine the exact dates of the session and inform the members and associate members of the Commission accordingly.

419. The Commission decided that the theme topic of the fifty-eighth session would be "Sustainable social development in a period of rapid globalization: challenges, opportunities and policy options". It was agreed that the study on the theme topic should incorporate elements of ICT and poverty alleviation.

#### **Adoption of the report of the Commission**

420. The present report was adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at the fifth meeting of its fifty-seventh session on 25 April 2001.

#### **Ministerial Round Table**

421. In his introductory remarks, the Executive Secretary explained that the purpose of the Ministerial Round Table was to encourage frank and open discussions among countries of the region. He informed the meeting that the Round Table was divided into two parts: the first part dealt with the topic of the theme study, while the second part was devoted to an exchange of ideas on the future direction of ESCAP.

#### **Theme study: balanced development of urban and rural areas and regions within the countries of Asia and the Pacific**

422. The Executive Secretary presented the theme topic of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, "Balanced development of urban and rural areas and regions within the countries of Asia and the Pacific". He focused on the two major conclusions of the theme study: first, that disparities between urban and rural areas would persist, and second, that the emerging trends of the information revolution and economic globalization would reinforce existing disparities and create new ones. Urbanization was an inevitable part of development as urban areas generated more wealth and employment while the prospects for employment and wealth creation in rural areas were limited. The problem was not over-urbanization, but incomplete urbanization.

423. While countries were addressing those existing disparities, they had to address new disparities caused by the globalization of economies and the advent of the knowledge society. Knowledge was becoming a key factor of production. The emerging disparity was between those who knew how to participate in the knowledge society and the global economy and those who did not. The role of the government was to prepare people for the knowledge society and the global economy through investment in education. It was also to connect people, areas and regions, within and outside the country, to services, markets, sources of information and decision-making.

424. Moreover, governments needed to re-invent themselves in order to be effective and to remain relevant through decentralization and devolution of power, so that local decision makers could avail

themselves of opportunities more effectively. That required capacity-building of local governments, and involvement of the private sector and the civil society in decision-making and good governance, so that development benefited every one, particularly the poor.

425. Lastly, governments needed to ensure that those who could not participate were being looked after by establishing new types of safety nets that preserved the values of Asian cultures and at the same time met the needs of the changing society.

426. Participants commended the Executive Secretary for introducing the Ministerial Round Table and were of the opinion that the format gave them greater opportunities to debate and discuss critical issues facing the region. They also noted that the topic of the theme study was very timely and agreed with its conclusions that both globalization and the advent of the knowledge society would increase disparities. The Round Table endorsed the recommendations of the theme study.

427. Some participants felt that, while urbanization was inevitable, its challenge had to be met. One strategy could be to divert rural-urban migration from megacities to secondary cities and small towns through investment in improving the quality of life of smaller cities and towns, and through the connection of rural areas to those towns.

428. The Round Table agreed on the importance of decentralization and devolution of power to the local and subnational levels. Several participants reported that their countries had already initiated policies that aimed at devolving power to the local level. Participants also noted that the process of decentralization and devolution had to be accompanied by commensurate resources, capacity-building of local governments and the involvement of people, particularly women, in decision-making; otherwise, decentralization would only end up transferring problems from the national to the local level.

429. Some participants felt that, while disparities existed between rural and urban areas, it should be noted that those within urban areas and within rural areas were also important. Extreme poverty also existed in urban areas. Many participants felt that disparities needed to be looked at not only from the rural-urban perspective but also in terms of disparities between developed and developing countries.

430. Participants felt that the advent of the knowledge society was more significant than the industrial revolution. However, many countries were not ready for that transformation. Just when knowledge was becoming a key factor of production, the global commercialization of intellectual property rights was limiting access to knowledge in developing countries. ESCAP could play a role in assisting developing countries to meet the challenge of the ICT revolution.

431. Others felt that the free market alone would not reduce disparities and might in fact increase them. The

role of the government was to reduce disparities, whether they were between rural and urban areas or backward regions or between the rich and the poor within those regions.

432. Some participants felt that the level of development assistance from developed countries was declining precisely when it was needed the most. However, FDI could only be attracted if the investment climate in the country was favourable. That required investment in infrastructure, which in turn required development assistance. Investment in infrastructure was also needed to alleviate rural poverty and to create balanced development. Many participants emphasized that connectivity to the knowledge society and to the global economy was a key strategy, particularly for rural areas. Access to information technologies needed to be made affordable for the poor; otherwise, disparities between the rich and the poor within rural and urban areas would be further entrenched.

433. Farmers needed to be assisted to invest in cash crops, and use new forms of production and IT to increase their productivity. On the other hand, in view of the decline in global prices for agricultural commodities, farmers also needed to be assisted through price support mechanisms.

434. Some participants felt that providing equal opportunities and level playing fields required (a) affirmative action for certain population groups, in addition to economic and social safety nets, including food security and entitlements; and (b) the provision of access to basic services such as education, health, market information and agricultural extension services.

435. Participants noted that, while the theme study analysed succinctly the issues of balanced development and strategies to address balanced development, it did not adequately outline the role of ESCAP in assisting countries to achieve that goal. Some participants felt that ESCAP should provide advisory services and technical assistance, and promote technology transfer and exchange of experience, particularly on best practices.

#### **Future role and priorities of ESCAP and the theme topic of the fifty-eighth session**

436. The Executive Secretary, in introducing his vision of the future role and priorities of ESCAP, drew the attention of the ministers and heads of delegations to discussions that had taken place on the same subject in the framework of ACPR since the fifty-sixth session of the Commission. In particular, he referred to a meeting of the Informal Working Group of ACPR, held in Chiam, Thailand, on 3 March 2001, which had focused on the reform of ESCAP within the context of Commission resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission.

437. In identifying the future role and priorities of ESCAP, the Executive Secretary reiterated that it was important to have HAIR: "H" stood for having a "helicopter view", implying that it was necessary to



obtain a broad overview of ESCAP programmes and projects and to see how they were interconnected and the direction in which they were moving; "A" stood for "analytical power", suggesting that a detailed analysis of ESCAP programmes and projects would be required in order to establish their added value; "I" stood for "imagination", highlighting that fresh thinking and creativity were essential in strengthening the developmental role of ESCAP; and "R" stood for having a "sense of reality", emphasizing the need to make a frank assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of ESCAP. In that regard, the Executive Secretary suggested that, while the forte of ESCAP currently lay in carrying out normative work, providing policy recommendations and organizing meetings, he would wish to see the secretariat's operational impact considerably strengthened in order to be able to contribute in more concrete terms to the development of ESCAP members and associate members.

438. The Executive Secretary envisaged that the ESCAP programme of work should focus on three primary themes, the first being poverty alleviation. In line with the goal of the United Nations, as enunciated by the Secretary-General at the Millennium Summit, to halve absolute poverty by 2015, and bearing in mind that, out of the world's 1.3 billion people living in absolute poverty, approximately two thirds lived in Asia, it was essential that ESCAP place strong emphasis on poverty alleviation. However, in view of the work of other multilateral organizations, such as ADB, UNDP and the World Bank, in the area of poverty alleviation in the Asian and Pacific region, ESCAP would need to define its own possible contribution. To that end, the Executive Secretary suggested that ESCAP might wish to develop models for poverty alleviation, based on proven best practices in the region, the applicability of which could be tested in pilot projects in different environments. Subject to the successful outcome of the pilot projects, such poverty alleviation models could be replicated in other developing countries, possibly in collaboration with other multilateral organizations, such as ADB.

439. The second thematic focus was on strengthening the weakening positions of developing countries in the context of the quickening pace of globalization. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of participants in the Round Table to the multitude of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on a wide range of protocols and conventions, notably in the areas of trade and environment. In that respect, he suggested that ESCAP could play an important role in providing meaningful training to developing countries in strengthening their capacity to participate effectively in such negotiations. The support of those countries within the region with proven expertise and experience in making available such training could also be sought. The third thematic focus was on emerging social issues, including population ageing, migration, in particular, labour migration, trafficking of women and children, abuse and exploitation of children and youth, and disabled people.

440. The Executive Secretary suggested that over the coming three to five years ESCAP should come to be seen as a lead player, if not the best, in those areas of focus in the region and even globally. He wished to see Asian and Pacific thinking reflected more forcefully in global forums, and proposed that ESCAP might be able to suggest alternative development paths to those traditionally propounded by organizations such as the World Bank and IMF. To that end, the Executive Secretary intended to strengthen the analytical and statistical capabilities of ESCAP, evolving the secretariat into a think tank of major regional and global import.

441. Based on that vision, the Executive Secretary expressed his intention to put in place a road map for the revitalization of ESCAP. He informed participants in the Round Table that he had already taken a number of steps aimed at improving the performance of the secretariat. Those included implementing recommendations emerging from the management consultancy undertaken by UNOPS. Furthermore, he had put in place four management committees, covering personnel management, finance, project acceptance and re-engineering. Those committees would examine such issues as (a) changing personnel requirements within ESCAP, including succession plans; (b) the possibilities for raising extrabudgetary funding, not least through non-traditional donors and the private sector; (c) ensuring cross-divisional relevance and coordination of technical cooperation activities; and (d) identifying a small number of core projects in each section of the secretariat.

442. The Executive Secretary emphasized that, while those revitalization efforts within the secretariat were ongoing, it was essential to receive inputs from the members and associate members to ensure that the programme of work would be member-owned and demand-driven. To that end, he invited the participants in the Round Table to provide the secretariat with feedback on the direction it wished ESCAP to take.

443. The Round Table expressed its support for the Executive Secretary's efforts to revitalize ESCAP and to make its work more effective. It welcomed the idea that ESCAP should be more responsive to the needs of the members and associate members. In that respect, the importance of placing lower emphasis on holding meetings and issuing publications and greater emphasis on providing technical cooperation, on implementing capacity-building measures and on achieving concrete, verifiable results, was acknowledged by the Round Table. It also emphasized the importance of systematic impact monitoring and evaluation in assessing the value of technical cooperation projects to developing members in the region, and results therefrom should be used as criteria in future programme and project planning. The Round Table underlined the importance of cooperating with other multilateral and bilateral organizations in the region in order to avoid duplication, maximize synergies and exploit comparative advantage. It encouraged ESCAP to work more closely with civil



society and the private sector, which would go some way towards enhancing the responsiveness and public awareness of ESCAP. The Round Table highlighted the competitive advantage of ESCAP in having a regional focus.

444. The Round Table acknowledged the pertinence of the three main areas of focus identified in the Executive Secretary's vision for ESCAP. It also emphasized the importance of other specific issues, including intellectual property rights; the development of transport infrastructure; ICT in the context of globalization; innovative methods to finance development; the linking of environment with development; the need to integrate trade and commerce into all aspects of ESCAP work; the role of women in development; and the special problems facing island developing countries.

445. The Round Table, however, cautioned that, while efforts to revitalize the secretariat should proceed to the extent possible, it was important to anchor more

fundamental reform measures in the express requirements of members and associate members. Building on the achievements of ESCAP, the process of revitalization should move forward with prudence, preserving the balance between economic and social components in the ESCAP programme of work, while maintaining a comprehensive, holistic coverage of development issues. Changing the mandate of ESCAP, if that would eventually be deemed necessary, would need careful consideration and reflection, and the extent to which ESCAP staff would be capable of supporting a newly defined role of ESCAP should be examined.

446. The Round Table suggested that the secretariat should clearly define ideas for the reform of ESCAP and submit them to the members and associate members for consideration during an intergovernmental meeting to be held prior to the fifty-eighth session of the Commission. It expected that, during that session, a new vision and road map for ESCAP could be endorsed that reflected the needs of the members and associate members.

## Chapter IV

### RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

- 57/1. **Regional call for action to fight the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in Asia and the Pacific**<sup>1</sup>

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

*Welcoming* General Assembly resolution 55/13 of 3 November 2000 on review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects, in which the Assembly decided, inter alia, to convene, as a matter of urgency, a special session of the General Assembly, from 25 to 27 June 2001, to review and address the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects,

*Noting* that the General Assembly specifically encouraged regional bodies and organizations, as well as the regional commissions, to make available to the preparatory process and to the special session the outcomes of respective subregional, regional and global level initiatives addressing a range of HIV/AIDS issues, and called upon the regional commissions to be involved actively in the preparatory activities and to participate at the highest level in the special session,

*Noting further* the ongoing efforts of various regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Task Force on AIDS, which is preparing for an ASEAN Heads of Government Summit on HIV/AIDS that would put HIV/AIDS on the highest regional and national agendas, and commit to collaborate on intercountry and cross-border issues, as well as the exchange of technical expertise and experience,

*Welcoming* the holding of an international meeting in Senegal in 2001 to promote enhanced access to care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS, to be participated in by Member States of the United Nations, United Nations bodies and agencies, multilateral institutions, non-governmental organizations, associations of people living with HIV/AIDS, and pharmaceutical industries,

*Recognizing* that the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS has generated a global pandemic that far exceeds what was predicted even a decade ago, threatening the human security of the Asian and Pacific region,

*Emphasizing* the relationship between AIDS and poverty, and recognizing that poverty reduction is an integral part of reducing vulnerability to HIV and of reducing the impact of AIDS,

*Noting with particular concern* that, at conservative estimates, at least 7.5 million people already live with HIV/AIDS in the Asian and Pacific region, and that HIV in the region is likely to continue to spread through factors such as denial, stigmatization and discrimination, inadequate education and limited access to information and services, increased injecting drug use, men with multiple partners, commercial sex, population mobility, lack of adequate resources, lack of access to antiretroviral drugs, and lack of treatment,

*Mindful* that youth are especially vulnerable to the spread of the pandemic, and account for over 50 per cent of new infections,

*Alarmed* that despite all efforts, resources thus far devoted to combating the epidemic at both the national and regional levels are not commensurate with the exponential growth of the problem,

*Emphasizing* that the window of opportunity to prevent the wide-scale spread of HIV/AIDS will be closed if interventions are not made in the early stage of the pandemic,

*Aware* that early prevention efforts in some countries of the Asian and Pacific region have resulted in the reduction of HIV prevalence and the maintenance of a low level of HIV prevalence in a few countries,

*Recognizing* that political commitment at the highest level, as well as at all other levels of society, has proved to be essential for the success of HIV/AIDS intervention,

*Further noting* that a multisectoral response involving all concerned development ministries, and mobilizing a wide range of civil society actors, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and networks of people living with HIV/AIDS, has resulted in a number of effective actions for HIV prevention, reduction of vulnerability to HIV infection, provision of care and support and minimization of the impact of HIV/AIDS,

1. *Calls upon* concerned members and associate members in the region:

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<sup>1</sup> See paragraph 116 above.

(a) To secure a regional commitment to enhancing coordination, building and strengthening community, national, regional and international efforts, including cross-border collaboration, to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and address the social and economic impact of the epidemic;

(b) To secure political commitment at the highest and all levels, as well as leadership from development ministries and civil society, on the essential features of a successful response to HIV/AIDS;

(c) To encourage the electronic and print media to play an important role in disseminating information on HIV/AIDS, in order to create awareness among the general public;

(d) To mainstream HIV/AIDS into national economic and social development processes, and to increase government human and financial resources to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic at the country level;

(e) To promote policies that accord priority to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, reducing the negative impact on individuals, communities and society, supporting harm reduction strategies related to injecting drug use, eliminating the sexual exploitation of women, recognizing gender-specific impacts, improving access to affordable care and treatment and scaling up successful interventions, including public/private sector partnerships;

(f) To recognize the rights and aspirations of people living with HIV/AIDS and ensure their full participation in the planning and implementation of national responses to HIV/AIDS, as well as focus attention on reducing the discrimination and stigma related to AIDS;

(g) To promote and ensure the protection of the rights of all children, and strengthen and expand prevention and care programmes for youth, giving special attention to reducing the vulnerability of girls and young women;

(h) To be actively involved in the preparatory activities, and ensure representation at the highest political level at the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS and, with the availability of funds, include in their national delegations to the special session representatives of civil society, including young people's organizations, people living with HIV/AIDS or representatives of their associations and representatives of the private sector;

2. *Urges* governments of donor countries and agencies, regional and international financial institutions, international organizations, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector:

(a) To advocate for an expanded response to the epidemic, promote the use of best practices, and make every effort to build enabling environments and support effective interventions in the Asian and Pacific region to prevent the rapid growth of HIV/AIDS;

(b) To strengthen funding support to countries with significant risk factors in the Asian and Pacific region in their efforts to combat HIV/AIDS;

(c) To improve the mobilization of technical and financial resources for accelerating access to care and support, including strategies to significantly enhance the provision and affordability of drugs;

(d) To strengthen the global access to drugs programme, under the aegis of the United Nations system, and to seek support, as necessary, from other relevant international organizations, to enhance access to antiretroviral drugs at affordable prices in Asia and the Pacific;

(e) To support South-South and North-South cooperation among countries of the Asian and Pacific region as an integral response to building effective national AIDS programmes;

(f) To set up a mechanism for the mobilization of funds from private and public sources for the establishment of a global AIDS fund to finance, inter alia, prevention, care, treatment and support activities in Asia and the Pacific;

### 3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To strengthen the United Nations regional coordination mechanism, under the aegis of ESCAP, and together with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, promote accelerated action, including increased political engagement at the highest level, and provide full support to the United Nations Regional Coordination Meeting Thematic Working Group on HIV/AIDS and intergovernmental working groups on HIV/AIDS;

(b) To acknowledge the recommendation by the Secretary-General in his statement to the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations that new infections in young people between the ages of 15 to 24 years be reduced by 25 per cent by the year 2010 by supporting member governments in expanding and accelerating HIV/AIDS programmes among youth, particularly focusing on life-skills training and human resources development programmes to enhance the capacity of social service and health providers;

(c) To support a wide range of HIV/AIDS prevention programmes for all vulnerable groups, especially youth, and including injecting drug users, men with multiple partners, indigenous populations, and sexually exploited and sexually abused women and children;

(d) To encourage members and associate members to promote intercountry and cross-border action to mitigate the spread of HIV/AIDS among mobile and other vulnerable populations, including refugees, internally displaced people, migrant and transient workers, seafarers, truck drivers and students;

(e) To encourage the efforts of members and associate members to implement multisectoral approaches to address HIV/AIDS;

(f) To promote human resources development efforts in public education, and legal measures and psychosocial support mechanisms to eliminate stigma and discrimination;

(g) To develop new prevention strategies to reach those members of the general population who engage in casual sex, particularly young people who are sexually active;

(h) To continue to recognize HIV/AIDS as a major concern for the Commission, by reporting to it annually on the progress of efforts arising from the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To seek extrabudgetary resources, where appropriate, to provide technical assistance and other means of support for efforts to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS in countries and areas of the ESCAP region, particularly the developing and least developed among them;

(b) To bring the present resolution to the attention of the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, as a basis for the preparation of the draft declaration of commitment and other preparatory activities related to the special session, with a view to presenting issues of concern and mobilizing support for the Asian and Pacific region.

*5th meeting  
25 April 2001*

**57/2. Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000<sup>2</sup>**

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

*Noting with satisfaction* the successful organization of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, held in Kitakyushu, Japan, from 31 August to 5 September 2000, which adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 2001-2005, the Regional Message for the 10-year Review of the Implementation of the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment,

*Considering* that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, within the framework of which efforts are being made to achieve a higher quality of life for people in Asia and the Pacific, with a special focus on women and children,

*Recognizing* the need for an integrated, multisectoral approach through comprehensive policies and programmes and adequate resources to address the environment and development issues confronting policy planners and decision makers in Asia and the Pacific,

*Recognizing also* the strong interest of members and associate members in the regional and subregional cooperation activities that will be carried out in the follow-up to the Ministerial Conference,

1. *Welcomes with great satisfaction* the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, including the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 2001-2005, the Regional Message for the 10-year Review of the Implementation of the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, and calls for their early implementation;

2. *Requests* all members and associate members to participate actively in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference as follows:

(a) To ensure the formulation of programmes to implement the Regional Action Programme, 2001-2005 at the local, national and regional levels, acknowledging that the major role for the implementation of the Regional Action Programme lies with national governments, individually and collectively;

(b) To encourage their local governments to participate in the activities to implement the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, including the establishment of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network for a Clean Environment;

(c) To communicate information on the state of implementation of such programmes and activities to assist the ESCAP secretariat in conducting the necessary review and assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

3. *Also requests* all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned, multilateral financial institutions, donor countries and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, to contribute technical and financial resources as much as possible to implement the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

<sup>2</sup> See paragraph 192 above.

4. *Calls upon* the members of the Regional Coordination Meeting Thematic Working Group on Environment and Development to play an effective role in the implementation of the Regional Action Programme, 2001-2005, as well as its special implementation mechanism, the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, as coordinators of areas identified by the Regional Coordination Meeting;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To mobilize both human and financial resources as much as possible for the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

(b) To ensure effective coordination and joint pursuit of the activities of all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, in facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

(c) To encourage the active participation of all stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, research and academic societies, the private sector, local communities, and youth and women's groups, in different phases and aspects of the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

(d) To include in the agenda of the fourth session of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development, to be held in 2002, a midterm review and assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference and to report to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session, as well as to conduct yearly reviews at the Committee sessions, as necessary.

*5th meeting  
25 April 2001*

**57/3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly<sup>3</sup>**

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

*Recalling* its resolution 52/3 of 24 April 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, in which the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to provide support to national efforts, as required, for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in coordination with the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific,

*Cognizant* of General Assembly resolution 55/71 of 4 December 2000 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", namely the "Political declaration" and "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action",

*Recalling* Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women, peace and security, in which the Council reaffirmed the important role of women in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building,

*Noting* the recommendations of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, held from 26 to 29 October 1999, in pursuance of Commission resolution 50/4 of 13 April 1994 on regional preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995: Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, 1994, which contained key actions and initiatives to accelerate regional implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and which constituted the regional input to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

*Also noting* that civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, fully participated in the regional preparatory process for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly through parallel activities and direct involvement in contributing to the assessment of the implementation and development of regional strategies for further action,

*Recognizing with satisfaction* the outcome of the Expert Group Meeting to Strategize on the Regional Implementation of the Outcome Document of the Global Review of the Beijing Platform for Action, held from 3 November to 1 December 2000, which distilled the regional dimensions of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly; undertook regional prioritization of the persistent issues, concerns and emerging challenges; and identified the modalities, measures and strategies that were relevant to the Asian and Pacific region,

*Welcoming* the establishment of the Regional Coordination Meeting Thematic Working Group on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality,

*Stressing* the need to integrate a gender perspective into the coordinated and integrated follow-up and implementation of the outcome of major United Nations conferences and summits and their regional and global reviews,

<sup>3</sup> See paragraph 232 above.

