

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

ANNUAL REPORT
20 May 2010 – 25 May 2011

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2011

SUPPLEMENT No. 19



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NOTE

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List of abbreviations

ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
APCICT	Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APTA	Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
ARTNeT	Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
CAPSA	Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HIPC	heavily indebted poor countries
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
ICT	information and communications technology
IMF	International Monetary Fund
NEASPEC	North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SPECA	United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNAPCAEM	United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

Notes: Values are in United States dollars unless otherwise specified.
The term "billion" signifies a thousand million.

Introduction

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held its sixty-seventh session in Bangkok, from 19 to 25 May 2011. The present report, which covers the period from 20 May 2010 to 25 May 2011, contains an account of the discussions and conclusions reached by the Commission.

Chapter I

Issues calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

2. At its sixty-seventh session, the Commission adopted 15 resolutions.¹ Resolutions 67/2 and 67/13 require action by the Council; the remaining resolutions are brought to the attention of the Council.²

¹ Subsequent to the sixty-seventh session of the Commission, the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed serious concern over the inclusion of the term “men who have sex with men” in resolution 67/9 on the Asia-Pacific regional review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and expressed its wish to disassociate itself from the resolution.

² For the text, see chap. IV.

Chapter II

Work of the Commission since the sixty-sixth session

A. Introduction

3. Since May 2010, ESCAP has continued to build on its role as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific, promoting regional cooperation and collective action to achieve economic and social progress for the people of Asia and the Pacific. ESCAP was created so that the people of Asia and the Pacific could meet together, seek consensus together and advance together to build a more inclusive, sustainable future — an agenda that is reflected in the results of the preceding year's work and in the secretariat's efforts to address the immediate challenges affecting the region.

4. The secretariat's work in the areas of economic policy and analysis over the preceding year had proved vital to global and regional discussions of the region's recovery and new economic growth following the recent global financial crisis.

5. The *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2010: Year-end Update*,³ which was published in December 2010, contained warnings of rising inflationary trends, especially of food and energy prices, as the recovery consolidated in the second half of the year. As those rising prices became a major trend, ESCAP organized a policy dialogue in December 2010, engaging noted experts and policymakers in further analysis and discussion on understanding the factors responsible for the rising prices, their impacts on poverty and the possible short- and medium-term policy responses that could be taken. Subsequently, the secretariat published further studies on those issues, including those in the *Asia-Pacific Development Journal*.

6. The ESCAP secretariat continues to articulate the critical importance of rebalancing the region's economies through inclusive policies and deepening regional cooperation for sustaining the dynamism of the region in the medium term. Those issues were discussed at a policy round table organized jointly by ESCAP and Club de Madrid and held in Bangkok in August 2010. Senior economists from the region and distinguished former Heads of State and Government participated in that round table. During the period 2010-2011, senior experts contributed to nine development policy seminars, and Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen of Harvard University and Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, President of the Asian Development Bank, delivered distinguished persons' lectures.

7. ESCAP worked to develop a coordinated voice for the least developed countries in the region, identifying the debt, decreased government revenues and food and fuel price shocks that were affecting the poor as pressing concerns for the least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific.

8. The Commission at its sixty-sixth session, in May 2010, took note of the Dhaka Outcome Document,^{4,5} which had been endorsed by the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, held in Dhaka in January 2010. The Dhaka Outcome Document was submitted to the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the

³ ST/ESCAP/2588.

⁴ E/ESCAP/66/6.

⁵ See Commission resolution 66/3 of 19 May 2010 on the implementation of the Dhaka Outcome Document on the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries as the Asia-Pacific regional input.⁶ Analytical work on the problems faced by the least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific was carried out by ESCAP, and a special study conducted on the challenges those countries face in building productive capacity. That study also served as a background paper for an ESCAP special event at the Conference, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011. The Programme of Action adopted by the Conference⁷ was presented to the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries during the sixty-seventh session of the Commission; thus the Special Body and the Commission itself had before them the outcome of a global conference which had been influenced by the region's voice.

9. In April 2011, ESCAP and the Government of Mongolia brought together Asian landlocked developing countries in a meeting which raised the specific concerns of the people in the region's 12 landlocked countries and delivered a coordinated message through the Ulaanbaatar Declaration.⁸

10. As requested by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session, the Port Vila Outcome Statement⁹ was transmitted as the Asia-Pacific regional input to the global review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.¹⁰

11. ESCAP continued its work to expand direct technical support for all countries in Asia and the Pacific having special needs, with critical results having been achieved in those countries under the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) and elsewhere. It is important that the current economic rebound be sustained for those economies and all countries and people in the region.