1. *Reaffirms* the commitment and important role of the Commission in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and the recommendations of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, which provided a regional consensus to further implement the Beijing Platform for Action, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

2. *Calls upon* all members and associate members to ensure that the momentum derived from the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly is maintained for further implementation of activities to achieve full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the special session;

3. *Urges* all donor countries, the private sector, funding agencies and regional and international financial institutions to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed, landlocked and island developing economies, and the economies in transition, in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the special session;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to support members and associate members in implementing the recommendations of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the outcome of the Expert Group Meeting to Strategize on the Regional Implementation of the Outcome Document of the Global Review of the Beijing Platform for Action;

(b) To continue to promote coordinated and integrated follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, specifically to build up a database of all programmes and projects carried out in the Asian and Pacific region by agencies or organizations of the United Nations system, which would be updated regularly, and to facilitate the dissemination of those projects and programmes, as well as the evaluation of their impact on the empowerment of women through the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, as requested in General Assembly resolution 55/71 of 4 December 2000;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to assist members and associate members:

(a) To promote measures to alleviate the feminization of poverty by eliminating barriers to access economic opportunities, by enhancing capabilities and human capital, addressing issues related to the security and vulnerability of the poor and promoting the empowerment of women in poverty;

(b) To support women in the globalization process by conducting research studies to improve understanding of the precise impact of globalization on women and promoting measures to equip women to meet the challenges as well as address the vulnerabilities of women through appropriate social safety nets and social protection schemes;

(c) To promote women's rights as human rights as advocated in the Beijing Platform for Action and, in this regard, to assist members and associate members which are States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women to implement the Convention;

(d) To develop mechanisms and plans of action to combat violence against women and trafficking in women and children, namely, to implement follow-up activities to the Bangkok Accord and Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Women and the Asian Regional Initiative Against Trafficking in Women and Children;

(e) To promote policies and implement measures to address the gender dimensions of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in the region;

(f) To commit to peace and development through the implementation of the Hanoi Declaration and the Asian Women's Plan of Action for a Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development adopted at the Regional Conference on Asian Women for a Culture of Peace, held in Hanoi in December 2000, which highlighted the recognition that peace and security were vital for development;

(g) To enhance the role of women in decision-making with a view to promoting transformative leadership and governance that is participatory, transparent and accountable;

(h) To support women to meet the challenges of the new digital economy by enhancing connectivity, access and capacity-building for women in information and communication technologies;

(i) To follow up on Commission resolution 53/2 of 30 April 1997 on implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the advancement of women, in which the Commission had supported the holding every two years of a regional meeting of national machineries for the advancement of women in order to strengthen regional mechanisms, as recommended at the Regional Meeting on Strengthening National Machineries for the Advancement of Women, held in Seoul in September 1996;

(j) To promote gender mainstreaming and the integration of gender concerns into the public policy agenda through mechanisms and processes which include gender budgeting, gender auditing, sex-disaggregated data and monitoring and performance indicators;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*5th meeting  
25 April 2001*

**57/4. Regional cooperation in information and communication technologies for development<sup>4</sup>**

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

*Recognizing* that information and communication technologies can play an important role in promoting economic and social development in the Asian and Pacific region,

*Reiterating* that national governments bear the primary responsibility for the development of their countries, and that the international community should support sound national development policies and programmes, establish pro-competition policy and regulatory environments that attract private sector capital flows, and encourage private sector leadership in the field of information technology,

*Recognizing* the potential of regional cooperation to complement national efforts in maximizing benefits from the development and application of information and communication technologies,

*Mindful* of the growing digital divide and the need to create digital opportunities in developing countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked and island developing countries, and economies in transition, from the revolution in information technology,

*Bearing in mind* the recommendations, conclusions and decisions of the Regional Round Table on Information Technology and Development, held in New Delhi on 21 and 22 June 2000, which aimed at integrating the dimension of the Asian and Pacific region into the theme for the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2000,

*Bearing in mind also* the Ministerial Declaration on Development and International Cooperation in the Twenty-first Century: the Role of Information Technology in the Context of a Knowledge-based Global Economy, adopted by the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Council in 2000,

*Noting* Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/29 of 28 July 2000 on the information and communication technologies task force,

*Noting also* General Assembly resolution 55/28 of 20 December 2000 on developments in the field of information technology and telecommunications in the context of international security,

*Noting further* that several international initiatives are being taken to bridge the global digital divide and create digital opportunities, including the establishment of a Digital Opportunity Task Force (dot force) by the Summit of the Group of Eight Nations, held in Okinawa, Japan, in July 2000, as well as the Tokyo Declaration and Action Plan on "Asia-Pacific Renaissance through ICT in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" adopted at the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Asia-Pacific Summit on the Information Society, held in Tokyo in October-November 2000,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to assistance to members and associate members in the region in supporting their ongoing initiatives and strengthening regional cooperation in information and communication technologies in the following areas:

(i) Designing and implementing concrete measures for assisting members and associate members in the development of a pro-competition policy and regulatory framework on information and communication technologies, including online services and electronic commerce as well as capacity-building in connectivity and accessibility, taking into account the special needs of small and medium-sized enterprises, women and disadvantaged groups;

(ii) Enhancing information on, and the exchange of experiences in, information and communication technologies application and development, including the potential challenges and benefits of the information and communication technologies revolution to economic and social development, especially in poverty alleviation, human resources development and improved competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular through electronic commerce;

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<sup>4</sup> See paragraph 159 above.

- (iii) Identifying, developing and implementing appropriate market-led efforts to assist members and associate members in infrastructure development and capacity-building, as well as in creative applications of information and communication technologies for education, health, tourism, public safety, ageing, community development, empowerment of women, youth and disadvantaged groups, and income and employment generation;
  - (iv) Ensuring affordable and fair access of members and associate members to information by designing and implementing symmetrically financed digital connections;
  - (v) Designing and implementing projects to establish community access centres, with initiatives from local communities, to ensure that information dissemination programmes for poverty alleviation are well in place;
  - (vi) Developing mechanisms and facilitating opportunities for making available machine translation services to ensure that information is accessible by all members of society, regardless of their language capabilities;
  - (vii) Strengthening the work in official statistical information networking and sharing and exchanging official statistics;
  - (viii) Monitoring various regional initiatives and progress towards the realization of the digital opportunity, helping members and associate members to identify the challenges and issues in terms of their readiness for the digital era, and providing them with the necessary guidance and assistance in this regard;
  - (ix) Compiling and disseminating an inventory of online services and electronic commerce best practices and lessons learned,
- to enable members and associate members to make more informed choices in developing their information and communication technologies strategies;
  - (x) Designing and implementing concrete projects to promote regional complementarities in the development and application of online services and electronic commerce through the promotion of trade in hardware, services and software, exchange of specialists and professionals and the networking of governmental, non-governmental and private sector organizations;
  - (xi) Promoting the sharing of experiences in the development of frequently used software, such as office applications, using the open-source software development concept, so that it can be widely disseminated and used at low cost;
  - (xii) Providing assistance to members and associate members for the creation of "online communities", establishing a linkage with their national information infrastructure and conducting workshops for the sharing of experiences of this online communities experiment in the region;
  - (xiii) Sensitizing members and associate members and promoting awareness among them of the need to create and establish national traditional technologies and knowledge databases and to create a regional traditional knowledge warehouse;
- (b) To serve as the focal point for high-level regional coordination through arranging regional digital economy forums;
  - (c) To seek extrabudgetary resources, as well as to explore new and creative initiatives for mobilizing financial and equipment support, including from the private sector as the primary agent for information and communication technologies research, development and diffusion;



(d) To strengthen and harness the multidisciplinary potential of the secretariat to ensure full support for the effective implementation of the present resolution, and to facilitate effective coordination with the United Nations information and communication technologies task force;

(e) To initiate the establishment of strategic alliances at the regional level to include relevant United Nations bodies, regional organizations, such as the Asian Development Bank, the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity and the Asian Institute of Technology, and private sector organizations and funding agencies, to promote information and communication technologies in the region in a coordinated and synergistic manner;

(f) To prepare a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session in 2003;

2. *Calls upon* all concerned donor countries and funding agencies, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to provide support for the implementation of the resolution;

3. *Urges* all members and associate members to fully cooperate with, and provide substantive and other support to, ESCAP in the implementation of the resolution;

4. *Also urges* regional organizations, such as the Asian Development Bank and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, and the private sector, to support and participate effectively in the implementation of the resolution.

*5th meeting  
25 April 2001*

**57/5. Integration of Asian and Pacific developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system<sup>5</sup>**

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

*Recalling* the discussion on the theme topic of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission, "Development through globalization and partnership in the twenty-first century: an Asia-Pacific perspective for integrating developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis",

*Recalling also* the initiative of the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as Chairperson of its fifty-sixth session, to hold the Meeting of Eminent Persons ("Friends of the Chair") on the Integration of Asian Developing Countries into the International Trading System, in Tehran on 10 and 11 March 2001,

*Noting with interest* the report of the Meeting,

*Expressing* its appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Meeting,

*Considering* that globalization is an evolving process accelerated by technological developments and liberalization in trade and investment regimes,

*Recognizing* that globalization presents opportunities, challenges and risks and that there is a need to manage globalization so as to ensure the full participation of all countries and the universal enjoyment of its benefits, thereby minimizing its associated risks, including the possible continuing exclusion and marginalization of developing countries,

*Stressing* the importance of creating among all countries a sense of ownership and partnership in shaping the future of the international trading system, through dialogue,

*Acknowledging* the desirability of integrating developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system in order to ensure human-centred development,

*Mindful* of the contribution of regional and subregional organizations in preparing for more effective integration of developing countries into the international trading system,

1. *Reaffirms* the call for a fair, transparent and rule-based international trading system;

2. *Underlines* the importance of forging partnerships and alliances between all development actors, in particular between the private and public sectors, in increasing the benefits of globalization and liberalization and managing their risks;

3. *Notes* that facilitating the integration of developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system is an important area of its work;

4. *Notes further with appreciation* the memorandum of understanding between the World Trade Organization and ESCAP establishing a joint training programme;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to further assist developing countries and economies in transition in their attempts at national capacity-building for the negotiation and implementation of multilateral trade agreements by:

<sup>5</sup> See paragraph 155 above.

(a) Promoting policy advocacy and sharing country experiences so as to enhance understanding of the World Trade Organization issues that are of concern to developing countries and economies in transition;

(b) Providing advisory services to developing countries and economies in transition on trade policy reviews;

(c) Providing a comprehensive training programme, under the framework of the World Trade Organization/ESCAP joint programme of training, to enhance the negotiating capacity of government officials and to promote greater understanding of the World Trade Organization agreements;

(d) Providing specialized training, in collaboration with the World Trade Organization and other international organizations, and ad hoc advisory services to facilitate the accession of developing countries and economies in transition to the World Trade Organization.

*5th meeting  
25 April 2001*

**57/6. Implementation of the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme, Strategies and Implementation Modalities for the Asian and Pacific Region, 2001-2005 in support of the Bali Declaration on Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Energy and Sustainable Development<sup>6</sup>**

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

*Recalling* the decision made at its fifty-sixth session to hold a high-level regional meeting on energy for sustainable development and the need to move towards sustainable patterns of production, distribution and use of energy, as stressed in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session held in 1997, and the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/60 of 30 July 1999 on preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

*Recalling further* Commission resolution 56/4 of 7 June 2000 on the promotion of a sustainable energy future for small island states,

*Recalling* the mission statement and programme areas as contained in the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 2001-2005 adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, held in Kitakyushu, Japan, from 31 August to 5 September 2000,

<sup>6</sup> See paragraph 202 above.

*Convinced* that energy is a crucial input to economic and social development, and that energy development and use in all its social, economic and environmental dimensions will also contribute to poverty alleviation,

*Acknowledging* that an increase in demand for energy is inescapable in view of the high economic growth prospects in the countries of the Asian and Pacific region, but that the increase has to be met by a choice of fuels and technologies which would keep the negative environmental impact to the minimum possible level,

*Acknowledging further* the need to enhance the capacity of concerned stakeholders in developing sustainable energy development strategies under which energy services can be expanded and improved with a minimum compromise on environmental quality,

*Noting with satisfaction* the successful outcome of the High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development held in Bali, Indonesia, from 21 to 24 November 2000, which adopted the Bali Declaration on Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Energy and Sustainable Development, and the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme, Strategies and Implementation Modalities for the Asian and Pacific Region, 2001-2005 (hereinafter referred to as the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme),

*Noting* that the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme identified several areas for action, as follows:

(a) Developing policies to promote energy utilization for poverty alleviation by ensuring energy availability at affordable prices;

(b) Strengthening planning capacity on sustainable energy development by establishing clear linkages to other sectors;

(c) Promoting the implementation of a supply-side and demand-side energy efficiency programme in the region;

(d) Promoting the application of renewable and clean energy technologies in the region;

(e) Promoting and assisting a dedicated global project to create 100 per cent renewable energy in the small island developing states of the region;

(f) Mobilizing financial resources from traditional sources and the private sector,

*Noting further* that the Bali Declaration and the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme stress that international cooperation is necessary to support regional efforts in enhancing national capacity, mobilizing national resources and facilitating technology transfer,

1. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the findings, conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development, including the Bali Declaration on Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Energy and Sustainable Development, and the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme, Strategies and Implementation Modalities for the Asian and Pacific Region, 2001-2005 adopted by the Meeting;

2. *Calls upon* all members and associate members who made commitments expressed in the Bali Declaration to fulfil those commitments, to undertake appropriate measures at the national level and to actively pursue the implementation of the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme;

3. *Further calls upon* donor governments and agencies, regional and international financial institutions, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to assist developing countries in enhancing their national capacity, mobilizing resources and facilitating technology transfer as mutually agreed;

4. *Notes in particular* the call to shift from agenda to action as recommended by the High-level Regional Meeting;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in order to implement the Bali Declaration:

(a) To assist members and associate members in mobilizing human, financial and technical resources for the implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Regional Meeting, including the Bali Declaration and the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme;

(b) To undertake a comprehensive regional programme to assist countries of the region, particularly the developing countries, in the formulation of effective strategies on the efficient use of energy and the application of renewable and clean energy technologies;

(c) To promote effective coordination of the activities of all relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and other sections of civil society, in facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Bali Declaration and the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme;

(d) To follow closely the outcome of the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and undertake appropriate follow-up action at the regional level in support of the Bali Declaration;

(e) To include in the agenda of the fifth session of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development, to be held in 2003, a midterm review and assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development, the Bali Declaration and the Sustainable Energy Development Action Programme, and to report on this review to the Commission at its sixtieth session in 2004.

*5th meeting  
25 April 2001*

*Annex I*

**PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2002-2003**

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## **PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2002-2003**

### **SECTION 17**

#### **Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific**

##### **Programme overview**

The programme of work under this section has been elaborated within the framework of programme 15 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, which identifies three major themes: (a) the promotion of regional economic cooperation; (b) the alleviation of poverty in rural and urban areas; and (c) the protection of environment and improvement in natural resources management, as well as focus on the development of infrastructure and information systems. It will be implemented by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

The overall objective of the programme is to promote the economic and social development of members and associate members in Asia and the Pacific. Specifically, it would assist them to respond more effectively and efficiently to the rapidly changing situation in the world and thus contribute to sustained economic growth and sustainable and equitable development in the region. The programme will reinforce national capacities to take advantage of the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization, liberalization and IT.

In pursuit of the objectives, the major themes and the focus areas identified in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, the programme for the biennium 2002-2003 embodies the ESCAP vision towards 2005 in seven interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, gearing its activities towards the alleviation of poverty; the reinforcement of the weakening positions of developing countries arising from the process of globalization; and the detection and tackling of emerging economic and social problems and issues in the region. In doing so, it emphasizes the use of IT.

The programme will emphasize the environmental implications of socio-economic development, identify emerging problems and issues associated with it, and formulate policy recommendations for consideration and implementation by member countries for sustainable economic and social growth in the region. This will be achieved taking into consideration the decisions and recommendations arising from the global conferences and mandates, especially the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States and the related follow-up action required of the regional commissions by the General Assembly. Research and analysis of emerging economic and social problems, gender issues and poverty characteristics will be undertaken in cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and other international organizations, and through IT applications.

The programme will also closely coordinate and take action at the regional level in pursuance of the outcomes of the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Bangkok in 2000, and the Fourth World Trade Organization Conference, scheduled for 2001, to promote the development of trade and other trade-related issues, such as investment, industry, technology, and transport services. Particular attention will be given to the needs of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries as well as economies in transition, to support their national efforts in mainstreaming into a globalized world.

Mindful of the fact that the Asian and Pacific region has two thirds of the world's population living under the absolute poverty level and of the imperative of integrating environmental considerations into economic and social development, the programme will highlight a stronger poverty alleviation thrust, particularly in the areas of social development, population and rural and urban development, and environmental and natural resources management. In these areas, the programme will promote vigorously the replication of best practices in poverty alleviation in the region; the empowerment of the poor, women, youth, disabled persons and older persons; and the wider participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector in negotiations and policy formulations. It will coordinate closely with the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, particularly in the implementation of activities related to financing for development, environment, water and energy resources, and gender-mainstreaming.

The advent and acceptance of globalization have placed the issue of infrastructure development as an interregional priority. The programme will aim to further promote the development of the land transport connections throughout all the countries in Asia, including the Korean peninsula and the Tumen River areas, and between the rest of Asia and Europe. Interregional cooperation related to transport will be pursued in close cooperation with the other regional commissions, particularly the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

To further strengthen inter-agency collaboration, ESCAP will play a proactive role in the Regional Coordination Meeting and its 10 thematic working groups, which are given issue-oriented and time-bound tasks for the formulation and implementation of joint programmes and activities. The programme will continue to promote inter-subregional cooperation through the annual meetings of heads of subregional organizations and ESCAP. Similarly, ESCAP will coordinate closely with ECE for the implementation of SPECA.

The programme will be complemented by the work of three regional institutions subsidiary to ESCAP, which specialize in the fields of technology transfer, training of official statisticians, and agricultural research and human resources development.

For the biennium 2002-2003, the programme will also establish procedures for the systematic evaluation of the programme of work and extrabudgetary projects, aimed at strengthening the linkage of planning, monitoring and evaluation, at both the programme and project levels. In this connection, in-depth evaluation of selected subprogrammes, including their gender-mainstreaming aspect, will be conducted.

The Commission, at its fifty-eighth session in 2002, will undertake an in-depth review of its conference structure, including the thematic priorities and subsidiary structure, as part of its continuing efforts to ensure the relevance of the programme to member countries in the region. The outcome of this review will, therefore, impact significantly on the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003.

## **Subprogramme 1. Regional economic cooperation**

### **Introduction**

The subprogramme will be implemented by the International Trade and Industry Division.

The main objective of the subprogramme is to support economic cooperation, which has a vital role to play in reducing economic asymmetries, alleviating poverty and in assisting developing countries, especially least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in their efforts to become effectively integrated into the regional and global economies. Within the strategy identified for achieving the subprogramme objective in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, the focus for the biennium 2002-2003 will be on building and strengthening national capacity and the human resource base to enable developing countries to benefit from new trade and investment opportunities, as well as developments in IT; promoting industrial restructuring and technological capability-building in developing countries to foster economic growth and poverty alleviation; promoting trade efficiency and electronic commerce (e-commerce); and strengthening institutional and policy support and the networking of organizations for promoting small and medium-sized enterprises, with special attention to gender-mainstreaming.

The subprogramme will be implemented through the organization of intergovernmental meetings at the regional level; the dissemination of data and information; the undertaking of research and analytical studies; the organization of expert group meetings, workshops, seminars and training programmes addressing critical issues; and the promotion of economic cooperation, including inter-subregional cooperation, with special attention to the needs of least developed countries, island developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The work of the subprogramme will be carried out through close consultation and collaboration, particularly with UNCTAD, UNIDO, WTO, ITC, ADB and subregional organizations in the region to ensure harmonization and complementarity in the formulation and implementation of technical assistance projects to assist developing countries in the region, with particular attention to least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition.

### **Objective for the biennium, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement**

In pursuing the objective set out in the table below, this subprogramme aims to benefit government officials and representatives of the private and public sectors whose work relates to trade and investment, industry and technology or enterprise development in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition.

More specifically, the beneficiaries would be government policy and decision makers; trade and industry associations; private sector entrepreneurs, particularly those in small and medium-sized enterprises; chambers of commerce, investment promotion bodies; financial organizations, non-governmental organizations; the academic community; and trade service providers.

The achievement of the expected accomplishments may be influenced by significant external factors, such as the political will of member governments to participate actively in multilateral negotiations and to implement policies and programmes for the promotion of trade, investment and industrial development and restructuring; the availability of extrabudgetary funding; and the availability of sufficient IT infrastructure for networking and IT training courses. Major changes that would contribute positively to the achievement of the subprogramme objective include an increased concern of the international community to integrate least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as economies in transition, into global economies; greater cooperation with UNCTAD, UNIDO, WTO, ITC, ADB and subregional organizations in Asia and the Pacific in the implementation of technical assistance activities; and the increased participation of the private sector and women.

For the biennium 2002-2003, the objective and corresponding expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement would be as follows:

**Objective:** To support economic cooperation, which has a vital role to play in reducing economic asymmetries, alleviating poverty and in assisting developing countries, especially least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in their efforts to become effectively integrated into the regional and global economies.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
(a) Strengthened ability of countries to conduct effective negotiations in the multilateral trading system and to promote subregional and regional cooperation in trade.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Level of interregional trade and investment flows;</li> <li>(ii) The number of countries participating in the Commission, Committee and intergovernmental meetings indicating that the work of ESCAP had contributed significantly to national capacity-building in the concerned fields;</li> <li>(iii) The number of cooperative activities carried out with UNCTAD, UNIDO, WTO, ITC, ADB and subregional organizations;</li> <li>(iv) Feedback from users of ESCAP studies and technical material showing that research findings had been of value to their work;</li> <li>(v) The number of participants indicating that meetings and training organized by ESCAP had made a significant contribution to their capacity-building.</li> </ul>
(b) Expanded access to policy options for strengthening industrial development and restructuring through private sector participation and women's involvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The number of countries participating in legislative and intergovernmental meetings indicating that the work of ESCAP had contributed significantly by providing policy options related to the concerned fields;</li> <li>(ii) The number of users of ESCAP studies and technical material indicating on feedback forms that research findings had been of value to their work;</li> <li>(iii) The number of participants indicating that meetings and training organized by ESCAP had made a significant contribution to their capacity;</li> <li>(iv) The number of activities of ESCAP in which the private sector had participated;</li> <li>(v) The number of female participants in technical assistance activities of ESCAP.</li> </ul>
(c) Increased capacity and institutional infrastructure of countries, particularly SMEs in those countries, to apply IT and to use quality and environmentally sound technologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The number of countries participating in legislative and intergovernmental meetings indicating that the work of ESCAP had contributed significantly to national capacity-building in the concerned fields;</li> <li>(ii) The number of users of ESCAP studies indicating on feedback forms that research findings had been of value to their work;</li> <li>(iii) The number of participants indicating that meetings and training organized by ESCAP had made a significant contribution to their capacity;</li> </ul>



<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
	<p>(iv) The number of activities organized by institutions promoting best practices in the application of environmentally sound technologies by SMEs with assistance from ESCAP;</p> <p>(v) The number of joint activities with APCTT on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.</p>
(d) Enhanced regional cooperation and networking to promote exports and facilitate trade efficiency and e-commerce.	<p>(i) The number of countries participating in the Commission, Committee and intergovernmental meetings indicating that the work of ESCAP had contributed significantly to national capacity-building in the concerned fields;</p> <p>(ii) The number of users of ESCAP studies and technical material indicating on feedback forms that research findings had been of value to their work;</p> <p>(iii) The number of national training programmes on trade promotion formulated and implemented as follow-up to the work of ESCAP;</p> <p>(iv) Increased activities by trade promotion organizations in the region to promote the use of e-commerce among SMEs.</p>

## Outputs

### I. SERVICING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND EXPERT BODIES (RB)

#### 1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

##### (a) Commission:

1-1-101 Plenary and committees (2002) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

1-1-102 Plenary and committees (2003) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

##### (b) Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

1-1-103 Plenary (2003) (6 meetings) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

##### (c) Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

1-1-104 Plenary (2002) (6 meetings) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

1-1-105 Plenary (2003) (6 meetings) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

##### (d) Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement:

1-1-106 Plenary (2002) (6 meetings) (Expected accomplishment (a))

1-1-107 Plenary (2003) (6 meetings) (Expected accomplishment (a))

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Commission:

- 1-1-201 Report on issues relating to trade and industry (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))
- 1-1-202 Report of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation (2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))
- 1-1-203 Report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation (2002) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

(b) Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

- 1-1-204 Report on issues relating to trade, investment, industry and technology (2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))
- 1-1-205 Report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation (2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

(c) Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

- 1-1-206 Report on issues relating to trade, investment, industry and technology (2002, 2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

(d) Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement:

- 1-1-207 Reports (2002, 2003) (Expected accomplishment (a))

(e) Consultative Meeting among the Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP:

- 1-1-208 Reports (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

3. *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):*

- 1-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on coherent policies and strategies for regional economic integration (2002) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 1-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on promoting resource-based export-oriented SMEs for poverty alleviation in Asia (2002) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 1-1-303 Ad hoc expert group on the emerging agenda for WTO trade liberalization and its implications for disadvantaged economies (2003) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 1-1-304 Ad hoc expert group on the use of IT to promote access by SMEs to environmentally sound technologies (2003) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 1-1-305 Ad hoc expert group on trade facilitation and e-commerce (2003) (Expected accomplishment (d))

## II. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES (RB/XB)

1. *Mandated recurrent publications:*

- 1-2-101 Industrial and Technological Development Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 1-2-102 TISNET Trade and Investment Information Bulletin (12 in 2002, 12 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 1-2-103 Directory of Trade and Investment-related Organizations of Developing Countries in Asia and the Pacific (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 1-2-104 Current Issues on Industry, Trade and Technology (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

3. *Mandated non-recurrent publications:*

- 1-2-301 Review of country experiences in accession to WTO: lessons learned (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 1-2-302 Best practices in investment promotion and implementation for selected economies in transition and least developed countries (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
- 1-2-303 Regional perspectives on major issues of concern to developing countries in the multilateral trading system (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 1-2-304 An integrated framework for the comprehensive development of the Greater Mekong Subregion (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 1-2-305 Strengthening capacities for industrial development and restructuring in specific sectors through trade and investment policy reforms (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 1-2-306 The promotion of the competitiveness of SMEs through business and technology incubators and science parks in the context of globalization (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (c))
- 1-2-307 Successful cases of the development and transfer of environmentally sound technology to SMEs for sustainable development (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 1-2-308 Best practices in the adoption of IT by rural micro-enterprises for poverty alleviation (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 1-2-309 Strengthening institutional infrastructure and the partnership of stakeholders for human resources development in IT (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))

4. *Discretionary non-recurrent publications:*

- 1-2-401 The implications of globalization, including information technologies, on industrial diversification and the improved competitiveness of manufacturing: problems and prospects in the twenty-first century (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 1-2-402 Promoting agro-based and other resource-based industries in developing countries for poverty alleviation and for the increased involvement of women in industry (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 1-2-403 Increasing the export competitiveness of commodity producers and exporters (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))

5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):*

- 1-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Trade Policy, Trade Promotion and Facilitation, Industry and Technology <<http://www.unescap.org/itid>> (monthly updating, 2002-2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

6. *Exhibitions:*

- 1-2-601 ASPAT 2002 (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

9. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

- 1-2-901 Greater Mekong Subregion business handbook (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 1-2-902 Traders' manual for Asia and the Pacific (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 1-2-903 Traders' manual for Asia and the Pacific (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 1-2-904 Technical information in response to requests from the public and private sectors and non-governmental organizations, and dissemination of information (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

### III. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION AND LIAISON (RB/XB)

- 1-3-001 Collaboration with United Nations bodies, and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development, UNCTAD, UNDP, FAO, the World Bank, UNIDO and ITC (7 in 2002, 7 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))
- 1-3-002 Collaboration with intergovernmental and international organizations, including APEC/PECC, ACU, ADB, ARC, ASEAN, ECO, Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Forum, SAARC, World Economic Forum and WTO, as well as non-governmental organizations (5 in 2002, 5 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))
- 1-3-003 Collaboration with regional commissions in the areas of trade, investment, industry and technology in developing interregional linkages and in promoting information exchange and cooperation (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))
- 1-3-004 Technical and substantive support to BIMST-EC and SPECA, including participation in the SPECA project working group on restructuring manufacturing industries with a view to creating internationally competitive enterprise (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 1-3-005 Technical and substantive support to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 1-3-006 Technical and managerial support to the Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 1-3-007 Technical and substantive support to the Technical Consultancy Development Programme for Asia and the Pacific (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 1-3-008 Technical and substantive support to the ESCAP Trade and Investment Information Network (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (d))

### IV. TECHNICAL COOPERATION (RB/XB)

#### 1. *Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):*

- 1-4-101 Advisory services on institutional capacity-building and policy formulation for the transfer of IT for improved competitiveness and trade efficiency (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 1-4-102 Advisory services on capacity-building and the adoption of environment and quality management by small and medium-sized enterprises (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 1-4-103 Advisory services on promoting industrial development and restructuring through trade and investment policy reforms (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 1-4-104 Advisory services on promoting foreign direct investment in disadvantaged groups of countries (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))

#### 2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):*

- 1-4-201 Regional seminar/national workshops on best practices in investment promotion and implementation for selected economies in transition and least developed countries (3 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (90 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 1-4-202 Training on investment project planning and the preparation and organization of an investment forum for countries in Indo-China (2 in 2002) (RB/XB) (120 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 1-4-203 Seminar on promoting intraregional and interregional cooperation in trade and investment (2002) (RB/XB) (25 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 1-4-204 Seminars on private sector development and corporate strategies in the Greater Mekong Subregion (3 in 2002, 4 in 2003) (RB/XB) (500 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))

- 1-4-205 Training workshops/seminars on WTO agreements and accession (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (80 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 1-4-206 Regional seminar on developing an integrated framework for the comprehensive development of the Greater Mekong Subregion (2002) (RB/XB) (80 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 1-4-207 Seminar/training on agro-based rural industrialization and IT for poverty alleviation and women's involvement in industry (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (50 participants) (Expected accomplishments (b), (c))
- 1-4-208 Regional and national workshops on promoting business technology incubation for the improved competitiveness of small and medium-sized industries (1 regional and 4 national workshops) (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (125 participants) (Expected accomplishments (b), (c))
- 1-4-209 Regional workshop on strengthening institutional infrastructure and the partnership of stakeholders for human resources development in IT (2003) (RB/XB) (12 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 1-4-210 Training course on negotiating and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and strengthening environmental management systems for small and medium-sized enterprises (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (50 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 1-4-211 Regional training seminar on trade promotion and transactions with the use of IT (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 1-4-212 Regional and national workshops on trade facilitation and e-commerce (3 in 2002, 3 in 2003) (RB/XB) (300 participants) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 1-4-213 National workshops on the promotion of exports of commodities, with a focus on gender mainstreaming (4 in 2002, 4 in 2003) (RB/XB) (200 participants) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 1-4-214 Promotion of intraregional trade through trade fairs and seminars, with a focus on gender mainstreaming (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (100 participants) (Expected accomplishment (d))

4. *Field projects (country, subregional, regional, interregional):*

- 1-4-401 Project on the capacity-building of enterprises in selected least developed countries and economies in transition to enhance their export competitiveness (including seminars, workshops and advisory services) (4 in 2002, 4 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))

## **Subprogramme 2. Development research and policy analysis**

### **Introduction**

The subprogramme will be implemented by the Development Research and Policy Analysis Division and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre.

The main objective of the subprogramme is to focus research and analysis on the determinants of and prospects for economic recovery and durable growth in the ESCAP region, especially on new challenges and opportunities for the economies in the ESCAP region arising from the globalization and liberalization processes, as well as developments in IT. The subprogramme will provide in-depth and comprehensive analysis of current economic developments and formulate policy recommendations to accelerate economic growth on a sustainable basis. It will promote exchange of information and experience on the economic problems and policies of member countries of ESCAP based on the analysis of the subprogramme in the following areas: emerging developments in macroeconomic policies and structural reform; the impact of globalization on the development process; new policy approaches and action in meeting the identified emerging needs of developing members and associate members in the region; institutional coordination in development policy formulation and implementation; improved monitoring and surveillance of international financial flows; quicker response to crises; the interactions between the international monetary, financial and trading systems as they relate to development; and interfaces between economic growth, poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

In pursuance of the main decisions of the Commission at the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions, the subprogramme will continue to monitor trends and provide an analysis of economic and financial developments in the region. It will bring matters of concern to the notice of member governments through its advisory services and publications, in particular the annual *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*, and *Development Papers*, and the biannual *Asia-Pacific Development Journal*. In addition, dialogue and exchange of experiences will be promoted on economic and financial monitoring and surveillance as well as facilitating a better understanding of the issues involved and formulating a common regional position on the elements of reform in the international financial architecture. In close consultation with international financial institutions and other relevant actors, emphasis will be placed on finding effective and durable solutions to the challenges arising from the interaction among the forces which drive globalization and their impact on economic and social development.

The activities of the subprogramme will aim at facilitating the integration and full participation of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the global and regional economies. Towards this end, the subprogramme will, in collaboration with other regional and international institutions, follow up on the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; provide substantive servicing to the meetings of the Special Bodies on Pacific Island Developing Countries and on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries; and continue to review, in a holistic manner, the needs of the countries concerned so as to enable them to benefit from the process of globalization and liberalization, as well as from developments in IT.

### **Objective for the biennium, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement**

In pursuing the objective set out in the table below, this subprogramme aims to benefit official delegations of members and associate members in the ESCAP region attending the sessions of the Commission and the relevant Committees and Special Bodies; officials of national planning agencies, ministries of economy or finance and of central banks who are directly involved in macroeconomic policy formulation and implementation; academic research institutions; chambers of commerce, national libraries and universities; and NGOs in the member countries of ESCAP.

The achievement of the expected accomplishments may be influenced by significant external factors, such as the lack of strong political and administrative commitment of governments to accelerate the process of economic cooperation in the ESCAP region; national developments that could adversely affect the capacity of countries to implement macroeconomic policies along the lines of those recommended; the availability of extrabudgetary sources to finance technical cooperation programmes; and unanticipated adverse external shocks. Among major changes that would contribute positively to the achievement of the subprogramme's objective are consensus on policy approaches related to current and emerging issues arising from globalization; increased concern of the international community for a more stable international financial system, poverty alleviation and sustainable development; and a greater thrust by the international community on assistance to the disadvantaged economies.

For the biennium 2002-2003, the objective and corresponding expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement would be as follows:

**Objective:** To focus research and analysis on the determinants and prospects of economic recovery and durable growth in the ESCAP region, especially on new challenges and opportunities for the economies in the ESCAP region arising from the globalization and liberalization processes, as well as developments in IT.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
(a) Enhanced understanding of the determinants of and prospects for economic recovery and durable growth in the ESCAP region.	(i) The number of countries indicating that documents issued for and deliberations in the Commission, the Committees and the Special Bodies contributed to the enhancement of their understanding; (ii) Adoption of new or revised resolutions and decisions by the Commission relating to macroeconomic issues and policies; (iii) The number of users of ESCAP publications and documents indicating, in feedback forms, that analysis and policy suggestions were of value to their work.
(b) Increased capacity of countries to deal with challenges and opportunities arising from the globalization and liberalization processes.	(i) The number of requests from governments for advisory services, training and technical assistance for capacity-building to deal with the implications of global developments; (ii) The number of users of ESCAP publications and documents indicating, in feedback forms, that analysis and policy suggestions were of value to their work; (iii) The number of citations in other publications and journals in the same areas.
(c) Enhanced awareness of the interface of the economic, social and environmental aspects of development and improved policies for poverty alleviation and sustainable development.	(i) The number of users of ESCAP publications and documents indicating, in feedback forms, that analysis and policy suggestions were of value to their work; (ii) The number of visits to the home page and the virtual conferences.
(d) Strengthened national capacity of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition of the region for effective articulation of their concerns in subregional and regional forums, including macroeconomic policy and economic reform aspects.	(i) The number of requests from governments of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition for policy advisory services, training and exchange of experience; (ii) Increased number of decisions and recommendations adopted at subregional and regional forums, addressing the current and emerging issues faced by least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

## Outputs

### I. SERVICING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND EXPERT BODIES (RB/XB)

#### 1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

##### (a) Commission:

- 2-1-101 Plenary and committees (2002) (RB) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 2-1-102 Plenary and committees (2003) (RB) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 2-1-103 Informal meetings on least developed countries, Pacific island developing countries and countries with economies in transition (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

##### (b) Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

- 2-1-104 Plenary (2003) (6 meetings) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

##### (c) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

- 2-1-105 Plenary (2003) (6 meetings) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (c))

##### (d) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries:

- 2-1-106 Plenary (2002) (4 meetings) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (d))

##### (e) Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries:

- 2-1-107 Plenary (2003) (4 meetings) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (d))

#### 2. Parliamentary documentation:

##### (a) Commission:

- 2-1-201 Reports on the current economic situation and policy issues (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 2-1-202 Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries (2002) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
- 2-1-203 Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))

##### (b) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries:

- 2-1-204 Reports on issues relating to Pacific island developing countries (2 in 2002) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (d))

##### (c) Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries:

- 2-1-205 Reports on issues relating to least developed and landlocked developing countries (2 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (d))

#### 3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):

- 2-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on development issues and policies (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (b))



- 2-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on the long-term implications of modes of development of the financial system for economic development (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 2-1-303 Expert group on integration of demographic dynamics into development policy (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))

## II. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES (RB/XB)

### 1. *Mandated recurrent publications:*

- 2-2-101 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
- 2-2-102 Asia-Pacific Development Journal (biannual) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
- 2-2-103 Development Papers (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))

### 3. *Mandated non-recurrent publications:*

- 2-2-301 Macroeconomic reforms in least developed countries (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (d))
- 2-2-302 Financial monitoring and surveillance in the ESCAP region (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 2-2-303 Capacity-building in macroeconomic management of countries with economies in transition for managing globalization (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 2-2-304 Cost-effective social security and safety net models (electronic form) (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))

### 4. *Discretionary non-recurrent publications:*

- 2-2-401 Strategies for the graduation of microfinance beneficiaries to more formal finance (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 2-2-402 Globalization and sustainable development (electronic form) (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))

### 5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):*

- 2-2-501 Virtual conference on the interface of the economic and social aspects of development and improved policies for poverty alleviation (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 2-2-502 Virtual conference on the interface of the economic and environmental aspects of development and improved policies for sustainable development (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 2-2-503 ESCAP Homepage on Development Research and Policy Analysis on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/drrpad>> (quarterly updating, 2002-2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

### 7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

- 2-2-701 Pamphlets on webpage-based training programmes on accessing the virtual conferences on the interface of the economic, social and environmental aspects of development and improved policies for poverty alleviation and sustainable development (2 in 2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))

8. *Special events:*

- 2-2-801 Launching of the annual Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific in selected member countries of ESCAP and United Nations organizations (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))

**III. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION AND LIAISON (RB/XB)**

- 2-3-001 Collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ECE, UNCTAD, World Bank, IMF and ADB on development issues and policies, including those relating to globalization (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
- 2-3-002 Collaboration and liaison with inter-agency committees, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the region dealing with economic development issues, strategies and policies (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 2-3-003 Collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the work of the Committee on Development Policy and Project LINK (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
- 2-3-004 Collaboration with United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, including UNDP, UNIFEM, ILO, UNESCO, FAO, World Bank and ADB on poverty and social issues, strategies and policies (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 2-3-005 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental institutions, including the Commission on Sustainable Development, UNEP, SACEP, SPREP and the Mekong River Commission on issues concerned with the integration of environmental considerations into economic decision-making (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 2-3-006 Collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNCTAD on follow-up to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in 2001 (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (d))
- 2-3-007 Collaboration with the Forum Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community on matters relating to Pacific island developing countries (5 in 2002, 5 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (d))
- 2-3-008 Participation in the activities of the ESCAP-ECE Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), including participation by secretariat officials in the SPECA Project Working Group on the International Economic Conference on Tajikistan in the Regional Context of Central Asia (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 2-3-009 Collaboration with the World Bank, IMF and ADB on matters related to least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))

**IV. TECHNICAL COOPERATION (RB/XB)**

*1. Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):*

- 2-4-101 Advisory services on macroeconomic policy and related institution-building in least developed countries and landlocked countries (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 2-4-102 Advisory services on macroeconomic policy and related institution-building in countries with economies in transition (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 2-4-103 Advisory services on macroeconomic policy and related institution-building in island developing states (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (d))

- 2-4-104 Advisory services on the promotion of sustainable development in island developing states (2 in 2002, 3 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):*
- 2-4-201 Regional seminar on a new economy in the new millennium (2002) (RB/XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishments (b), (d))
- 2-4-202 Regional seminar on the achievements of the economies in transition after 10 years of transition (2002) (RB/XB) (25 participants) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 2-4-203 Regional seminar on experiences with financial monitoring and surveillance in countries of the ESCAP region (2002) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 2-4-204 Regional seminar on strategies for the graduation of microfinance beneficiaries to more formal finance (2003) (RB/XB) (25 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 2-4-205 Training workshops on the use of the virtual conference modality in least developed and landlocked developing countries for exchange of experience on good practices and policies for enhancing the benefits from globalization (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (40 participants) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 2-4-206 Seminars/workshops/training courses on policy reforms in least developed, landlocked and island countries for dealing with the implications of globalization (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (50 participants) (Expected accomplishment (d))

### **Subprogramme 3. Social development**

#### **Introduction**

The subprogramme will be implemented by the Social Development Division.

The main objective of the subprogramme is to accelerate the attainment by member countries of the goals and targets of poverty alleviation, employment expansion and social integration (in pursuance of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and its review outcome and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region), and to support the regional implementation of global and regional plans of action related to women, youth, human resources development, disabled persons and older persons, and to promote effective partnerships with both governments and civil society.

The above goal will be achieved through three strategies: (a) strengthening social development policies and programmes to address emerging socio-economic issues and to promote the integration of disadvantaged groups; (b) strengthening intersectoral policies and programmes for human resources development, focusing on education and training, health promotion and livelihood creation; and (c) advancing the status of women and promoting gender equality through the mainstreaming of gender concerns into the development process.

In terms of new priorities for the biennium, the subprogramme will emphasize a stronger poverty alleviation thrust in all subprogramme activities, particularly through the promotion of best practices; and mitigate and tackle new and emerging social problems and provide governments with support in addressing those issues, which include globalization and its impact on vulnerable groups, social protection for the poor, HIV/AIDS and drug abuse among youth, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and youth, trafficking in women and children, and violence against women.

An important component of the subprogramme will be to provide regional support to the implementation of global mandates, including the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond; the United Nations Proclamation on Ageing; and the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The subprogramme will also be guided by the recommendations of the General Assembly outcome documents entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond" and "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century." In terms of regional mandates, the subprogramme will aim to promote further implementation of the following: the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region; the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific; the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons; and the Macao Declaration and Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific.