12. The recovery from the recent global financial crisis and the renewed challenges posed by food and fuel price inflation in the preceding six months in many countries of the region, which especially affected the lives of the most vulnerable people, have led to a stronger commitment to social development among Governments in the ESCAP region.

13. The region's new economic growth, following the shock of the global financial crisis, growing urbanization and the continuing migration of people within countries and across subregions, require a new commitment by Governments to institute social protection measures in order to secure the benefits of economic growth for all the people of the Asia-Pacific region.

14. The theme study for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission, entitled *The Promise of Protection: Social Protection and Development in Asia and the Pacific*,¹¹ described policy options that would make systems of social protection more effective, inclusive and sustainable. The study emphasized the adoption of a systematic approach to the formulation of social protection strategies in order to

⁶ See A/CONF.219/IPC/4.

⁷ A/CONF.219/3.

⁸ E/ESCAP/67/22, annex.

⁹ E/ESCAP/66/1

¹⁰ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

¹¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.II.F.5.

align them with other development policies, and the institutional arrangements needed to make social protection sustainable and truly effective.

15. Further initiatives of the ESCAP secretariat during the year in review include work that could culminate in the proclamation of a new decade to promote the rights of persons with disabilities during the period 2013-2022, the “Make the Right Real” campaign to accelerate the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,¹² the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Global Forum on Migration and Development 2010, which was convened in Bangkok in September 2010 under the auspices of the Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration, including Human Trafficking, the establishment of the Regional Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security, and the launch of the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign in Asia and the Pacific.

16. Asia and the Pacific is reinvesting in itself, and greater regional integration depends on connectivity — not just the hardware of highways, ports and railroads, but also the software of connectivity: the exchanges of people, goods and ideas between countries. The work of ESCAP in respect of connectivity promotes regional integration through transportation, communications and economic development and is critical in fostering equitable economic growth. Dry ports and public-private partnerships could open up new investment potential in the region’s hidden pockets of potential wealth and economic growth.

17. ESCAP member States have recognized the important role of dry ports in integrating modes of transport, reducing border-crossing and transit delays and creating opportunities for economic growth, and supported the secretariat’s initiative to secure an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports. By linking the least developed and landlocked developing countries to the web of coastal development in Asia, it is possible to foster shared prosperity and tap further the economic potential of the Asia-Pacific region.

18. ESCAP was a pioneer in developing green growth and other environmentally sustainable economic agendas as specific paths for regional development. ESCAP took the lead in organizing the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, which was held in Astana in from 27 September to 2 October 2010. The Conference reaffirmed the importance of regional cooperation, particularly in shifting the development paradigm for Asia and the Pacific towards inclusive and sustainable development. It did so by adopting the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2010, and the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific, 2011-2015, and endorsing the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative: Europe-Asia-Pacific Partnership for the Implementation of “Green Growth”.¹³

19. An increasing number of member countries are exploring means for turning their development efforts green, and the work of ESCAP in the year under review has been at the very forefront of the region’s green future.

20. Closing development gaps and achieving the Millennium Development Goals require evidence-based advocacy and processes. Statistics had to be relied upon in order to track progress, and, in that regard, ESCAP is leading the way for critical advances in data collection. A vulnerability index developed by ESCAP was featured in the most recent regional Millennium Development Goals

¹² General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.

¹³ See E/ESCAP/67/8, chap. I.

report,¹⁴ jointly produced by ESCAP, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The index has become a critical human development tool for tracking vulnerability, for without accurate data collection, too many people will remain uncoun­ted — and unprotected. The work of ESCAP is to advance the use of statistics to measure human achievements and to chart the journey forward in the development process.

21. The Committee on Statistics at its second session, in December 2010, endorsed a core set of economic statistics needed to inform short- and long-term economic analyses and decision-making by both governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations. The core set delineates a clear and achievable target for the region by identifying the economic statistics that all countries in Asia and the Pacific should have the capacity to produce by 2020 after taking into account their varying needs, and, as such, it serves as a framework for sharpening the focus of related regional capacity-building efforts through, among other things, the mobilization of donor funding and the coordination of training.

22. There has been progress in transforming the secretariat into a regional centre for conducting rigorous analyses, sharing information on development practices and innovative policies, and building regional and subregional consensus, norms and standards on a range of economic, social and environmental issues.