In implementing activities, special attention will be given to the needs of least developed and landlocked countries, and countries with economies in transition, as well as those countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion, in accordance with Commission resolution 56/1 of 7 June 2000 on the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009. In addition, the subprogramme will coordinate the efforts of ESCAP to ensure that the gender perspective is mainstreamed into all areas of work.

#### **Objective for the biennium, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement**

In pursuing the objective set out in the table below, this subprogramme aims to benefit government officials who have an important impact on the state of social development, particularly those focused on social policies and plans and integration of disadvantaged groups, human resources development and women in development; government officials from national planning and development bodies, and line ministries dealing with social-related concerns, including health, education, employment, social welfare services and rural development; non-governmental officials dealing with social development issues, including those focused on empowering the poor, women, youth, disabled persons and older persons; parliamentarians who deal with social development concerns; researchers; and the general population, with particular attention to women, youth, disabled persons and older persons.

The achievement of the expected accomplishments may be influenced by significant external factors, such as the political will and priority placed by member governments and key stakeholders on social development activities; the availability of extrabudgetary resources to finance technical cooperation programmes; the capacity of the national counterparts who will be participating in the programme activities; the domestic political situation in participating countries; and the level of cooperation received from cooperating organizations, including other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and international, regional, subregional and national organizations.

For the biennium 2002-2003, the objective and corresponding expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement would be as follows:

**Objective:** To accelerate attainment by member countries of the goals and targets of poverty alleviation, employment expansion and social integration (in pursuance of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development), including the implementation of global and regional plans of action related to women, youth, human resources development, disabled persons and older persons, and to promote effective partnerships with both governments and civil society.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
(a) Strengthened national capability to plan, implement and monitor social policies and programmes to meet new challenges and emerging social issues, particularly in the light of globalization processes, and strengthened multisectoral partnerships for the implementation of the goals and targets relating to the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995) and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (Manila, 1994 and 1997), focusing on poverty eradication, employment expansion, social integration and the empowerment of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Feedback on social policy and programme prescriptions received from participants in the annual Commission sessions, and the Sixth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development;</li> <li>(ii) The number of users of ESCAP studies and technical materials indicating, in feedback forms, that research findings were of value to their work;</li> <li>(iii) Feedback received from the participants in the policy dialogues, intercountry exchange programmes and seminars indicating that these have contributed to meeting new challenges and emerging social issues;</li> <li>(iv) Demand for publications, technical studies and other materials on issues related to social policies, ageing and disability, and other social problems and concerns;</li> <li>(v) Adoption, incorporation and adaptation of recommendations emanating from events on social development organized by ESCAP;</li> <li>(vi) Results of the pilot and demonstration project evaluation reports noting improved services/programmes;</li> <li>(vii) The number of cooperative arrangements and joint programmes developed between ESCAP and other United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations as well as NGOs.</li> </ul>
(b) Strengthened national capacity to plan and deliver intersectoral HRD policies and programmes in the areas of education and training, health promotion and livelihood creation, focusing on the needs of the poor and other key target groups, including youth, in line with the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The number of HRD recommendations adopted by governments at intergovernmental meetings;</li> <li>(ii) Progress towards strengthening integrated HRD policies as a strategy for poverty alleviation in national plans and programmes;</li> <li>(iii) The number of cooperative arrangements and joint HRD programmes developed between ESCAP and other United Nations bodies and intergovernmental bodies, and centres of excellence;</li> </ul>

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(iv) The number of users of ESCAP HRD studies and technical materials indicating, in feedback forms, that research findings were of value to their work;</li> <li>(v) The incorporation of HRD research recommendations in new policies and programme at the national level;</li> <li>(vi) Results of the pilot project evaluation reports noting improved services/projects;</li> <li>(vii) The number of positive evaluations by participants indicating the value and relevance of the ESCAP HRD courses;</li> <li>(viii) The number of visits to the ESCAP HRD web site and ESCAP-UNDCP web site and number of other web sites hyperlinking to those web sites;</li> <li>(ix) The number of citations and HRD articles reprinted in other publications.</li> </ul>
(c) Advancement of the status of women in the region and promotion of gender equality through mainstreaming gender in the development process in pursuance of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its regional and global review outcome.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The number of recommendations and policies and strategies adopted by countries;</li> <li>(ii) The number of replications of modalities and features of identified best practices adopted by countries;</li> <li>(iii) Positive assessment of studies and research undertaken and satisfactory evaluation of workshops and seminars by participants;</li> <li>(iv) The number of countries taking action on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women with regard to its ratification, removal of reservations, ratification of its optional protocol, and its reporting and implementation;</li> <li>(v) The number of measures put in place for an integrated approach towards combating violence against women;</li> <li>(vi) The number of mechanisms, plans and actions and bilateral and multilateral agreements adopted by countries to combat sexual exploitation and trafficking in women and children;</li> <li>(vii) The number of national plans of action for the advancement of women adopted and implemented by countries;</li> <li>(viii) Progress in the incorporation of gender concerns in various sectors of the economy;</li> <li>(ix) The number of visits to the ESCAP Homepage on Women in Development;</li> <li>(x) The number of users of ESCAP information publications and the number of information networking linkages developed.</li> </ul>

## Outputs

### I. SERVICING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND EXPERT BODIES (RB/XB)

#### 1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

##### (a) Commission:

3-1-101 Plenary and committees (2002) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

3-1-102 Plenary and committees (2003) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

##### (b) Sixth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development:

3-1-103 Plenary (2003) (10 meetings) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

##### (c) High-level Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002:

3-1-104 Plenary (2002) (10 meetings) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

#### 2. Parliamentary documentation:

##### (a) Commission:

3-1-201 Reports on issues related to social development (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

3-1-202 Report on sustainable social development in a period of rapid globalization: challenges, opportunities and policy options (2002) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

##### (b) Sixth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development:

3-1-203 Reports on issues relating to the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (2 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

3-1-204 Report on regional follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

##### (c) High-level Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002:

3-1-205 Reports on issues relating to the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2 in 2002) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

#### 3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):

3-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on regional implementation of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

3-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on regional follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

3-1-303 Ad hoc expert group on integrated policies and programmes on sexual and reproductive health and prevention of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse among youth (2002) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (b))

3-1-304 Ad hoc expert group on regional implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly relating to women in 2000 (2002) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (c))

## II. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES (RB/XB)

### 1. *Mandated recurrent publications:*

- 3-2-101 The ESCAP Social Action Update (3 in 2002, 3 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

### 3. *Mandated non-recurrent publications:*

- 3-2-301 Successful practices and emerging issues in the implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific (2002) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-2-302 Best regional approaches to integrated implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and its further initiatives (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-2-303 Strengthening policies and programmes for the empowerment and integration of the poor and disadvantaged groups (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-2-304 Focus on ability, celebrate diversity: highlights of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-2-305 Promoting HRD of youth in the Greater Mekong Subregion and South Asia: integrated policies and programmes for sexual and reproductive health, and prevention of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse (2002) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-2-306 Youth health in the Greater Mekong Subregion and in South Asia: the voice of youth on sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and substance abuse (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-2-307 Enhancing HRD of youth: income-generation activities that work (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-2-308 Guidelines and indicators for monitoring implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (2002) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-2-309 The status of women in Asia and the Pacific (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-2-310 Monograph series on emerging issues on women in development in Asia and the Pacific (2002, 2003) (XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-2-311 Sustainable social development in a period of rapid globalization: challenges, opportunities and policy options (2002) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

### 5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):*

- 3-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Social Policy and Integration of Disadvantaged Groups on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/spidgs>> (quarterly updating, 2002-2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-2-502 ESCAP Homepage on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/decade>> (quarterly updating, 2002-2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-2-503 ESCAP Homepage on Human Resources Development on the World Wide Web <<http://www.escap-hrd.org>> (quarterly updating, 2002-2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-2-504 ESCAP HRD-UNDCP Homepage on Youth and Drugs (under construction) (quarterly updating, 2002-2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (b))



- 3-2-505 ESCAP Homepage on Women in Development on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/wid>> (quarterly updating, 2002-2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-2-506 Videotapes on the ESCAP HRD Award-winners (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
6. *Exhibits:*
- 3-2-601 Exhibits on the ESCAP HRD Award-winners (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-2-602 Exhibits on women in development for International Women's Day (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*
- 3-2-701 Fact sheets on the regional implementation and follow-up of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-2-702 Information materials on emerging and critical social issues (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-2-703 Fact sheets and information on issues relating to older persons, implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing in Asia and the Pacific and follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-2-704 Brochures and booklets on the ESCAP HRD Award (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-2-705 Booklets, fact sheets and information materials on key HRD issues and activities (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-2-706 Booklets, fact sheets and information materials on emerging women in development issues in Asia and the Pacific (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
8. *Special events:*
- 3-2-801 International Day of Disabled Persons (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-2-802 Regional campaign to promote the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-2-803 Presentation ceremony for the ESCAP HRD Award (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-2-804 International Youth Day (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-2-805 Regional "zero tolerance" campaign on violence against women (2002, 2003) (XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-2-806 International Women's Day, including panel discussion on selected emerging issues (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
9. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*
- 3-2-901 Maintenance and updating of the ESCAP database on a regional network of social development management information systems (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

- 3-2-902 Technical studies on emerging and critical social issues (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-2-903 Establishment and updating of the database on successful practices on strengthening policies and programmes for older persons (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-2-904 HRD training materials and information, education and communication materials on emerging HRD issues for youth, including ICT and life skills to prevent HIV/AIDS and substance abuse (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-2-905 Maintenance and updating of the ESCAP database on centres of excellence for HRD research and training (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-2-906 Maintenance and updating of the ESCAP-Uppsala University HRD database on sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in Asia (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-2-907 Establishment and updating of the ESCAP HRD database of organizations providing services for sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth in Asia (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-2-908 Establishment and updating of a database on best practices to combat the feminization of poverty (2002, 2003) (XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-2-909 Establishment and updating of a database on best practices to combat violence against women (2002, 2003) (XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-2-910 Inventory of successful interventions and strategies in combating sexual exploitation and trafficking in women and children (2002, 2003) (XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-2-911 Maintenance and updating of a database on programmes and projects on women in development carried out by United Nations agencies and organizations (2002) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (c))

### **III. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION AND LIAISON (RB/XB)**

- 3-3-001 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Commission on Social Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, SIAP, UNDCP, UNAIDS, ILO, UNESCO and other international organizations in implementing the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-3-002 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, research institutions and other entities in implementation of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-3-003 Collaboration with United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs on implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-3-004 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, research institutions and other entities on ageing-related issues and on implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Proclamation on Ageing, and follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-3-005 Collaboration with United Nations departments, bodies and specialized agencies, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNESCO, International Institute on Ageing (United Nations – Malta), and other international organizations on ageing-related issues and on implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the

- Pacific, the United Nations Proclamation on Ageing, and follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-3-006 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ASEAN, ECO, SAARC, the Pacific Islands Forum and NGOs in implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-3-007 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including UNAIDS, UNDCP, ILO, UNESCO and WHO, and international and national centres of excellence in implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-3-008 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNICEF, UNDCP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, ILO, UNESCO and WHO, in regional implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-3-009 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations and NGOs in regional implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-3-010 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including regional organizations and regional banks, and NGOs in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its regional and global review outcome (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-3-011 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the Administrative Committee on Coordination Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its regional and global review outcome and the United Nations system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-3-012 Organization and servicing of the RCM Thematic Working Group on Social Summit Follow-up (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-3-013 Organization and servicing of the RCM Thematic Working Group on Disability-related Concerns (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-3-014 Organization and servicing of the RCM Thematic Working Group on Human Rights and Governance (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))
- 3-3-015 Organization and servicing of the RCM Thematic Working Group on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-3-016 Participation in the RCM Thematic Working Group on Education for All (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-3-017 Participation in the RCM Thematic Working Group on HIV/AIDS (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
- 3-3-018 Participation in the RCM Thematic Working Group on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
- 3-3-019 Participation in the RCM Thematic Working Group on Poverty Alleviation, Rural Development and Food Security (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))
- 3-3-020 Participation in the RCM Thematic Working Group on Trafficking in Women and Children (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (c))

#### IV. TECHNICAL COOPERATION (RB/XB)

1. *Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):*

- 3-4-101 Advisory services on regional implementation and follow-up to the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and further initiatives (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-4-102 Advisory services on strengthening national policies and programmes to address emerging and critical social issues (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-4-103 Advisory services on implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific and follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-4-104 Advisory services on implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2 in 2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-4-105 Advisory services on implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-4-106 Advisory services on implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its regional and global review outcome, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and its optional protocol (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (c))

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):*

- 3-4-201 Regional/subregional meeting on emerging and key social issues in the context of globalization (2002) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-4-202 Policy dialogues and consultations on experiences and lessons learned concerning social integration, employment expansion, and poverty reduction, and on emerging social issues (2003) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-4-203 Intercountry exchange programmes on successful practices in promoting social development (2003) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-4-204 Workshop on improving approaches to delivering basic social services, and social protection of and support for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups (2002) (XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-4-205 Regional/subregional workshop to review and strengthen national policies and plans of action on ageing (2003) (XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-4-206 Demonstration projects to promote implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific and follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (2003) (XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-4-207 Regional meeting on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (2002) (XB) (40 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-4-208 Regional seminar on strengthening national and local capability for improving the accessibility of infrastructure, including public transport and services, as well as other facilities and amenities (2002) (RB/XB) (40 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-4-209 Workshop on improving awareness and enhancing opportunities for the full participation and equality of disabled persons in the development process (2003) (RB/XB) (40 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-4-210 Pilot projects on harnessing ICT for empowering rural persons with disabilities to secure their entitlements and to facilitate their economic advancement (4 in 2002) (RB/XB) (100 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 3-4-211 Regional and subregional meetings on key HRD issues (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (50 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))

- 3-4-212 ESCAP HRD courses for poverty alleviation (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (50 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-4-213 ESCAP HRD courses for youth development (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (120 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-4-214 ESCAP HRD course on psychosocial and medical services for sexually abused and sexually exploited children and youth (2002) (RB/XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-4-215 ESCAP HRD course on integrated health services for young people: sexual and reproductive health and prevention of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS (2003) (RB/XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-4-216 ESCAP HRD course on training of trainers for poverty alleviation (2002) (RB/XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-4-217 ESCAP HRD course to promote adult education through distance learning (2002) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-4-218 ESCAP HRD workshop on Education for All focusing on the management of non-formal education programmes (2003) (RB/XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-4-219 National HRD pilot projects on poverty alleviation and conflict management for youth in conflict zones (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (80 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-4-220 Regional meetings on critical and emerging issues that create gender disparity (2002, 2003) (XB) (60 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-4-221 Regional seminar on alleviating the feminization of poverty (2002) (XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-4-222 Regional seminar on assisting women to address the challenges of globalization (2003) (XB) (25 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-4-223 Regional workshops on bridging the gender digital divide, including information technology for networking, promotion of e-commerce, and alleviation of the feminization of poverty (2002, 2003) (XB) (100 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-4-224 Regional seminar on social protection and safety nets for women (2002) (XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-4-225 Regional seminar on women and human security (2003) (XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-4-226 Seminar on subregional and regional cooperation to combat sexual exploitation and trafficking in women and children (2002) (XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 3-4-227 Regional workshops on protective and preventive measures to eliminate violence against women (2002, 2003) (XB) (50 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))

### 3. *Fellowships:*

- 3-4-301 ESCAP HRD Award (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 3-4-302 Entrepreneurship training for women in collaboration with regional training bodies (2002, 2003) (XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))

### 4. *Field projects (country, subregional, regional, interregional):*

- 3-4-401 Field visit exchanges to facilitate networking on improving disabled persons' access to opportunities for education, training employment and self-empowerment (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

## **Subprogramme 4. Population and rural and urban development**

### **Introduction**

The subprogramme will be implemented by the Population and Rural and Urban Development Division.

The main objective of this subprogramme is to identify and analyse the critical economic and social issues which impact on poverty alleviation in the areas of population and rural and urban development; to increase awareness and understanding of those issues among policy makers, civil society and individuals; and to strengthen the capacity of governments and civil society to develop appropriate strategies and policies to improve the quality of life of the poor, with special attention to the needs of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition.

This objective will be achieved through monitoring and analysis of development trends, training of policy makers and planners, provision of technical assistance and information dissemination. The subprogramme will organize and conduct training workshops in order to impart skills in monitoring population and rural and urban development issues, data analysis, application of planning methodologies and implementation of programmes to alleviate poverty and to improve the quality of life. It will promote full use of IT and conduct training courses to improve skill levels in IT, including distance learning courses via the Internet. The subprogramme will develop the training manuals required for the workshops and courses. The subprogramme will disseminate information in a proactive manner on best practices and successful development programmes, aimed at poverty alleviation. These dissemination activities will include regional seminars, Internet web sites, and the use of professional networks and publications aimed specifically at policy makers and planners. Activities will be carried out to strengthen civil society partnerships with broad participation, by promoting participatory approaches at the local, community and higher levels in dealing with issues of population and rural and urban development.

The subprogramme will strive to achieve a regional consensus on key population and development issues by convening the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in 2002. The primary focus of this Conference is to review the progress in the implementation of the 1992 Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development, the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and the Key Actions suggested by the General Assembly at its twenty-first special session held in 1999. The Key Actions include population and development concerns; gender equality, equity and empowerment of women; and reproductive rights and reproductive health. The Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference will also focus on new and emerging issues of demographic dynamics in the region, in such areas as international migration and the economic and social impact of ageing. The recommendations will provide inputs to the 10-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development.

At the end of the biennium there should be greater awareness among policy makers of the contribution to national development and poverty alleviation made by population and rural and urban development programmes and by participatory local government. Governments and civil society are expected to have a strengthened capacity to formulate policies and to plan and implement programmes in the areas of population and rural and urban development, with a particular focus on poverty alleviation and sustainable development. It is expected that the subprogramme will help to stimulate productivity, expand opportunities for the disadvantaged and empower grass-roots organizations. Government agencies and civil society organizations will have an improved capability to use IT in the performance of their functions. Local governments are expected to have an improved understanding of and experience with participatory approaches to programme planning and implementation.

### **Objective for the biennium, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement**

In pursuing the objective set out in the table below, this subprogramme aims to benefit government officials, programme managers, policy makers, planners, NGOs, community-based organizations, researchers, academic institutions and the media whose work relates to population and rural and urban development in developing countries, in particular least developed, landlocked and island developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition.

The achievement of the expected accomplishments may be influenced by significant external factors, such as the will of member governments to implement plans, policies and programmes in pursuance of the regional and global mandates related to the subprogramme; the level of participation by local governments and the civil society in the formulation and implementation of national policies and programmes; the availability of sufficient IT infrastructure for networking and IT training courses; and the availability of extrabudgetary funding, particularly from UNFPA. Major changes that would contribute positively to achievements of the subprogramme objective include increased concern on the part of the international community about poverty alleviation and priority attached to population and rural and urban development in that connection.

For the biennium 2002-2003, the objective and corresponding expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement would be as follows:

**Objective:** To identify and analyse the critical economic and social issues which impact on poverty alleviation in the areas of population and rural and urban development; to increase awareness and understanding of those issues among policy makers, civil society and individuals, and to strengthen the capacity of governments and civil society to develop appropriate strategies and policies to improve the quality of life of the poor, giving special attention to the needs of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
(a) Greater incorporation of population and rural and urban development issues and their gender dimension in national development policies and plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Enumeration of the adoption of plans, policies and programmes advocated by ESCAP in accordance with the recommendations emanating from the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, the five-year review of the Habitat Agenda ("Istanbul+5") and other global conferences;</li> <li>(ii) The number of policies and plans endorsed by national and local governments, especially those in least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, on issues relating to population and rural and urban development, with assistance from ESCAP;</li> <li>(iii) The number of national development policies and plans on population and rural and urban development issues that contain gender dimensions.</li> </ul>
(b) Strengthened local and national capacity of countries to formulate and implement effective policies and programmes in the concerned fields, including those relating to poverty alleviation, reproductive health, gender equity, governance and human settlements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The number of replications of activities on best practices at the grass-roots level based on ESCAP activities;</li> <li>(ii) The number of national programmes that contain gender issues;</li> <li>(iii) The number of users of ESCAP guidelines/manuals and training materials indicating, in feedback forms, that they were of value to their work;</li> <li>(iv) The number of countries adopting measures to formulate and implement national policies and programmes in the concerned fields, as a result of receiving technical assistance from ESCAP;</li> <li>(v) The number of advisory services rendered at the request of national governments.</li> </ul>
(c) Improved skill in the field of information management, IT, communication and networks of countries relating to population and rural and urban development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The number of users of ESCAP guidelines/manuals and training materials indicating, in feedback forms, that they were of value to their work;</li> <li>(ii) The number of new information centres and regional resource centres relating to population and rural and urban development established in the region with assistance from ESCAP;</li> <li>(iii) The number of visits to the ESCAP web site and the number of other web sites hyperlinking to the ESCAP web site;</li> <li>(iv) The number of advisory services rendered at the request of the national governments.</li> </ul>

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
(d) Increased awareness and improved understanding of critical issues on poverty alleviation in the areas of population and rural and urban development, and the need to integrate those issues into poverty alleviation programmes and projects.	(i) The number of participants in ESCAP technical assistance activities indicating, in feedback forms, that the knowledge gained was of value to their work; (ii) Level of information disseminated on replication of activities on best practices at the grass-roots level; (iii) The number of visits to the ESCAP web site and the number of other web sites hyperlinking to the ESCAP web site; (iv) The number of citations of ESCAP articles and studies and articles reprinted in other publications.

## Outputs

### I. SERVICING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND EXPERT BODIES (RB)

#### 1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

##### (a) Commission:

4-1-101 Plenary and committees (2002) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions) (Expected accomplishment (a))

4-1-102 Plenary and committees (2003) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions) (Expected accomplishment (a))

##### (b) Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference:

4-1-103 Plenary (2002) (10 meetings) (Expected accomplishment (a))

#### 2. Parliamentary documentation:

##### (a) Commission:

4-1-201 Report on issues relating to population and rural and urban development (2002, 2003) (Expected accomplishment (a))

4-1-202 Report of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (2003) (Expected accomplishment (a))

4-1-203 Report on the interrelationship between rural poverty reduction and IT (2003) (Expected accomplishment (b))

##### (b) Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference:

4-1-204 Reports to the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (6 in 2002) (Expected accomplishment (a))

#### 3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):

4-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on the use of IT for the monitoring and evaluation of population and poverty alleviation programmes (2002) (Expected accomplishment (c))

4-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on intraregional migration flows (2003) (Expected accomplishment (d))

4-1-303 Ad hoc expert group on the interrelationship between rural poverty reduction and IT (2002) (Expected accomplishment (b))



## II. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES (RB/XB)

### 1. *Mandated recurrent publications:*

- 4-2-101 Asia-Pacific Population Journal (4 in 2002, 4 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 4-2-102 Population Headliners (6 in 2002, 6 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 4-2-103 Poverty Alleviation Initiatives Newsletter (4 in 2002, 4 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (d))

### 3. *Mandated non-recurrent publications:*

- 4-2-301 Selected papers for the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 4-2-302 Programme of Action of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 4-2-303 Critical analysis of urban policies and their impact on urban poverty eradication (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 4-2-304 The Human Dignity Initiative: enabling policies and comparative analysis of community-based safety nets (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))

### 5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):*

- 4-2-501 ESCAP Population Homepage, including population databases, data sheet and full text of the Asia-Pacific Population Journal articles, on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/pop/>> (monthly updating, 2002-2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 4-2-502 ESCAP Homepage on Rural Development and FADINAP on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/rural/>> and <<http://www.fadinap.org>> (monthly updating, 2002-2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 4-2-503 ESCAP Homepage on Human Settlements on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/huset/index.html>> (triannual updating, 2002-2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 4-2-504 CD-ROM on population and poverty (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 4-2-505 CD-ROM containing material for the implementation of community-based safety nets (policy guidelines, good practices, training modules etc.) (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))

### 6. *Exhibits:*

- 4-2-601 Exhibit for the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

### 7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

- 4-2-701 ESCAP population data sheets (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 4-2-702 Brochures, pamphlets and press-kits on the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (d))
- 4-2-703 Catalogue of ESCAP population publications (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))

9. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

- 4-2-901 Working paper on migration and urbanization (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 4-2-902 Working paper on reproductive health (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 4-2-903 Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin (electronic newsletter) (3 in 2002, 3 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 4-2-904 Maintenance and updating of population directory database series (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 4-2-905 Maintenance and updating of database on reproductive health indicators (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 4-2-906 Maintenance and updating of database on family planning/reproductive health and population law (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 4-2-907 Development of Internet-based learning system for local government officials (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))

**III. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION AND LIAISON (RB/XB)**

- 4-3-001 Collaboration with United Nations bodies, funds, programmes and agencies on matters related to population and development (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (d))
- 4-3-002 Collaboration with NGOs on matters related to population and development (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (d))
- 4-3-003 Collaboration with national, regional and interregional bodies outside the United Nations system on matters related to population and development (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (d))
- 4-3-004 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies on matters related to rural poverty and agricultural and rural development (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (d))
- 4-3-005 Technical and substantive support to the CGPRT Centre (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 4-3-006 Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, including CIRDAP and the Asian Productivity Organization, and NGOs on matters related to rural poverty and agricultural and rural development (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (d))
- 4-3-007 Coordination of programme activities with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including UNCHS in implementing the Habitat Agenda (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (d))
- 4-3-008 Technical and substantive support to regional networks, including ACHR, CITYNET, IULA-ASPAC and LOGOTRI (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 4-3-009 Organization and servicing of the RCM Thematic Working Group on Poverty Alleviation, Rural Development and Food Security (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 4-3-010 Technical and substantive support to UNFPA country support teams and participation in UNFPA-organized country project formulation/review meetings on matters related to population and development (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))

#### IV. TECHNICAL COOPERATION (RB/XB)

*1. Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):*

- 4-4-101 Advisory services on population and development issues (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 4-4-102 Advisory services on reproductive health (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 4-4-103 Advisory services on demographic analysis (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 4-4-104 Advisory services on population information management and dissemination (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 4-4-105 Advisory services on information management on agri-technologies and rural poverty reduction (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 4-4-106 Advisory services on implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))

*2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):*

- 4-4-201 Training workshop on reproductive health measurement (2003) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 4-4-202 Subregional training workshops on improved techniques in population data collection, processing, dissemination and presentation (2 in 2002, 1 in 2003) (XB) (60 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 4-4-203 Subregional training workshops on policy-oriented analysis and data-based population and development planning (1 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (XB) (60 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 4-4-204 Regional training workshop on policy analysis and population and social planning in countries with economies in transition (2003) (XB) (25 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 4-4-205 Training workshop on population information repackaging with multi-media (2003) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 4-4-206 Training workshop on IT for population information professionals (2003) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 4-4-207 Workshop on evaluation of training programmes on IT for population information work (2003) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 4-4-208 Workshop on computerized management information systems for reproductive health services (2002) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 4-4-209 Population information network coordination meeting (2002) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 4-4-210 Workshop-cum-training programmes to disseminate best practices in rural poverty alleviation (2002) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 4-4-211 Workshop to review the impact of governance on rural poverty reduction (2003) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 4-4-212 Regional meeting on the effectiveness of electronic information dissemination on rural development (2002) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (d))

- 4-4-213 Regional workshop on the impact of the balanced use of agri-technologies on rural income and employment (2003) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (d))
  - 4-4-214 Regional workshop on local government systems (2002) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (d))
  - 4-4-215 Seminar on rural-urban linkages in the context of regional development (2003) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (d))
  - 4-4-216 National-level symposia on enabling policies for community-based initiatives (6 in 2003) (RB/XB) (120 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
  - 4-4-217 High-level regional seminar on a framework for community-based safety nets (2003) (RB/XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
  - 4-4-218 National forums on women in local government (5 in 2002) (RB/XB) (100 participants) (Expected accomplishment (d))
  - 4-4-219 Regional seminar on gender sensitivity and gender indicator development (2003) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
4. *Field projects (country, subregional, regional, interregional):*
- 4-4-401 Establishment of regional resource centres to promote municipal finance, urban governance, urban environment management, IT for local government, urban land management and empowering the poor (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
  - 4-4-402 Projects on community-based safety nets as tools for human development: the Human Dignity Initiative (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))

## **Subprogramme 5. Environment and natural resources development**

### **Introduction**

The subprogramme will be implemented by the Environment and Natural Resources Development Division.

The main objective of this subprogramme is to strengthen the national capacity of members and associate members to achieve sustainable development, as well as regional and subregional cooperation on protection of the environment and development and management of natural resources, taking into account the recommendations of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, held in June 1997, the outcome of the 10-year review of Agenda 21 ("Rio + 10") scheduled to be held in 2002, and the priorities given by members and associate members of ESCAP at intergovernmental legislative meetings.

The focus of the subprogramme is on supporting efforts of member and associate member governments in the formulation and implementation of policies which integrate environmental considerations into overall social and economic development plans, as well as in specific sectors, such as land, water, mineral and energy resources and on capacity-building to undertake the related action towards poverty alleviation and development. At the national level, this entails training, improving regulatory mechanisms and legislative frameworks; medium- and long-term integrated planning and strategy development; and general awareness-raising and educational activities relating to sustainable development.

In the environment area of the subprogramme, it will promote, at the national level, the integration of environmental considerations into decision-making processes and, at the regional level, greater cooperation in the promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development as a means for poverty alleviation. One of the key activities in this regard is the promotion of strategic environmental management in various sectors, including water and energy. Focus will be the follow-up of the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, in particular the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 2001-2005, and the 10-year review of Agenda 21 ("Rio + 10") in 2002 as well as the strengthening of the Northeast Asian Subregional Programme on Environmental Cooperation.

In matters related to space technology applications, the subprogramme will follow up on the recommendations of the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in November 1999, to further strengthen the regional cooperative network and enhance national capacity in space technology applications through the implementation of the second phase of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP II). Efforts will be made to promote integrated applications of IT and space technology to address issues of common concern among countries of the region with regard to poverty alleviation, environmental and natural resources management, sustainable development planning and natural disaster mitigation.

The subprogramme aims to strengthen national capacity and regional and international cooperation in policy development and implementation of integrated and sustainable water, mineral and energy resources for sustainable development and management. Focus will be placed on emerging areas in water and mineral policy and implementation, such as enhanced and more integrated approaches to water resources management, public awareness-raising, and mineral resources development for poverty alleviation, and will assist governments in working towards greater utilization and implementation of geological information approaches to sustainable urban development. In energy conservation and efficiency and enhanced use of new and renewable sources of energy, capacity-building activities will focus on appropriate regulatory and economic measures and human resources development and will address issues related to enhanced energy services, promoting commercialization, demonstration and transfer of technology related to renewable energy resources and energy efficiency, regulatory measures, energy audit and labelling, trade and exchange of energy/electricity, the adoption of cleaner fuel and clean-fuel technologies. Due consideration will be given to the environmental and social aspects, including broadening access to energy services by the rural and urban poor, in particular women, in the efforts towards poverty alleviation in the region.

The countries of the region continue to experience very serious natural disasters, with the poor usually being affected the most. Regional and international cooperation will be strengthened through capacity-building activities and networking for the mitigation of natural disasters, thus contributing directly to poverty alleviation in the region.

### Objective for the biennium, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement

In pursuing the objective set out in the table below, this subprogramme aims to benefit government officials and experts in the private, non-governmental and public sectors whose work relates to environmental management and the sustainable development of land, water, mineral and energy resources, in particular those in the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition.

The achievement of the expected accomplishments may be influenced by significant external factors, such as the readiness of member governments to participate in capacity-building efforts and cooperation activities; the availability of extrabudgetary sources to finance technical cooperation programmes; and changes in the political and economic environment, reflecting global and local economic conditions; and the outcome of the 10-year review of Agenda 21 ("Rio + 10") in 2002.

For the biennium 2002-2003, the objective and corresponding expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement will be as follows:

**Objective:** To strengthen the national capacity of members and associate members to achieve sustainable development, as well as regional and subregional cooperation in protection of the environment and development and management of natural resources, taking into account the recommendations of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, held in June 1997, the outcome of the 10-year review of Agenda 21 ("Rio + 10") scheduled to be held in 2002, and the priorities given by members and associate members of ESCAP at intergovernmental legislative meetings.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
(a) Strengthened national capacity in the formulation of policies and planning relating to environmental management, sustainable development of land, water, mineral and energy resources, in space technology applications and natural disaster mitigation.	(i) The number of country statements in Committee sessions indicating that the work of ESCAP contributed to the formulation of national policies and planning related to the concerned fields; (ii) The number of users of ESCAP studies indicating, in feedback forms, that research findings were of value to their work in the concerned fields; (iii) The demand for publications on issues related to environment and natural resources development policies; (iv) The number of countries adopting the Minimum Common Programme framework and implementing activities in space applications for poverty alleviation; (v) The number of advisory services rendered at the request of national governments; (vi) The number of TCDC arrangements facilitated by ESCAP; (vii) The number of cooperative activities with other United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations in the field of natural disaster reduction.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
(b) Strengthened regional and subregional cooperation among countries in addressing common issues relating to environmental management, sustainable development of land, water, mineral and energy resources, and natural disaster mitigation and utilization of space technology applications.	(i) The number of countries involved with the implementation of regional and subregional action plans for enhanced implementation of national environmental action plans; (ii) The number of cooperative activities under the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (Phase II) of government organizations, educational institutions and the industrial sector; (iii) The number of transboundary cooperative activities on the sustainable development and management of energy resources promoted by ESCAP; (iv) The number of regional cooperative arrangements on the sustainable development and management of land, water and mineral resources promoted by ESCAP; (v) The number of visits to the ESCAP web site and the number of other web sites hyperlinking to the ESCAP web site; (vi) The number of users of ESCAP studies indicating, in feedback forms, that research findings were of values to their work in the concerned fields.
(c) Wider participation of NGOs, civil society and the private sector in the decision-making process and implementation of policies and decisions related to sustainable development and management of natural resources, taking into account the gender perspective.	(i) The number of activities of ESCAP in which NGOs, civil society and the private sector participated; (ii) The number of NGOs, civil society and the private sector requesting ESCAP for data and information on the sustainable environment and natural resources development; (iii) The number of gender concerns documented in the recommendations of ESCAP meetings and regional and subregional action plans promoted by ESCAP.

## Outputs

### I. SERVICING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND EXPERT BODIES (RB)

#### 1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

##### (a) Commission:

5-1-101 Plenary and committees (2002) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)  
(Expected accomplishment (b))

5-1-102 Plenary and committees (2003) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)  
(Expected accomplishment (b))

##### (b) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

5-1-103 Plenary (2002) (6 meetings) (Expected accomplishment (b))

5-1-104 Plenary (2003) (6 meetings) (Expected accomplishment (b))

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Commission:

- 5-1-201 Reports of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development (2002, 2003) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 5-1-202 Report on policies and issues related to sustainable energy development and management, on the environment and sustainable development of natural resources (2002) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 5-1-203 Report on the implementation of resolution 56/3 on regional cooperation on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (2003) (Expected accomplishment (b))

(b) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

- 5-1-204 Reports on issues related to the environment and sustainable development of natural resources (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))
- 5-1-205 Report on sustainable energy development and management (2002, 2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))
- 5-1-206 Report on follow-up to the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (2002) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))

3. *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):*

- 5-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on end-use energy efficiency and promotion of a sustainable energy future (2002) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 5-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on policies for promotion and integration of space applications for poverty alleviation (2003) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 5-1-303 Ad hoc expert group on policy options and planning in sustainable development of land and mineral resources in Asia (2002) (Expected accomplishment (a))

4. *Assistance to intergovernmental bodies under their established mandates:*

- 5-1-401 Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (2002, 2003) (Expected accomplishment (b))

## **II. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES (RB/XB)**

1. *Mandated recurrent publications:*

- 5-2-101 Environment and Natural Resources Development News (4 in 2002, 4 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))
- 5-2-102 Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific, 1999-2000 (2002) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 5-2-103 Energy Resources Development Series: End-use Energy Efficiency and Promotion of a Sustainable Energy Future (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 5-2-104 Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 5-2-105 Mineral Resources Assessment, Development and Management Series (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))



- 5-2-106 Mineral Concentrations and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in the ESCAP Region Series (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
  - 5-2-107 Atlas of Urban Geology Series (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
  - 5-2-108 Water Resources Journal (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
  - 5-2-109 Water Resources Series (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
  - 5-2-110 Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing and GIS Journal (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
3. *Mandated non-recurrent publications:*
- 5-2-301 Towards the achievement of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific: policies and actions (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
  - 5-2-302 Strategic environmental management: status and implementation, South Asia (2002) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
  - 5-2-303 Strategic environmental management: status and implementation, South-East Asia (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
  - 5-2-304 Information and communication technologies and the environment (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
  - 5-2-305 Development of sustainable energy systems in remote areas (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
  - 5-2-306 Energy policies and measures for improvement of fuel efficiency in motor vehicles (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
  - 5-2-307 Study on the framework of an association of regional space industries to support sustainable development (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
4. *Discretionary non-recurrent publications:*
- 5-2-401 Manual on the preparation and negotiation of mineral investment agreements (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):*
- 5-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Environment on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/enrd/environ>> (quarterly updating, 2002-2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (c))
  - 5-2-502 ESCAP Homepage on the Northeast Asian Subregional Programme on Environmental Cooperation on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/enrd/environ/neaspec>> (quarterly updating, 2002-2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (c))
  - 5-2-503 ESCAP Homepage on Energy on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/enrd/energy>> (quarterly updating, 2002-2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (c))
  - 5-2-504 ESCAP Homepage on Space Technology Applications Programme for Sustainable Development on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/enrd/space>> (quarterly updating, 2002-2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (c))
  - 5-2-505 ESCAP Homepage on Water and Mineral Resources on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/enrd/water>>, <<http://www.unescap.org/enrd/minerals>> (quarterly updating, 2002-2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (c))

- 5-2-506 ESCAP Homepage on Partnership and Policy Networking in Sustainable Development in Natural Resources on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/enrd>> (quarterly updating, 2002-2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (c))

6. *Exhibits:*

- 5-2-601 Exhibits for World Space Week (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))

7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

- 5-2-701 Information kits on the implementation of the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (c))

**III. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION AND LIAISON (RB/XB)**

- 5-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, NGOs, civil society groups, national institutions and the private sector, on the implementation of the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (c))
- 5-3-002 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development and UNEP, on the 10-year review of Agenda 21 ("Rio + 10") and the Commission on Sustainable Development (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 5-3-003 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, regional and subregional organizations such as ASEAN, BIMST-EC, ECO, SAARC, SPECA and NGOs and the private sector on matters related to capacity-building in the area of sustainable energy development (5 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (c))
- 5-3-004 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations and regional initiatives, including the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, the Asian Conference on Remote Sensing, the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, the Asia-Pacific Multilateral Cooperation on Space Technology Applications and the ASEAN Subcommittee on Space Applications, on matters related to space technology applications (3 in 2002, 3 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 5-3-005 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the ACC Inter-agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, on matters related to space technology applications (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 5-3-006 Organization and servicing of the inter-agency task force meeting on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development under the aegis of the environment and development advocacy (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 5-3-007 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, ASEAN, CCOP, ECO, Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation, the International Aral Sea Rehabilitation Fund, the Mekong River Commission, SPECA, SOPAC, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's Subcommission for the Western Pacific, research institutions, NGOs and the private sector, on matters relating to sustainable development of land, water and mineral resources (6 in 2002, 6 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (c))
- 5-3-008 Collaboration with United Nations agencies/focal points and the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources on regional activities related to the World Day for Water (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (b))

- 5-3-009 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources Development and the Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, on regional activities related to the International Day for Disaster Reduction and matters related to natural resources and disaster reduction (3 in 2002, 3 in 2003) (RB) Expected accomplishments (b), (c))
- 5-3-010 Technical and substantive support for the Typhoon Committee (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 5-3-011 Technical and substantive support for the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 5-3-012 Organization and servicing of the Inter-agency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 5-3-013 Collaboration and substantive support to the RCM Thematic Working Group on Rio + 10 (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishment (b))

#### **IV. TECHNICAL COOPERATION (RB/XB)**

##### *1. Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):*

- 5-4-101 Advisory services on strategic environmental management (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 5-4-102 Advisory services on the implementation of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 5-4-103 Advisory services on sustainable development and management of energy resources, energy-efficiency policy measures in supply- and demand-side management, and the promotion of renewable energy technologies (3 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 5-4-104 Advisory services on space technology applications for environment and sustainable development (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 5-4-105 Advisory services on water and mineral resources development and management, environmental geology and natural disaster reduction (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

##### *2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):*

- 5-4-201 Meetings/workshops on environmental cooperation in North-East Asia (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (60 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 5-4-202 Regional, subregional and national workshops to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, 2000 (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (160 participants) (Expected accomplishments (b), (c))
- 5-4-203 Regional and national workshops/training on sustainable energy policies and strategies, energy efficiency and renewable energy (4 in 2002, 4 in 2003) (RB/XB) (160 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 5-4-204 Seminars/workshops on natural disaster reduction and environmental and urban geology (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (100 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 5-4-205 Meetings of regional working groups on major space applications sectors (4 in 2002, 4 in 2003) (RB/XB) (100 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 5-4-206 Regional seminars/workshops on the development of space technology applications for the Minimum Common Programme (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))

- 5-4-207 Training workshops on space technology applications for sustainable development and poverty alleviation (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 5-4-208 Meetings of the Dialogue Forum on harmonization of regional initiatives on space technology applications (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 5-4-209 Seminars/workshops on water and mineral resources development and management (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (40 participants) (Expected accomplishments (a), (c))

3. *Fellowships:*

- 5-4-301 TCDC arrangements to facilitate exchange of information and experience and transfer of technologies in the area of environmental management, sustainable water, mineral and energy development, renewable energy and/or energy efficiency (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 5-4-302 Long-term fellowships on space technology applications (5 in 2002, 5 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 5-4-303 Medium-term fellowships on space technology applications (5 in 2002, 5 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))

4. *Field projects (country, subregional, regional, interregional):*

- 5-4-401 Regional cooperative projects on space technology applications for sustainable development and poverty alleviation under the Minimum Common Programme of RESAP (Phase II) (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))

## **Subprogramme 6. Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development**

### **Introduction**

The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division.

The main objective of the subprogramme is to develop sustainable, efficient, environmentally sound and socially acceptable transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure within the framework of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1997-2006) and the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region (1999-2005).

The activities are aimed at assisting countries of the region in developing and operationalizing an integrated transport network to support mobility, trade and tourism through the completion of the missing links and upgrading of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway, and by improvements in shipping and intermodal connections, including ports. Activities will be undertaken to upgrade transport efficiency through the identification and removal of physical and non-physical impediments and by strengthening human resources capabilities to address transport logistics, facilitation, commercialization and globalization issues more effectively. Attention will be given to achieving sustainable growth in tourism by strengthening policy development capabilities and enhancing regional cooperation through, for example, the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism (APETIT).

The subprogramme will support the development of safe and sustainable transport by assisting countries to develop and implement transport safety plans, rules and regulations, by adopting an integrated and interactive approach to urban transport planning and by mitigating the impact of transport on the environment. Focus will also be on integrating social concerns into transport, tourism and infrastructure development policies through, for example, people-centred and participatory approaches.

This will be achieved through the organization of intergovernmental and expert group meetings; the collection, analysis and dissemination of data and information on transport, communications and tourism to enhance awareness of critical regional issues and sustainable strategies for development; the promotion of regional and subregional cooperation in addressing common issues and problems, including resource constraints; the development and delivery of training materials and the provision of advisory services for capacity-building in the field of transport, communications and tourism; and collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies, regional associations and NGOs, including the private sector.