23. The continued work of ESCAP in designing and implementing policies and putting into place the institutional infrastructure for trade facilitation moved forward with renewed vigour in 2010. Most importantly, ESCAP played a crucial role in promoting regional cooperation by offering a clearing house for best practices and lessons in trade, investment and technology transfer, promoting regional and subregional initiatives and providing a platform for regional policy dialogues through, among other things, the Asia-Pacific Business Forum. The secretariat's nascent programme on private sector development was focused on building the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to connect with global value chains, design environmentally sustainable business models and foster private-public partnerships.

24. The Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) is recognized as the most comprehensive and highly successful trade-related network covering the entire Asia-Pacific region with a highly effective research capacity-building programme. ARTNeT includes 30 leading research institutions and encompasses a community of several hundred individual researchers.

25. ESCAP continues to encourage member countries to utilize information and communications technology (ICT) applications for a range of purposes, including disaster risk reduction. The Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development was launched by ESCAP in November 2010. That web portal is being used to promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development planning for countries in Asia and the Pacific. It functions by aggregating relevant information from existing online sources in the region and, where relevant, other parts of the world, thereby promoting an online community of practice where professionals can network and exchange information.

26. The Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), located in Incheon, Republic of Korea, adopted an inclusive and participatory approach and achieved rapid expansion of its flagship "Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders" programme. That

¹⁴ *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in an Era of Global Uncertainty: Asia-Pacific Regional Report 2009/10* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.II.F.10).

programme was initiated in 19 countries in the region, including many with special needs, in strategic partnership with national and subregional organizations.

27. While ESCAP accomplished much over the year in review, new priorities and challenges require continued effort. Asia's economic rebound and sustained recovery present challenges and opportunities that can be met only by collective action: working together to create a new sustainable paradigm for inclusive economic growth within the Asia-Pacific region.

28. One challenge faced by Governments in the region is to match the economic recovery under way in Asia and the Pacific with renewed emphasis on the social dimensions of development. Instead of approaching specific development setbacks and challenges through limited, reactive interventions, Governments are now prepared to seek and implement solutions that are comprehensive and provide universal coverage capable of strengthening coping capacities and resilience as part of their vision of inclusive development. The resumption of food and fuel price inflation in many countries of the region and the continuing aftershocks of the global financial crisis lend new urgency to their efforts.

29. The ESCAP secretariat has sought to assist all member States in providing their people with a higher level of development as befitting the surge of economic growth that Asia is experiencing, but it is not possible to have an economic transformation without also bringing about social transformation.

30. Furthermore, the expected steady continuing growth in the economies of Asia and the Pacific over the next decade presents an unprecedented opportunity for Governments to take on and surmount the challenges of food security, water security and poverty reduction that burden the region — a renewed emphasis on achieving the Millennium Development Goals and closing the development gaps that exist in all human development indicators.

31. Member States do not need to undertake those challenges alone. It is time to move from individual country strengths to collective regional strengths, to introduce balance to the economic and social order, to develop common regional positions and solutions to global problems, to address the disparities in the region, and to value the gifts of the Earth.

32. It is important to achieve the economic growth and social progress that the people of Asia and the Pacific deserve while still taking into account the limits of the Earth's carrying capacity.

33. With those challenges and opportunities facing Asia and the Pacific, the region will need a strong platform to respond to those issues. In concert with member States, the secretariat can facilitate the collective policy leadership that the region requires. As the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP is a platform for each member State, and the Commission serves as a United Nations regional assembly for all.

34. At the subregional level, the ESCAP Pacific Office supports a coordinated voice for the people and communities of the subregion's small island States, enhancing their representation at critical global and regional gatherings and steadily deepening their capacity for sustainable development and regional integration, through policy advocacy and research, analysis and information dissemination, and engagement with policymakers and other stakeholders.

35. The ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia, located in Incheon, Republic of Korea, has increased the delivery of South-South technical cooperation programmes conducted with officials of national and local

governments. The ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, located in Almaty, Kazakhstan, is well on its way to becoming a hub for innovation and cooperation for the seven countries in that subregion. The ESCAP secretariat has sought to make similar progress in the current year and into the future with regard to improving its work at the subregional level across Asia and the Pacific. These are positive steps forward in delivering the results that the vast Asia-Pacific region needs, which would bring ESCAP closer to the people it serves.

36. By working together, the economies of the Asian and Pacific region can shape the forces of the economic recovery by investing in their people — their human capital — through the strengthening of their social commitments and the implementation of social protection measures as a mainstay of national development. The opportunity is for Asia and the Pacific to emerge as a leader: in the global economy, in the realm of social progress, and in safeguarding the global environment.