Changes in focus and emphasis of the subprogramme for the biennium 2002-2003 include increased utilization of the Internet as a means of disseminating delivered outputs; strategies to encourage closer cooperation and exchange of information between key players in the transport sector through, for example, convening meetings of chief executives of railways and highways, a tripartite forum between shipowners, shippers and ports, and regional meetings of freight forwarder associations; renewed efforts to increase cooperation between the United Nations and the business community in line with the guidelines issued by the Secretary-General; emphasis on the institutional aspects of involving relevant stakeholders in policy-making and the project cycle; greater integration of social concerns into transport, tourism and infrastructure development policies; greater emphasis on HRD and training; and emphasis on the application of ICT, in the areas of efficient transport and logistics systems, intelligent transport systems and tourism.

### **Objective for the biennium, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement**

In pursuing the objective set out in the table below, this subprogramme aims to benefit senior policy makers, policy advisers and other stakeholders who are in a position to initiate or influence the direction of policy changes, as well as public and private sector business undertakings. Activities will then be designed to assist working-level officials who are responsible for implementing programmes and projects. The subprogramme outputs will also be used by international organizations; intergovernmental organizations; educational, research, professional and training institutions; NGOs and other civil society groups, as well as the private sector. Emphasis will continue to be given to addressing the specific needs of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition.

The achievement of the expected accomplishments may be influenced by significant external factors, such as the willingness and commitment of member governments to create an environment conducive to improved transport and logistics systems; the necessity for all countries on a corridor to facilitate cross-border and transit movements; the effective participation of key stakeholders in the decision-making process; the willingness and commitment of governments to incorporate environmental, safety and social issues in national agendas; the provision/availability of IT infrastructure; and the availability of extrabudgetary resources. Among major changes that would contribute positively to the achievement of the subprogramme objective is the continuing and increasing recognition by member governments of the importance of regional economic cooperation in an era of globalization.

For the biennium 2002-2003, the objective and corresponding expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement would be as follows:

Objective: To develop sustainable, efficient, environmentally sound and socially acceptable transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure within the framework of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1997-2006) and the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region (1999-2005).

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
(a) Improved transport infrastructure, maintenance and intermodal transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The number of countries indicating that recommendations arising from legislative meetings and other activities have been appropriately accommodated in planned developments at the national and subregional levels;</li> <li>(ii) The number of countries adopting reforms for the sustainable maintenance of transport infrastructure.</li> </ul>
(b) Increased capacity to improve the efficiency of transport operations through reduced physical and non-physical barriers to the movement of transport; improved transport logistics; increased awareness of ICT policies and applications; enhanced capacity to deliver training programmes on transport; and increased participation of key stakeholders in the transport process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The number of countries initiating action to improve transport logistics, including multimodal transport, facilitation of cross-border and transit movements of goods, people and vehicles, and private sector participation;</li> <li>(ii) Action plans developed to address ICT issues in the transport and other infrastructure sectors;</li> <li>(iii) The number of countries delivering training materials developed by ESCAP;</li> <li>(iv) The number of countries in which the government or private sector officials or NGOs and community-based organizations indicate that participation in transport programmes has helped to promote coordinated policy development.</li> </ul>
(c) Strengthened capacity of tourism planners in policy formulation and planning, and increased cooperation among tourism agencies and organizations, and educational and training institutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Follow-up action taken by countries arising out of advisory services, group training and joint meetings;</li> <li>(ii) Active participation by countries in APETIT and TCDC activities initiated.</li> </ul>
(d) Increased awareness of the environmental, safety, social and other impacts of transport, tourism and other infrastructure; enhanced capacity to develop policies to address those issues on a sustainable basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Follow-up activities initiated by countries to improve safety in the transport sector;</li> <li>(ii) The number of countries indicating that recommendations to institutionalize integrated and interactive approaches to transport planning have been appropriately accommodated;</li> <li>(iii) The number of countries indicating the adoption of policies and plans to encourage traffic to move to environmentally sound modes of transport;</li> <li>(iv) Follow-up action taken by member countries to adopt policies and concepts to reduce the environmental impact of transport development and operations;</li> <li>(v) The number of countries acquiring knowledge of participatory approaches to infrastructure development;</li> <li>(vi) Action plans developed to address social issues, promoted by ESCAP.</li> </ul>

## Outputs

### I. SERVICING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND EXPERT BODIES (RB)

#### 1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

##### (a) Commission:

6-1-101 Plenary and committees (2002) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

6-1-102 Plenary and committees (2003) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

##### (b) Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development:

6-1-103 Plenary (2002) (6 meetings) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

6-1-104 Plenary (2003) (6 meetings) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

#### 2. Parliamentary documentation:

##### (a) Commission:

6-1-201 Report of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development (2002, 2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

6-1-202 Report on implementation of Commission resolutions 48/11 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures and 52/9 on intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges (2002) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))

6-1-203 Report on the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (2002, 2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))

##### (b) Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development:

6-1-204 Report on implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (2002, 2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

6-1-205 Reports on issues related to transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development (4 in 2002, 4 in 2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))

6-1-206 Report on implementation of the joint ESCAP/ECE Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia in the field of transport and border-crossing (2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))

#### 3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):

6-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on networking of inland water transport and dredging institutions (2003) (Expected accomplishment (b))

### II. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES (RB/XB)

#### 1. Mandated recurrent publications:

6-2-101 Review of the Developments in Transport, Communications and Other Infrastructure (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))

6-2-102 Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))

6-2-103 ESCAP Tourism Review (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))

3. *Mandated non-recurrent publications:*

- 6-2-301 Revised Asian Highway network (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (a))
- 6-2-302 Guidelines on road accident costing (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (d))
- 6-2-303 Trans-Asian Railway development (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
- 6-2-304 Promotion of tourism along the Trans-Asian Railway (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (c), (d))
- 6-2-305 Training material on multimodal transport and logistics (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 6-2-306 Manual on the modernization of inland water transport for integration within the multimodal transport system (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 6-2-307 Urban transport planning choices for sustainable development (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (d))
- 6-2-308 Policy issues related to barrier-free tourism for people with disabilities and older persons (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (c), (d))
- 6-2-309 Policy issues on sustainable tourism development (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))

4. *Discretionary non-recurrent publications:*

- 6-2-401 Economic appraisal of railway infrastructure development projects (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (d))

5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):*

- 6-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/tctd/>> (quarterly updating, 2002-2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))
- 6-2-502 ESCAP Homepage on the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/tctd.rap-tab.htm>> (biannual updating, 2002-2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d))
- 6-2-503 ESCAP Homepage on the Asian Highway on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/tctd/ah.htm>> (biannual updating, 2002-2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))
- 6-2-504 ESCAP Homepage on the Trans-Asian Railway on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/tctd/tar>> (biannual updating, 2002-2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))

9. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

- 6-2-901 Refining and updating of the ESCAP database on transport and infrastructure (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))
- 6-2-902 Updating maritime information on the Internet (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 6-2-903 Guidelines for the improvement of logistics facilities to expand port hinterlands (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))



- 6-2-904 Dissemination of resource materials with respect to WTO negotiations on trade and services (maritime transport) (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))

### **III. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION AND LIAISON (RB/XB)**

- 6-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, APEC, APT, ASEAN, BIMST-EC, Commonwealth of Independent States, ECO, EU, Forum Secretariat, Islamic Development Bank, Mekong River Commission, OECD, OSShD and SAARC in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (6 in 2002, 7 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))
- 6-3-002 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including other regional commissions, UNCTAD, UNDP, the Secretariat of the Tumen River Area Development Programme (UNDP), UNCITRAL, ILO, ICAO, ITU, IMO, UPU and the World Bank in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (3 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))
- 6-3-003 Collaboration with NGOs, including AFFA, APAA, Asia-Pacific Conference on Transportation and the Environment, ASCOBIPS, FASA, FIATA, the Global Infrastructure Fund, the Global Road Safety Partnership, IAPH, UIC, IRCA, PIARC, PIANC, IRF, IRU and the World Development Council in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (5 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))
- 6-3-004 Collaboration with the private sector, including the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance, in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
- 6-3-005 Collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, PATA and other tourism-related organizations on tourism development activities (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 6-3-006 Participation in the network of centres of excellence relating to urban transport planning in sharing regional experiences in planning choices for sustainable transport development and for improved education, training and research (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (d))
- 6-3-007 Participation in the activities of the ESCAP/ECE Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, including participation by secretariat officials in the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))

### **IV. TECHNICAL COOPERATION (RB/XB)**

#### *1. Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):*

- 6-4-101 Advisory services on land transport development (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))
- 6-4-102 Advisory services on transport facilitation (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 6-4-103 Advisory services on shipping and port development (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
- 6-4-104 Advisory services on the development of inland water transport (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))

- 6-4-105 Advisory services on multimodal transport and logistics (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))
  - 6-4-106 Advisory services on sustainable transportation development (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (d))
  - 6-4-107 Advisory services on private sector participation in infrastructure development (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (b), (d))
  - 6-4-108 Advisory services on ICT in the infrastructure sectors (2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))
  - 6-4-109 Advisory services on strengthening national capabilities in the sustainable development of tourism (2002) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (c), (d))
2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):*
- 6-4-201 Seminars/workshops on transport infrastructure development, maintenance and facilitation (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (80 participants) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))
  - 6-4-202 Seminars/workshops on the use of ICT in developing infrastructure facilities and services (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (80 participants) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))
  - 6-4-203 Training workshops on sustainable transport development (2002) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))
  - 6-4-204 Seminar/workshop on the promotion of private sector participation in infrastructure development (2002) (RB/XB) (25 participants) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))
  - 6-4-205 Seminar on participatory planning and conflict management in infrastructure development (2002) (RB/XB) (25 participants) (Expected accomplishments (b), (d))
  - 6-4-206 Seminar on infrastructure and logistics in support of development at the subnational level (2003) (RB/XB) (25 participants) (Expected accomplishments (b), (d))
  - 6-4-207 Tripartite forum between shipowners, shippers and ports (2002) (RB/XB) (50 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
  - 6-4-208 Seminar on private sector participation in ports (2002) (RB/XB) (40 participants) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (d))
  - 6-4-209 Regional seminar on the liberalization of maritime services (2002) (RB/XB) (50 participants) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
  - 6-4-210 Seminar on the improvement of logistics facilities in ports (2003) (RB/XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
  - 6-4-211 Seminars and workshops on freight forwarding, multimodal transport and logistics (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (80 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
  - 6-4-212 Regional meeting of freight forwarders associations (2002) (RB/XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
  - 6-4-213 Regional forum on maritime manpower planning, training and employment (2003) (RB/XB) (80 participants) (Expected accomplishment (b))
  - 6-4-214 Seminar on commercial navigation on international rivers (2002) (RB/XB) (25 participants) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
  - 6-4-215 Seminar on the integration of inland water transport infrastructure within intermodal transport networks (2003) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))

- 6-4-216 Seminars on strengthening national capabilities in the sustainable development of tourism (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (100 participants) (Expected accomplishments (c), (d))
- 6-4-217 Regional meetings on tourism education and training (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (150 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 6-4-218 Regional meetings on the promotion of tourism in the Greater Mekong Subregion (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (100 participants) (Expected accomplishment (c))
- 6-4-219 Regional seminar on barrier-free tourism for people with disabilities and older persons (2002) (RB/XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishments (c), (d))
- 6-4-220 Meeting of railway chief executives (2003) (RB/XB) (40 participants) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
- 6-4-221 Meetings of highway chief executives (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (60 participants) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b))
- 6-4-222 Seminar/workshop on environmentally sound and safe transport (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (30 participants) (Expected accomplishment (d))

3. *Fellowships:*

- 6-4-301 TCDC arrangements on tourism development and training (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (20 participants) (Expected accomplishments (c), (d))

## **Subprogramme 7. Statistics**

### **Introduction**

The subprogramme, under the guidance of the Committee on Statistics, serves to implement activities mandated by the Committee with respect to its terms of reference, under the responsibility of the Statistics Division. In acting as the focus of regional statistical development, the Committee shall perform, among others, the following functions: (a) review and analyse progress in the development of statistics in the region; (b) play the focal role in promoting close coordination of all aspects of the statistical activities of specialized agencies, relevant United Nations bodies and other international organizations in regard to their work in the Asian and Pacific region, *inter alia*, so to achieve greater uniformity in concepts and definitions, reduce to a minimum the response burden on national statistical offices, and maximize the effectiveness of technical cooperation activities; (c) review and evaluate the activities of the secretariat in the areas of statistics and computerized information processing and provide guidance on the work of the secretariat; and (d) work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and coordinate activities with them.

The objective of the subprogramme is to improve the statistical capabilities of the countries/areas of the region for informed decision-making and to promote their use of IT in the public sector, and to make comparable statistical information on the region widely and promptly available.

Towards improving statistical capabilities, efforts will be made to assist countries in the strengthening of national statistical infrastructure and to promote improvements in the quality of statistics, the international comparability of data and the appropriate application of new techniques. The changes are expected to be accomplished through the exchange of information on and experience in statistical work and methods among countries which may be implemented through relevant technical meetings and advisory services. As adherence to international standards helps to improve the quality of data and international comparability, countries would be encouraged and assisted to participate in the development, revision, testing and implementation of international statistical standards. The dissemination of statistical data on the countries of the region serves to provide data relating to different countries for the convenience of users. It also identifies data gaps more clearly and thus encourages countries to fill them. As national statistical offices are generally pioneers in the use of computer technology, the advent of IT has helped them realize their potential more fully in the provision of statistical services to users. Nevertheless, the rapid pace of IT development has stretched the capacity of the public sector to fully exploit that potential, and the secretariat's efforts in promoting the application of that technology have been well received. The major changes which the subprogramme brings about, in terms of new knowledge and shared experience, will help to enhance national capabilities in delivering statistical services.

### **Objective for the biennium, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement**

In pursuing the objective set out in the table below, the subprogramme aims to benefit national statistical organizations, and the public and private sector entities which directly use their products, by keeping statisticians abreast of developments in international statistical standards and statistical methodology and the application of IT, as well as users more generally through the availability of statistical data on countries in the region.

The level of success in achieving the expected accomplishments is influenced by the willingness of member governments to accord priority to the work of statistical development in national development plans; the level of cooperation of various organizations within and outside the United Nations system, including NGOs which are concerned with statistical development in the region; and the willingness of the Governing Board of SIAP to reflect the decisions and recommendations of the Committee on Statistics when formulating SIAP training programmes for statisticians in Asia and the Pacific. Success in achieving the expected accomplishments may also be influenced by the availability of extrabudgetary resources to supplement the work undertaken under the subprogramme. The continued willingness of member governments to supply relevant information to the secretariat in a timely manner is another important external factor.

**Objective:** To improve the statistical capabilities of the countries and areas of the region for informed decision-making and to promote their use of IT in the public sector, and to make comparable statistical information on the region widely and promptly available.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>
(a) Increased capacity in the region, especially in least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, to identify, collect, process, analyse and utilize the data needed for national development, including the capacity to support analysis of gender issues, poverty characteristics and emerging economic and social problems.	(i) The volume of quality data, especially those of contemporary concern, produced by countries in the region; (ii) The number of countries subscribing to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and adhering to the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS); (iii) The number of countries with evidence-based policies on gender issues and on poverty; (iv) The number of participants, especially from the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, indicating that meetings and training by ESCAP have made a significant contribution to their capacity.
(b) Improved coordination, collaboration and sharing of information on statistical development and statistical standards in the region, and improved availability of comparable statistical data on countries of the region.	(i) The provision by countries in the region of papers for legislative and technical meetings; (ii) The level of participation by countries and agencies in regional statistical forums; (iii) The quality and quantity of data disseminated by or available with the secretariat; (iv) The number of users of ESCAP statistical publications indicating, in feedback forms, that data and information provided by ESCAP were of value to their work; (v) The number of joint statistical programmes and activities developed between ESCAP and other organizations; (vi) The number of visits to the ESCAP Homepage on Statistics.
(c) More systematic IT planning and adoption of more coherent policies in this field.	(i) The number of countries and national statistical services adopting IT plans and strategies; (ii) The number of national statistical and information technology-related web sites in the region.

## Outputs

### I. SERVICING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND EXPERT BODIES (RB)

#### 1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

##### (a) Commission:

7-1-101 Plenary and committees (2002) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)  
(Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

7-1-102 Plenary and committees (2003) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)  
(Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

##### (b) Committee on Statistics:

7-1-103 Plenary (2002) (6 meetings) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Commission:

7-1-201 Report on issues related to statistics (2002) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

7-1-202 Report of the Committee on Statistics (2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

(b) Committee on Statistics:

7-1-203 Report of the Working Group of Statistical Experts (2002) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

7-1-204 Reports on issues related to statistics (4 in 2002) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

7-1-205 Report on issues in computerization in the public sector as they affect national statistical offices (2002) (Expected accomplishments (a), (c))

7-1-206 Report on activities of the secretariat since the twelfth session of the Committee (2002) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

3. *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):*

7-1-301 Working Group of Statistical Experts (2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

## II. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES (RB)

1. *Mandated recurrent publications:*

7-2-101 Statistical Newsletter (4 in 2002, 4 in 2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

7-2-102 Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific (2002, 2003) (Expected accomplishment (b))

7-2-103 Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific (2003) (Expected accomplishment (b))

7-2-104 Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific (4 in 2002, 4 in 2003) (Expected accomplishment (b))

7-2-105 Asia-Pacific in Figures (2002, 2003) (Expected accomplishment (b))

5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):*

7-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Statistics on the World Wide Web <<http://www.unescap.org/stat>> (weekly updating, 2002-2003) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

6. *Exhibits:*

7-2-601 Exhibit for the Committee on Statistics (2002) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

7-2-701 Fact sheets on general/thematic statistics (2002, 2003) (Expected accomplishment (b))

9. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

7-2-901 Data disseminated on the electronic media (Internet, CD-ROM, diskettes etc.) (2002, 2003) (Expected accomplishment (b))

- 7-2-902 Operation and maintenance of the ESCAP Statistical Information System (2002, 2003) (Expected accomplishment (b))
- 7-2-903 Responses to ad hoc requests from outside users for statistical information (2002, 2003) (Expected accomplishment (b))

### **III. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION AND LIAISON (RB/XB)**

- 7-3-001 Collaboration with national and supranational organizations outside the United Nations system, including the East-West Center, the ASEAN secretariat and the Pacific Community (4 in 2002, 3 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))
- 7-3-002 Collaboration with NGOs, including the International Statistical Institute (2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))
- 7-3-003 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Statistical Commission, regional conferences of statisticians and the FAO Asia-Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (1 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))
- 7-3-004 Collaboration with the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))
- 7-3-005 Technical and substantive support to UNFPA Country Technical Services Teams in the region (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))
- 7-3-006 Technical and substantive support to SIAP, including assistance in the organization of group training (2002, 2003) (RB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

### **IV. TECHNICAL COOPERATION (RB/XB)**

#### *1. Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):*

- 7-4-101 Advisory services on statistics on gender issues, other aspects of socio-economic statistics and indicators and application of IT (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

#### *2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):*

- 7-4-201 Regional/subregional workshops on gender issues and other aspects of social and demographic statistics, including the follow-up to global conferences (2002, 2003) (RB/XB) (40 participants) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))
- 7-4-202 Regional/subregional workshops on economic and environment statistics, including national accounts and environmental accounting, and the application of IT (2 in 2002, 2 in 2003) (RB/XB) (80 participants) (Expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c))

## *Annex II*

### **STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION**

1. The resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session will have no additional cost implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.
2. Extrabudgetary resources will be sought for the implementation of activities required under the resolutions adopted at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission.



### *Annex III*

## MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND AD HOC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

<i>Subsidiary body/ministerial conference and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol of report<sup>1</sup></i>
Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development	Third session Bangkok 15-17 November 2000	E/ESCAP/1212
<i>Chairperson:</i> M. Rama Chandran (India)		
<i>Vice-Chairpersons:</i> A. Andrew De Silva (Sri Lanka) Krisnee Varanusupakul (Thailand) Metin Kati (Turkey)		
<i>Rapporteur:</i> Hans de Jong (Netherlands)		
Committee on Statistics	Twelfth session Bangkok 29 November-1 December 2000	E/ESCAP/1214
<i>Chairperson:</i> Paul Cheung (Singapore)		
<i>Vice-Chairpersons:</i> Tim Skinner (Australia) Timoci Bainimarama (Fiji) Frederick W.H. Ho (Hong Kong, China)		
<i>Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur:</i> Ch. Davaasuren (Mongolia)		
Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas	Third session Bangkok 6-8 December 2000	E/ESCAP/1208
<i>Chairperson:</i> Mojtaba Khalesi (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
<i>Vice-Chairperson:</i> Nathanon Thavisin (Thailand))		
<i>Rapporteur:</i> Tomas Osias (Philippines)		

<sup>1</sup> Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions New York Office at United Nations Headquarters.

<i>Subsidiary body/ministerial conference and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol of report<sup>1</sup></i>
<p>Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation</p> <p><i>Chairperson:</i> Abdul Reza Ghofrani (Islamic Republic of Iran)</p> <p><i>Vice-Chairpersons:</i> Hiralal Singh Dongol (Nepal)</p> <p>Nguyen Quoc Dung (Viet Nam)</p>	<p>Eighth session Bangkok 14-16 March 2001</p>	E/ESCAP/1201
<p>Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries</p> <p><i>Chairperson:</i> Dasho Ugyen Tshering (Bhutan)</p> <p><i>Vice-Chairperson:</i> Souphanh Keomixay (Lao People's Democratic Republic)</p> <p><i>Rapporteur:</i> Noumea Simi (Samoa)</p>	<p>Fifth session Bangkok 20 and 21 February 2001</p>	E/ESCAP/1216
<p>Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000</p> <p><i>Chairperson:</i> Yoriko Kawaguchi (Japan)</p> <p><i>Vice-Chairpersons:</i> H.N. Ashequr Rahman (Bangladesh)</p> <p>Mareth Mok (Cambodia)</p> <p>Zhu Guangyao (China)</p> <p>Ratu Tu'uakitau Cokanauto (Fiji)</p> <p>T.R. Baalu (India)</p> <p>A. Sonny Keraf (Indonesia)</p> <p>Serikbek Daukeyev (Kazakhstan)</p> <p>Kakaotika Tekee (Kiribati)</p> <p>Alykulov Tynybek (Kyrgyzstan)</p> <p>Souli Nanthavong (Lao People's Democratic Republic)</p>	<p>Kitakyushu, Japan 31 August-5 September 2000</p>	E/ESCAP/1205

<i>Subsidiary body/ministerial conference and officers</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Document symbol of report<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000 (<i>continued</i>)</b>		
<i>Vice-Chairpersons:</i> ( <i>continued</i> )	Dato Hieng-Ding Law (Malaysia)	
	Ulambayar Barsbold (Mongolia)	
	Shiva Raj Joshi (Nepal)	
	Jan Pronk (Netherlands)	
	Herowa Agiwa (Papua New Guinea)	
	Myung Ja Kim (Republic of Korea)	
	Aleksey Filippovich Poryadin (Russian Federation)	
	Matataualiitia Afa Lesa (Samoa)	
	Yock Suan Lee (Singapore)	
	Shokirov Usmonkul (Tajikistan)	
	Tu'l'afitu (Tonga)	
	Fevzi Aytekin (Turkey)	
	Begench Atamuradov (Turkmenistan)	
	Teleke Peleti Lauti (Tuvalu)	
	Sherimbetov Khalilulla Sertimovich (Uzbekistan)	
	Maxime Carlot Korman (Vanuatu)	
	Chu Tuan Nha (Viet Nam)	
	Norman George (Cook Islands)	
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Yousef Hojjat (Islamic Republic of Iran)	

## *Annex IV*

### SALES PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

#### A. Sales publications

<i>Title</i>	<i>United Nations publication sales number</i>
<i>A Review of Regional and Subregional Agreements on Land Transport Routes: Issues and Alternative Frameworks</i>	E.00.II.F.36
<i>Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons: Mid-point: Country Perspectives</i>	E.00.II.F.17
<i>Asia-Pacific Development Journal</i> Vol. 7, No. 1, June 2000	E.01.II.F.2
Vol. 7, No. 2, December 2000	E.01.II.F.3
<i>Asia-Pacific in Figures, 2000</i>	E.01.II.F.17
<i>Assessment of Water Resources and Water Demand by User Sector in Nepal</i>	E.00.II.F.59
<i>Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region</i> Vol. 15, <i>Geology and Mineral Resources of Azerbaijan</i>	E.00.II.F.21
<i>Bringing the Beijing Platform for Action to the Grass Roots: Promoting NGO- Government Collaboration in the Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Global Platform for Action</i> (Government-NGO Cooperation Series, No. 5)	E.00.II.F.42
<i>Commercialization of Renewable Energy Technologies for Sustainable Development</i> (Energy Resources Development Series, No. 37)	E.00.II.F.25
<i>Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 15-20 November 1999, New Delhi: Delhi Declaration and Strategy and Action Plan on Space Technology Applications in Asia and the Pacific for the New Millennium</i>	E.00.II.F.61
<i>Development of Asia-Europe Rail Container Transport through Block-trains: Northern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway</i>	E.00.II.F.35
<i>Directory of Sources of Fertilizer-related Information with Special Reference to Asia and the Pacific</i>	E.01.II.F.15
<i>Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2000</i>	E.00.II.F.19
<i>Guidelines on the Implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific</i>	E.00.II.F.60
<i>Interrelationship between Trade and Environment in Asia and the Pacific</i>	E.00.II.F.38
<i>Monitoring Reproductive Health</i> (Asian Population Studies Series, No. 155)	E.00.II.F.58
<i>Options for Exchange Rate Policy</i> (Least Developed Countries Series, No. 3)	E.00.II.F.41
<i>Principles and Practices of Water Allocation among Water-use Sectors</i> (Water Resources Series, No. 80)	E.00.II.F.54
<i>Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment: Lessons for Economies in Transition</i>	E.00.II.F.37

<i>Title</i>	<i>United Nations publication sales number</i>
<i>Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 15-20 November 1999, New Delhi: Proceedings</i>	E.01.II.F.6
<i>Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth in the Greater Mekong Subregion: A Qualitative Assessment of Their Health Needs and Available Services</i>	E.00.II.F.46
<i>Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth in South Asia: A Qualitative Assessment of Their Health Needs and Available Services</i>	E.00.II.F.47
<i>Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific</i> Vol. XXX, No. 1, March 2000	E.00.II.F.51
Vol. XXX, No. 2, June 2000	E.00.II.F.57
Vol. XXX, No. 3, September 2000	E.00.II.F.62
Vol. XXX, No. 4, December 2000	E.00.II.F.63
<i>The Family and Older Persons in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka</i> (Asian Population Studies Series, No. 151)	E.00.II.F.6
<i>The Future WTO Agenda and Developing Countries: Selected Papers and Issues Discussed at the ESCAP/UNCTAD/ADB Meeting of Senior Officials on the Future WTO Agenda and Developing Countries, Bangkok, 23-25 August 1999</i> (Studies in Trade and Investment, 41)	E.00.II.F.50
<i>Using CEDAW at the Grass Roots: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in the Pacific</i>	E.01.II.F.9
<i>Violence against Women in South Asia</i>	E.01.II.F.13
<i>Wastewater Management Policies and Practices in Asia and the Pacific</i> (Water Resources Series, No. 79)	E.00.II.F.45
<i>Women in Asia and the Pacific: High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, 26-29 October 1999: Proceedings</i>	E.01.II.F.10
<i>Youth Participation Manual</i>	E.00.II.F.43
<i>Youth Policy Formulation Manual</i>	E.00.II.F.44

## **B. Documents submitted to the Commission**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
E/ESCAP/L.145/Rev.1	Provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/L.146 and Corr.1 and 2	Annotated provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/1198	Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues	5 (a)
E/ESCAP/1199	Policy issues for the ESCAP region: balanced development of urban and rural areas and regions within the countries of Asia and the Pacific	5 (b)
E/ESCAP/1200	Report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of Commission resolution 53/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and related matters	6

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
E/ESCAP/1201	Report of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its eighth session	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/1202	Emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme: regional economic cooperation	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/1203	Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/1204	Report on the Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/1205	Report of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000	7 (b)
E/ESCAP/1206	Report of the High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development	7 (b)
E/ESCAP/1206/Add.1	Review of the outcome of the High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development	7 (b)
E/ESCAP/1207	Report on issues related to the environment and sustainable development of natural resources	7 (b)
E/ESCAP/1208	Report of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas on its third session	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1209	Report of the Regional High-level Meeting in Preparation for Istanbul + 5	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1210	Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1211 and Corr.1	Report on the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1212	Report of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development on its third session	7 (d)
E/ESCAP/1213	Report on the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific	7 (d)
E/ESCAP/1214	Report of the Committee on Statistics on its twelfth session	7 (e)
E/ESCAP/1215	Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	7 (e)
E/ESCAP/1216	Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its fifth session	7 (f)
E/ESCAP/1217	Implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001	8 (a)
E/ESCAP/1218	Proposed programme changes for 2001	8 (a)
E/ESCAP/1219 and Corr.1	Draft programme of work, 2002-2003	8 (b)
E/ESCAP/1220	Tentative calendar of meetings and training programmes, April 2001-March 2002	8 (c)

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
E/ESCAP/1221	Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions	9
E/ESCAP/1222	Report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre	10
E/ESCAP/1223	Report of the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	10
E/ESCAP/1224	Report of the Mekong River Commission	10
E/ESCAP/1225	Report of the Typhoon Committee	10
E/ESCAP/1226	Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones	10
E/ESCAP/1227 and Add.1	Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	11
E/ESCAP/1228	Date, venue and theme topic for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission	12
E/ESCAP/1228/Add.1	List of suggested theme topics for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission and issues for consideration at the Ministerial Round Table	12
E/ESCAP/1229	Regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, 25-27 June 2001	5 (c)
E/ESCAP/1230	Report on the implementation of Commission resolution 56/1 on the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009	7 (a)

## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS AND ADVISORY SERVICES IN 2000

### A. List of publications

#### Regional economic cooperation

*Development through Globalization and Partnership in the Twenty-first Century: An Asia-Pacific Perspective for Integrating Developing Countries and Disadvantaged Economies in Transition into the International Trading System on a Fair and Equitable Basis* (ST/ESCAP/2054)

*Private Sector Perspectives in the Greater Mekong Subregion* (ST/ESCAP/2065)

*Regional Cooperative Policy Mechanism for the Transfer, Financing and Management of Environmentally Sound Technology* (ST/ESCAP/2055)

*Small Rural Industries in the Asia-Pacific Region* (ST/ESCAP/2066)

*Studies in Trade and Investment: 37. Implications of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) for Asia-Pacific Economies* (ST/ESCAP/1926); 41. *The Future WTO Agenda and Developing Countries* (ST/ESCAP/2047); 43. *Interregional Cooperation in Trade and Investment: Asia-Latin America* (ST/ESCAP/2069)

*TISNET Trade and Investment Information Bulletin*, Nos. 25-36

#### Development research and policy analysis

*A Manual for Evaluating Targeted Poverty Alleviation Programmes* (ST/ESCAP/2071)

*Asia-Pacific Development Journal*, vol. 7, No. 1, June 2000 (ST/ESCAP/2058); No. 2, December 2000 (ST/ESCAP/2090)

*Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2000* (ST/ESCAP/2043)

*Least Developed Countries Series*, No. 3, *Options for Exchange Rate Policy* (ST/ESCAP/2037); No. 5, *Review of Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s: Subregional Studies* (ST/ESCAP/2084)

*Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment: Lessons for Economies in Transition* (ST/ESCAP/1983)

#### Social development

*Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons – Midpoint: Country Perspectives* (ST/ESCAP/2014)

*ESCAP HRD Course for Youth Development* (ST/ESCAP/2008)

*ESCAP HRD Newsletter*, Nos. 14 and 15

*Government-NGO Cooperation Series*, No. 5, *Bringing the Beijing Platform for Action to the Grass Roots: Promoting NGO-Government Collaboration in the Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Global Platform for Action* (ST/ESCAP/2016)

*Guidelines on the Implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific* (printed in Chinese, English, French and Russian) (ST/ESCAP/2080)

*Handbook for Literacy and Post-literacy for Capacity-building of Organizations* (ST/ESCAP/2044)

*HRD for Youth Empowerment: Eight Innovative Approaches Submitted for the 1999 ESCAP HRD Award* (ST/ESCAP/2083)

*HRD Through Adult Education: Innovative Approaches Submitted for the 1998 ESCAP HRD Award* (ST/ESCAP/2052)

*Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth in Cambodia: A Qualitative Assessment of their Health Needs and Available Services in Selected Provinces* (ST/ESCAP/2073)

*Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth in Yunnan Province, China: A Qualitative Assessment of their Health Needs and Available Services in Selected Areas of the Province* (ST/ESCAP/2074)

*Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth in the Greater Mekong Subregion: A Qualitative Assessment of their Health Needs and Available Services* (ST/ESCAP/2045)

*Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth in the Lao People's Democratic Republic: A Qualitative Assessment of their Health Needs and Available Services in Selected Provinces* (ST/ESCAP/2075)

*Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth in Myanmar: A Qualitative Assessment of their Health Needs and Available Services in Selected Provinces* (ST/ESCAP/2076)

*Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth in South Asia: A Qualitative Assessment of their Health Needs and Available Services* (ST/ESCAP/2038)



*Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth in Thailand: A Qualitative Assessment of their Health Needs and Available Services in Selected Provinces* (ST/ESCAP/2077)

*Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth in Viet Nam: A Qualitative Assessment of their Health Needs and Available Services in Selected Provinces* (ST/ESCAP/2078)

*Social Development Newsletter*, Nos. 42 and 43

*Strategies for Community-based Drug Demand Reduction* (ST/ESCAP/1931)

*WINAP Newsletter* Nos. 26 and 27

*Women in Asia and the Pacific: High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action* (ST/ESCAP/2061)

*Women in Development Discussion Paper Series*: No. 6, *Utilizing Business Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in Asia and the Pacific*; No. 7, *Women and Violence, Human Rights and Armed Conflict*; No. 8, *Empowerment of Women in Poverty: Report of ESCAP/Grameen Bank Regional Seminar*; No. 9, *Women in Poverty in Malaysia: A Review of Extant Studies, Policies and Programmes and Survey Report*; No. 10, *Women in Poverty in the Philippines: A Review of Extant Studies, Policies and Programmes and Survey Report*

*Youth in the Philippines: A Review of the Youth Situation and National Policies and Programmes* (ST/ESCAP/2082)

*Youth in Thailand: A Review of the Youth Situation and National Policies and Programmes* (ST/ESCAP/2081)

*Youth Participation Manual* (ST/ESCAP/2036)

*Youth Policy Formulation Manual* (ST/ESCAP/2035)

### **Population and rural and urban development**

*Asia-Pacific Population Journal*, vol. 15, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/2068); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/2086); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/2094)

*Asian Population Studies Series*, No. 151, *The Family and Older Persons in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka* (ST/ESCAP/1997); No. 155, *Monitoring Reproductive Health* (ST/ESCAP/2070)

*Compendium of United Nations Work Programmes on Rural Poverty Alleviation (2000-2001)* (ST/ESCAP/2091)

*Cost-effective Employment Promotion for the Rural Poor* (ST/ESCAP/2064)

*Directory of Sources of Fertilizer-related Information with Special Reference to Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/2097)

*Managing the Transition from the Village to the City in the South Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1994)

### **Environment and natural resources development**

*Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing and GIS Journal*, vol. 12, No. 1

*Assessment of Water Resources and Water Demand by User Sector in Nepal* (ST/ESCAP/2049)

*Atlas of Mineral Resources in the ESCAP Region*, vol. 15, *Geology and Mineral Resources of Azerbaijan* (ST/ESCAP/2033)

*Confluence*, No. 34, December 1999; No. 35, June 2000; No. 36, December 2000

*Delhi Declaration and Strategy and Action Plan on Space Technology Applications in Asia and the Pacific for the New Millennium* (ST/ESCAP/2059)

*Energy Resources Development Series*, No. 37, *Commercialization of Renewable Energy Technologies for Sustainable Development* (ST/ESCAP/2006)

*ESCAP Energy News*, vol. XVII, Nos. 1 and 2

*Guidebook on Cogeneration as a Means of Pollution Control and Energy Efficiency in Asia* (ST/ESCAP/2026)

*Impact Assessment and Regional Response Strategies for Climate Change* (ST/ESCAP/2030)

*Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000* (ST/ESCAP/2031)

*Mineral Concentrations and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in the ESCAP Region*, vol. 11, *Integrated Assessment and Development of Mineral Resources in the Greater Mekong Subregion* (ST/ESCAP/2013)

*Mineral Resources Assessment, Development and Management Series*, vol. 4, *Minerals and Metals Development and Trade for Sustainable Supply in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1907)

*Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi, 15-20 November 1999: Delhi Declaration and Strategy and Action Plan on Space Technology Applications in Asia and the Pacific for the New Millennium* (ST/ESCAP/2062)

*Space Technology Applications Newsletter*, vol. 17, No. 4; vol. 18, Nos. 1 and 2

*Water Resources Journal*: March 2000 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/204); June 2000 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/205); September 2000 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/206); and December 2000 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/207)

*Water Resources Series*, No. 79, *Wastewater Management Policies and Practices in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/SER.F/79); No. 80, *Principles and Practices of Water Allocation among Water-use Sectors* (ST/ESCAP/SER.F/80)

### **Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development**

*A Review of Regional and Subregional Agreements on Land Transport Routes: Issues and Alternative Frameworks* (ST/ESCAP/2034)

*Development of Asia-Europe Rail Container Transport through Block-trains: Northern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway* (ST/ESCAP/2032)

*Guidelines for Asian Highway Promotion* (ST/ESCAP/2057)

### **Statistics**

*Asia-Pacific in Figures, 2000* (ST/ESCAP/2100)

*Government Computerization Newsletter*, No. 15, July 2000

*Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific*, vol. XXX, No. 1, March 2000 (ST/ESCAP/2051); No. 2, June 2000 (ST/ESCAP/2067); No. 3, September 2000 (ST/ESCAP/2093); No. 4, December 2000 (ST/ESCAP/2102)

*Statistical Newsletter*, Nos. 116-119

## **B. List of meetings**

### **Regional economic cooperation**

Greater Mekong Subregion Business Sector Meeting, Bangkok, February

Seminar on Interregional Cooperation in Trade and Investment: Asia-Latin America, Bangkok, February

Expert Group Meeting on Regional Trade and Investment Information Networking, Bangkok, February

National Workshops on Facilitating Intra-subregional and Inter-subregional Trade in the SAARC Subregion: Kathmandu, March; Karachi and Islamabad, April; New Delhi, August

Working Committee on ASPAT 2000 DELHI: New Delhi, third session, March; fourth session, September

Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement, sixteenth session, Bangkok, April

2000 International Conference on Business Incubation and Technology Innovation, Shanghai, China, April

Fourth Consultative Group Meeting under the Project on Advisory Assistance to Industry for Export Promotion with Cooperating Agencies, Ho Chi Minh, May

First WTO/ESCAP Trade Policy Course on WTO and the Multilateral Trading System for Asian Developing Economies, Bangkok, May

China International Trade Research and Training Centre for the Asian and Pacific Region/ESCAP/APCTT Training Workshop for Trainers on Industrial Project Preparation and Management for Selected Developing Countries undergoing Economic Reform in Asia and the Pacific, Beijing, May

Awareness Workshop on Quality Improvement in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vientiane, June

Fifth Consultative Meeting among Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP, Bangkok, June

Regional Round Table on Information Technology and Development, New Delhi, June

Seminar on the Role of China in Interregional Trade, Beijing, June

ESCAP Management Training Course in Myanmar under the Hi-Fi Plan for Private Sector Development in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Yangon, July

Workshop on Competition Policy and Role of the Government, Bangkok, July

Training Workshop on Trade Promotion for Economies in Transition of Central Asia and Trans-Caucasus, Almaty, August

Training of Trainers on Quality Improvement Programme/Work Improvement in Small Enterprises in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vientiane, August

Regional Consultation Meeting on Strengthening the Technology Incubation System for Creating High-technology-based Enterprises, Seoul, August

Seminar on Human Resources Development for Information Technology, Seoul, September

National Workshops on Enhancing Export Opportunities through Environmentally Sound Business Development: Colombo, Hanoi, Kathmandu and Vientiane, September

National Workshops on Training in Selected Issues of SME Management: Almaty and Yerevan, September

Greater Mekong Subregion Inception Meeting of the GMS Business Forum, Bangkok, October

Training of Trainers Follow-up Workshop on Work Improvement in Small Enterprises in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vientiane, October

Second International Symposium and Exhibition on Fruit/Vegetable Processing Technology and Industrialization, Yantai, China, October

Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation, twelfth meeting, Incheon City, Republic of Korea, October

ASPAT 2000 DELHI, New Delhi, November

ESCAP/UNCTAD/UNDP Regional Meeting on Research and Training Needs in International Trade in Asia-Pacific Countries, New Delhi, November

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on the Promotion of New Forms of Financing for Transfer, Development and Application of Environmentally Sound Technologies, New Delhi, November

Regional Business Sector Meeting of the Bangkok Agreement, Bangkok, November

Seminar on the Bangkok Agreement, Yangon, November

Consultative Stakeholders Meeting on Information and Communication Technology in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, December

### **Development research and policy analysis**

Subregional Workshop for South Asian Countries on Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Decision-making Processes, Colombo, June

National Workshop on Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Decision-making Processes in Sri Lanka, Colombo, June

High-level Regional Consultative Meeting on Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific, Jakarta, August

National Seminar on Financing Economic Development in Tajikistan, Dushanbe, September

Regional High-level Preparatory Meeting for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Dhaka, November

Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, December

### **Social development**

National Workshop on Establishing a Social Development Management Information System: Tehran, January, and Male, March

Regional Training Workshop on Disability Statistics, New Delhi, February

Promotion of Women in Small Business in Indo-China: Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Dhaka, February

Meeting of the Jury of the 1999 ESCAP HRD Award, Bangkok, February

Regional Training of Trainers Course on the Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments for Persons with Disabilities, Bangkok, March

Regional Seminar on the Assessment and Classification of Adult Offenders and Juvenile Delinquents, Bangkok, March

RICAP Subcommittee on HIV/AIDS, Bangkok, March

Training Workshop on Social Mobilization, Pattaya, Thailand, March

National Policy Dialogue on HRD Policy-making for Youth: Bangkok; Hanoi; Kuala Lumpur; Quezon City, Philippines; March

National HRD Course for Youth Development: Phnom Penh, March; Vientiane, July; Yangon, November

Preparatory Meeting for Trainers on the Project, "Strengthening of Women's Information Network through Computer Networking in the Asian and Pacific Region", Manila, April

RICAP Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns, nineteenth session, Bangkok, May

Regional Seminar on Social Development Management Information Systems, Bangkok, May

Regional Planning Committee for ESCAP Youth Events, Bangkok, May

Consultants' Meeting on the Evaluation of Income- or Employment-generating Programmes to Alleviate the Socio-economic Impacts of the Economic Crisis, Bangkok, May

Ad Hoc Meeting of the Inter-agency Subcommittee on the Advancement of Women, Bangkok, May

Regional Consultation on Social Development, Bangkok, May

Regional Women's Electronic Network Training Workshop, Seoul, June

ESCAP HRD Course on Psychosocial and Medical Services for Sexually Abused and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth: Kathmandu and Pokhara, Nepal, July and December; and Bangkok and Pattaya, Thailand, September

Review of Progress in Fieldwork and Second Training Workshop on Social Mobilization, Pattaya, Thailand, July-August

Regional Workshop on Preventing Child Sex Tourism in Asia through Tourism Industry Training and Human Resources Development, Bangkok, August

Planning Seminar-cum-Workshop on Strengthening Policies on Social Safety Nets, Bangkok, August

Follow-up National HRD Course for Youth Development, Luang Prabang, Lao People's Democratic Republic, August; Chongqing, China, October; and Phnom Penh, October

Thematic Working Group on HIV/AIDS, Bangkok, September

Asia-Pacific Conference on Tourism for People with Disabilities, Bali, Indonesia, September

Thematic Working Group on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality, Bangkok, September

Asia-Pacific Seminar of Experts in Preparation for the World Conference against Racism: Migrants and Trafficking in Persons with Particular Reference to Women and Children, Bangkok, September

Regional Advocacy Workshop on the Prevention of Drug Use and HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, October

Evaluation Meeting of the ESCAP/Christian Conference of Asia Project on Promoting HRD among Youth in Transitional and Less Advantaged Countries, Bangkok, November

Training Seminar on Accessible Public Transport Facilities and Services, Shenzhen, China, November

Participation of Women Entrepreneurs in the Ninth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT 2000), New Delhi, November

Expert Group Meeting to Strategize on the Regional Implementation of the Outcome Document of the Global Review of the Beijing Platform for Action, Bangkok, November

Millennium Symposium on Intellectual Disability, Singapore, November

Thematic Working Group on Disability-related Concerns, Bangkok, December

Thematic Working Group on Social Summit Follow-up, Bangkok, December

Regional Conference on Asian Women for a Culture of Peace, Hanoi, December

National Workshop on Social Safety Nets, Makati, Philippines, December

Campaign 2000 for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, Bangkok, December

### **Population and rural and urban development**

Regional Expert Group Meeting on Strengthening Linkages Between Rural Credit, Agricultural Extension and Marketing, Bangkok, April

ESCAP/LOGOTRI/AIT/University of Wales, Cardiff, Internet-based Training Course on Municipal Finance, Bangkok, April-May

RICAP Subcommittee on Population and Development, seventh session, Bangkok, May

Regional Seminar on Total Quality Management of Local Government Training and Research Institutes, Manila, May

Evaluation and Future Directions on Internet-based Networking for Sustainable Fertilizer Information Management in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, May

Expert Group Meeting on the Advancement of Women in Local Government, Nakhon Nayok, Thailand, June

Training Workshop on Information Technology for Population Information Professionals, Nanjing, China, September

East and South-East Asia Population Information Consultative Meeting, Beijing, September

Regional Workshop on Integrated Pest Management and Green Farming in Rural Poverty Alleviation, Suwon, Republic of Korea, October

Regional High-level Meeting in Preparation for Istanbul + 5 for Asia and the Pacific, Hangzhou, China, October

Asia-Pacific Symposium to Establish a Network on Green Food and Sustainable Agriculture, Kunming, China, November

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Population Database Development, Seoul, November

Regional Training Workshop on Reproductive Health Indicators and Database Development, Seoul, November

Governing Board of the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific, nineteenth session, Bogor, Indonesia, November

LOGOTRI Training Workshop on the Application of ISO 9000 Standards in Local Government and other Public Service Organizations, Beijing, November-December

Training Workshop on Advanced Use of the Internet for Population Research, Bangkok, December

### **Environment and natural resources development**

Regional Consultation on Asian Perspectives in World Energy Assessment, Bangkok, January

Steering Committee of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, second meeting, Kitakyushu, Japan, February

Regional Workshop on Allocation of Water Resources among Water-use Sectors, Bangkok, February

Subregional Meeting on Strategic Environmental Management for Central Asian Countries, Tehran, February

RICAP Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, thirteenth meeting, Bangkok, February

Regional Workshop of State of the Environment Specialists in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, March

Sixth Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, Seoul, March

Regional Seminar on the Development of Space Technology Applications for Phase II of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, Bangkok, March

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Space Technology Applications on the Minimum Common Programme, Bangkok, March

Pacific Subregional Consultation Meeting in Preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, 2000, Port Vila, April

Regional Workshop of State of the Environment Focal Points in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, April

Round-table Workshop on the Formulation of a National Water Vision: Hanoi, April; Kuala Lumpur and Manila, May; Bangkok, June

Practical Training Course on Efficient Energy Management in Industries: Ho Chi Minh, Phase 1, April; Phase 2, July

Regional Working Group on Satellite Communication Applications, fifth meeting, Manila, May

Regional Review Meeting in Preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, Bangkok, May

Seminar on the Promotion of Public Information on Water Conservation, Bangkok, May

Regional Working Group on Space Science and Technology Applications, fifth meeting, Canberra, May

Regional Working Group on Meteorological Satellite Applications and Natural Hazards Monitoring, fifth meeting, Seoul, June

Subregional Seminar on the Management of Hazardous Wastes and Their Transboundary Movements, Omsk, Russian Federation, June

Subregional Consultation Meeting for South-East Asia in Preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, Manila, July

Regional Working Group on Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems and Satellite-based Positioning, sixth meeting, Tehran, July

Inter-agency Subcommittee on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, sixth meeting, Tehran, July

Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, sixth session, Tehran, July

Energy Manager Training Course, Calcutta, India: Phase I, August; Phase II, September

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Strategic Planning towards a Sustainable Energy Future: Policy Options, Barriers and Action Plan, Bangkok, September

Inter-agency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific, forty-fifth meeting, Bangkok, October

Regional Workshop on Indicators of Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, October

Seminar to Review and Finalize a Draft Water Conservation Awareness Guidebook, Pattaya, Thailand, November

Asian Regional Workshop on the Promotion of Effective Implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification, Bangkok, November

Third Regional Meeting of the Convention to Combat Desertification National Focal Points in Asia, Bangkok, November

High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development, Bali, Indonesia, November

ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee, thirty-third session, Macao, China, November-December

Asian Ocean Colour Remote Sensing Training Course 2000, Bangkok, December

Workshop on ADEOS-II Satellite Data Utilization in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, December

### **Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development**

National Workshops on Sustainable Transport Development in the Rattanakosin Area of Bangkok, Bangkok, January, February, March

ESCAP/ECE/Board of Investment of Bangladesh Meeting on a Negotiating Platform for Public-private Partnership Projects, Dhaka, February

ESCAP/World Bank Country-level Workshop on Road Management and Financing, Port Moresby, February

Policy-level Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Asia-Europe Rail Container Transport through Block-Trains: Northern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway, Bangkok, February

ESCAP/Tourism Authority of Thailand/World Tourism Organization Asia-Pacific Seminar on Public-private Sector Partnership in Tourism Development, Bangkok, March

ESCAP/IMO Country-level Workshops on Safety of Coastal and Inland Navigation: Jakarta, March; Dhaka, April

Working Group on the Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Sector, eleventh meeting, Phnom Penh, April

Regional Tripartite Forum among Shipowners, Shippers and Ports, Seoul, April

ESCAP/World Bank International Workshop on Road Management and the Establishment of a Maintenance and Development Fund, Hanoi, May

Seminar on Expanding the Economic Benefits of Tourism through Promotion of Investment in Tourism Infrastructure, Seoul, May

Executive Committee of the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism: fourth meeting, Shanghai, China, May; fifth meeting, Singapore, November

Subregional Workshop on an Asian Highway Database, Almaty, June

Subregional Workshop on Training of Trainers in Freight Forwarding, Multimodal Transport and Logistics Management, Bangkok, July

National Seminars on Sustainable Tourism Development: Yangon, August; Tianjin, China, October

National-cum-Subregional Seminar on Transport of Dangerous Goods, New Delhi, September

Country-level Workshop on Development of Freight Forwarding and Multimodal Transport, Vientiane, October

International Conference and Exhibition on Inland Water Transport and Dredging, Bangkok, November

Regional Policy Seminar on Transport and Communication Challenges for Urban Local Governments in the Twenty-first Century, Kuala Lumpur, November

Training Seminar on Accessible Public Transport Facilities and Services, Shenzhen, China, November

Regional Seminar on Transport Pricing and Charges for Promoting Sustainable Development, New Delhi, December

Seminar on the Development of Cruise Shipping and Tourism in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, December

Subregional Seminar on Technological Development of Inland Water Transport Infrastructure, Kunming, China, December

### Statistics

ADB/ESCAP Inception Workshop on Rebasement and Linking of National Accounts Series, Bangkok, March

Meeting of Heads of Statistical Offices on Strengthening Statistical Capacity in ASEAN Countries, Bangkok, April

Regional Workshop on Statistics on Gender Issues, Bangkok, May

Subregional Training Workshop on Environment Statistics, Bangkok, May

OECD/ESCAP Workshop on Key Economic Indicators, Bangkok, May

Training Workshop on Statistical Aspects of Integrating Unpaid Work into National Policies, Bangkok, September

Regional Resource Group on Integrating Paid and Unpaid Work into National Policies, third meeting, Bangkok, September

OECD/ADB/ESCAP Workshop on Business Tendency Surveys, Bangkok, November

Bureau of the Committee on Statistics, sixth meeting, Bangkok, November

## C. List of advisory services

### Regional economic cooperation

**Cambodia:** (a) to assess its needs with respect to international trade and foreign investment policy; and (b) to conduct a training seminar on WTO accession, the effects of the entry of China into WTO and the implications for Cambodian exports

**Cook Islands,** to brief the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration and the private sector on trade policy issues and market prospects for Cook Islands exports

**Fiji,** to participate in the stakeholder workshop and assist the Fiji Island Trade and Investment Bureau in the preparation of a paper on electronic commerce

**India,** to advise the Government on the introduction of electronic commerce in the plantation sector

**Malaysia:** (a) to brief the secretariat of the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, Kuala Lumpur, and deliver a presentation on current developments in international trade policy with special reference to the accession of China to WTO and its implications for Malaysian exporters; (b) to discuss current issues pertaining to the maritime sector and international trade with the Maritime Institute of Malaysia; and (c) to present a paper on globalization, international trade and transport at a seminar on international trade and trade facilitation

**Maldives,** to evaluate the existing domestic and international trade policy environment and assist the Ministry of Trade, Industries and Labour in aligning trade policy with multilateral rules and in enhancing national competitiveness

**Mongolia:** (a) to advise various officials of ministries and concerned offices on trade facilitation and electronic commerce, and to conduct two seminars on that subject; and (b) to advise the Mongolian Chamber of Commerce and Industry on trade policy, trade promotion and coordination between governmental and non-governmental business organizations

**Myanmar:** (a) to brief officials of the Directorate of Trade of the Ministry of Commerce and other related government agencies on current developments with respect to WTO agreements, the aftermath of the Third WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Seattle, United States, in 1999, and the prospects of developing countries as regards future trade negotiations; and (b) to hold discussions with ministry officials on the prospects for exports from Myanmar

**Nepal:** (a) to provide guidance, follow-up and advice on the implementation of the various United Nations trade facilitation projects; (b) to advise and make recommendations on how to overcome implementation difficulties and to report on progress; and (c) to participate in and contribute to the national workshop on facilitating intra- and inter-subregional trade in the SAARC subregion

**Pakistan:** (a) to provide guidance, follow-up and advice on the implementation of the various United Nations trade facilitation projects; (b) to advise and make recommendations on how to overcome implementation difficulties and to report on progress; and (c) to participate in and contribute to the national workshop on facilitating intra- and inter-subregional trade in the SAARC subregion

**Philippines:** (a) to advise the Philippine Trade Training Center of the Department of Trade and Industry and conduct (in Manila, Cebu and Davao) seminars on international trade development and its implications for Philippine exports, and on eco-labelling for garments and textiles; and (b) to speak at the second ASEAN trade and investment seminar, organized by the Trade Training Center, on the impact of the accession of China to WTO

**Samoa:** (a) to review with the Department of Trade, Commerce and Industry matters relating to the accession of Samoa to WTO; (b) to advise on responses to questions on the foreign trade regime memorandum; and (c) to brief the Department on current trade policy developments, especially the aftermath of the Seattle WTO Ministerial Conference and the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Bangkok

**Thailand,** to speak on recent developments relating to international trade policy and their implications for developing countries in the ESCAP region at the training course on export promotion for Asian developing countries, organized by the Department of Export Promotion

## **Development research and policy analysis**

**Fiji:** (a) to assist the Fiji Credit Union League in preparing for the implementation of the central banking facility; (b) to prepare for the technical assistance mission to Nasinu; (c) to hold discussions with the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Fiji on activities of the Bank and issues of common interest; (d) to discuss the corporate plan of Nasinu and prepare the chapter on micro-finance in the national development plan; (e) to work with Nasinu Town Council on the formulation of the corporate plan; and (f) to follow up on the work of the task force involved in the formulation of the strategic plan of the Council and assess the work in progress

**New Caledonia:** (a) to follow up on the implementation of the five-year plan of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the development plan for income-generating activities in Kanak tribes; (b) to help the Secretary-General of the government Regional Cooperation Office in the preparation of the foreign policy of New Caledonia; and (c) to follow up on the project on the promotion of income-generating activities for the Kanak tribes, implemented by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry

**Tajikistan:** (a) to assist the Government in connection with preparations for, and the conduct of, the third session of the SPECA project working group; and (b) to advise the Government in connection with preparation for, and the conduct of, the fourth session of the working group

**Vanuatu:** (a) to prepare the corporate plan of the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission, which included the preparation of a questionnaire for a survey; (b) to introduce the survey to the board, the staff and the local counterpart; and (c) to work with the General Manager in developing plans of action

## **Social development**

**Fiji,** to review social development planning and support the regional youth leadership workshop

**Nepal,** to assist the National Planning Commission in preparing a progress report on national commitments for presentation at the five-year review, held in Geneva in June 2000, of the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development

**Pakistan,** to assist the Planning, Environment and Development Department of the government of the North-West Frontier Province in integrating poverty reduction parameters into multisector area development projects

**Philippines:** (a) to design a training programme to enable the members of the League of Vice-Governors of the Philippines, in Bacolod, Manila, and provincial legislators, to enact policy and appropriation ordinances in support of poverty alleviation; (b) to assist the Department of Social Welfare and Development in preparing a gender and development

framework and demonstrating its use in the evaluation of the productivity, skills and capacity-building project for disadvantaged women; and (c) to participate as a panellist in the national workshop on social safety nets in the Philippines

**Samoa:** (a) to complete the report on the state of youth and support the finalization of the youth policy; (b) to assist with the implementation of national youth policy and support corporate planning for the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture; and (c) to review the planning systems of the Ministry and how they relate to national planning systems, and to advise on national youth policy

**Thailand,** to share expertise on social integration and the mainstreaming of an anti-poverty agenda in local governance by women leaders

**Tuvalu:** (a) to review the second draft of the social welfare policy; and (b) to review social welfare policy issues and legislation, as discussed with the Department of Community Affairs

**Vanuatu:** (a) to advise the Vanuatu National Council of Women on implementing its corporate plan and outline the constitution of Vanuatu Women in Politics; (b) to advise on non-formal education programming; (c) to finalize the report of the workshop on governance; (d) to support the Disabled Peoples' International mission to Vanuatu; and (e) to assist the Vanuatu Council of Ministers, at the request of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in the submission of a report on youth policy in the country

### **Environment and natural resources development**

**Cambodia:** (a) to advise the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy on an environmental impact assessment of the Kirirom hydroelectric project and its implementation agreement; (b) to assist the Ministry of Environment in a preliminary assessment of the implications of regional and international environmental treaties and conventions not yet ratified by Cambodia and make recommendations on their ratification; and (c) to make suggestions on the effective implementation of the conventions and agreements already ratified

**China,** to advise the Nanjing Institute of Hydrology and Water Resources in the field of flood-control engineering and strategies

**Cook Islands,** to advise the Environment Service of the Government on drafting the Environment Bill 2000

**Democratic People's Republic of Korea:** (a) to advise the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection on clean-coal technologies and conduct a two-day national workshop on such technologies; and (b) to advise the Academy of Sciences on world trends in water resources management and the prediction of environmental effects of river dam construction

**India,** to advise the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the implementation of the ISO 14000 series of standards and the preparation of guidelines on voluntary environmental compliance by industries

**Indonesia,** to advise the Directorate-General of Geology and Mineral Resources on the formulation of short-, medium- and long-term programmes for the promotion of the mineral sector

**Lao People's Democratic Republic:** (a) to advise the National Water Resources Coordination Committee on water resources policies and regulations; and (b) to advise on implementing rules and regulations for mining legislation

**Mongolia:** (a) to advise on mineral policy and mineral economics; and (b) to advise the Ministry of Nature and Environment on reviewing the solid waste management systems of Ulaanbaatar and propose private sector participation in solid waste management

**Myanmar:** (a) to advise the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of the Ministry of Transport on setting up water quality monitoring stations on major rivers; (b) to advise the National Commission for Environment Affairs on reviewing its draft report, organizing a meeting and finalizing the draft report on the state of the environment; and (c) to advise the Department on water quality monitoring

**Pakistan,** to advise the Planning and Development Department and the Environmental Protection Agency in Baluchistan, Quetta, on ways and means of addressing critical water issues, and to act as a resource person in a training workshop on groundwater mining and recharge

**Philippines,** to advise the National Water Resources Board on water resources policies and regulations

**Sri Lanka,** to assist the Government in the review of the National Environmental Action Plan and make suggestions for its improvement

**Thailand,** to review the current status of the Bangkok sewage and storm water drainage projects and advise the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration on the desirability and applicability of separate raw sewage and storm water drainage systems in Bangkok

### **Statistics**

**Iran (Islamic Republic of),** to advise the Central Bank of Iran on implementing the 1993 SNA

**Kazakhstan,** to advise on commodity flow, the financial account and recalculation of dynamic series in connection with the conversion to the new classification of economic activities

**Maldives,** to provide advisory services on the 1993 SNA



**Micronesia (Federated States of)**, to train the staff involved in the compilation of national accounts and to review such compilation with particular emphasis on data resources and methods

**Mongolia:** (a) to advise on the implementation of the 1993 SNA; and (b) to act as a resource person in the seminar on the time-use survey and valuation of unpaid work

**Nepal**, to provide advice on the rebasing and linking of national accounts series and to assist in formulating activities for the compilation of quarterly GDP and in finalizing the programme of work for migration to the 1993 SNA

**Pakistan**, to advise on the implementation of the 1993 SNA and to formulate activities on the compilation of quarterly and regional GDP and satellite accounts

**Papua New Guinea**, to review the current compilation of national accounts statistics and to set the framework for improvement and migration to the 1993 SNA

**Philippines:** (a) to advise on estimating changes in volume measure of national accounts and compilation of regional accounts; and (b) to review the sectoral accounts and the constant price estimation using the chain volume index for the 1993 SNA

**Sri Lanka**, to advise on the 1993 SNA

**Thailand**, to advise on the compilation of financial and government sector accounts and the estimate of the financial internal mediation services

**Viet Nam**, to advise the General Statistical Office on the compilation of institutional sector accounts, quarterly GDP and regional accounts

## Annex VI

### TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

*As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions.*

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having considered* General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly "recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of ... an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East",

*Having noted* the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

*Establishes* an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the relevant United Nations bodies;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan, American Samoa, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Georgia, Guam, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macao, China, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include American Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, China, Macao, China, New Caledonia, Niue and Northern Mariana Islands.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organization to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization, following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic

and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and cooperation with other regional commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairperson.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

## *Annex VII*

### **RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

*As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission.*

#### **Chapter I**

#### **SESSIONS**

##### *Rule 1*

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session, subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

##### *Rule 2*

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

##### *Rule 3*

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to

participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

#### **Chapter II**

#### **AGENDA**

##### *Rule 4*

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

##### *Rule 5*

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, subject to the provisions of rule 6;

(f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

##### *Rule 6*

Non-governmental organizations in general consultative status may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

#### *Rule 7*

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

#### *Rule 8*

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

### **Chapter III**

#### **REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS**

##### *Rule 9*

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

##### *Rule 10*

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

##### *Rule 11*

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

##### *Rule 12*

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

### **Chapter IV**

#### **OFFICERS**

##### *Rule 13*

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

##### *Rule 14*

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

##### *Rule 15*

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no

longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

##### *Rule 16*

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

##### *Rule 17*

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

### **Chapter V**

#### **SECRETARIAT**

##### *Rule 18*

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its subcommissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

##### *Rule 19*

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

##### *Rule 20*

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its subcommissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

##### *Rule 21*

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

##### *Rule 22*

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

##### *Rule 23*

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the

Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

## **Chapter VI**

### **CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

#### *Rule 24*

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

#### *Rule 25*

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

#### *Rule 26*

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

#### *Rule 27*

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

#### *Rule 28*

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

#### *Rule 29*

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

#### *Rule 30*

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

#### *Rule 31*

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

#### *Rule 32*

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

#### *Rule 33*

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

#### *Rule 34*

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

#### *Rule 35*

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed; and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

#### *Rule 36*

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

## **Chapter VII**

### **VOTING**

#### *Rule 37*

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

#### *Rule 38*

Except for the provision of rule 6(b), decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

#### *Rule 39*

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

#### *Rule 40*

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

#### *Rule 41*

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

#### *Rule 42*

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

#### *Rule 43*

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

### **Chapter VIII**

#### **LANGUAGES**

##### *Rule 44*

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

##### *Rule 45*

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

### **Chapter IX**

#### **RECORDS**

##### *Rule 46*

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other

government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

##### *Rule 47*

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

##### *Rule 48*

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

##### *Rule 49*

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster.

### **Chapter X**

#### **PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS**

##### *Rule 50*

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

### **Chapter XI**

#### **CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

##### *Rule 51*

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or

more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving coordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

## Chapter XII

### RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### *Rule 52*

Non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

#### *Rule 53*

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in general and special consultative status on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete - e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

#### *Rule 54*

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the

Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in general consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in special consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (e) above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

#### *Rule 55*

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in general or special consultative status either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

#### *Rule 56*

Subject to rule 23 the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54(d) and (e) shall not apply in this case.



### **Chapter XIII**

#### **SUBCOMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES**

##### *Rule 57*

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

##### *Rule 58*

The Commission may establish such committees and subcommittees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

##### *Rule 59*

Subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, subcommittees and working parties shall

adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

### **Chapter XIV**

#### **REPORTS**

##### *Rule 60*

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

### **Chapter XV**

#### **AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS**

##### *Rule 61*

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

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