37. Asia and the Pacific needs to demonstrate that its development can be balanced, with focus given to all three pillars working together: the economic wealth shared; the social gains secured; and the gifts of the Earth protected. ESCAP will continue to support member countries, for it is by working together that an inclusive and sustainable future will materialize for Asia and the Pacific.

B. Activities of subsidiary bodies

38. During the period under review, the following intergovernmental meetings and meetings of subsidiary bodies were held:

Committees

- (a) Committee on Social Development;
- (b) Committee on Transport;
- (c) Committee on Information and Communications Technology;
- (d) Committee on Statistics.

Governing councils

- (a) Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development;
- (b) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;
- (c) United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery;
- (d) Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture;
- (e) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

Other intergovernmental bodies

Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, sixth session

39. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex II. The reports of those bodies reflect the discussions held, the agreements reached and the decisions taken by them.

40. In pursuance of Commission resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission, the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries was organized as a part of the Commission session, with the status of a committee of the whole. The meeting of the Special

Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries was held on 19 May 2011 during the senior officials segment.

C. Publications

41. Lists of publications issued in the reporting period 2010/2011 and pre-session documents submitted to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session are listed in annex III.

D. Relations with other United Nations programmes

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

Chapter III

Sixty-seventh session of the Commission

A. Attendance and organization of work

43. The sixty-seventh session of the Commission was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 19 to 25 May 2011. The session comprised two segments: the senior officials segment, which was held from 19 to 21 May 2011; and the ministerial segment, which was held from 23 to 25 May 2011.

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

Members

Afghanistan	New Zealand
Armenia	Pakistan
Australia	Palau
Bangladesh	Papua New Guinea
Bhutan	Philippines
Brunei Darussalam	Republic of Korea
Cambodia	Russian Federation
China	Samoa
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Singapore
Fiji	Solomon Islands
France	Sri Lanka
India	Thailand
Indonesia	Timor-Leste
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Tonga
Japan	Turkey
Kazakhstan	Tuvalu
Kiribati	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Kyrgyzstan	United States of America
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Uzbekistan
Malaysia	Vanuatu
Marshall Islands	Viet Nam
Mongolia	
Myanmar	
Nauru	<i>Associate members</i>
Nepal	Hong Kong, China
Netherlands	Macao, China

45. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Belgium, Morocco, Romania and South Africa attended. Representatives of the Holy See also attended.

46. The session was attended by representatives of the following offices of the United Nations Secretariat: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Commissions New York Office.

47. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; UNDP; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; United Nations Environment Programme; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; United Nations Institute for Training and Research; Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

48. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Maritime Organization; International Telecommunication Union; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; Universal Postal Union; World Bank; and World Health Organization.

49. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian and Pacific Coconut Community; Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation; Asian Development Bank; Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia; Economic Cooperation Organization; International Jute Study Group; International Organization for Migration; International Pepper Community; Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia; and Typhoon Committee.

50. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations: Franciscans International; HelpAge International; International Movement ATD Fourth World; International Trade Union Confederation; Baha'i International Community; Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific Region; Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association; and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises.

51. Representatives of the Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta also attended the session.

52. The list of participants is given in document E/ESCAP/67/INF/2.

53. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected Hon. Mr. Sarath Amunugama (Sri Lanka) Chair.

54. Following its past practice, the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegations Vice-Chairs:

H.E. Mr. Abdul Hadi Arghandehwal (Afghanistan)
H.E. Mr. Gowher Rizvi (Bangladesh)
H.E. Mr. Daw Penjo (Bhutan)
H.E. Mr. Ly Thuch (Cambodia)
H.E. Mr. Wu Hailong (China)
H.E. Mr. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola (Fiji)
H.E. Mr. Ebrahim Azizi (Islamic Republic of Iran)
H.E. Ms. Makiko Kikuta (Japan)
H.E. Mr. Timur Suleimenov (Kazakhstan)
Hon. Amberoti Nikora (Kiribati)
H.E. Mr. Nurlan Aitmurzaev (Kyrgyzstan)
H.E. Mr. Hiem Phommachanh (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
H.E. Mr. Miyegombo Enkhbold (Mongolia)
H.E. Mr. Kan Zaw (Myanmar)
H.E. Mr. Kieren Keke (Nauru)
Hon. Jackson R. Ngiraingas (Palau)
Hon. Sali Subam (Papua New Guinea)
H.E. Mr. Mateo Montaña (Philippines)
H.E. Mr. Lee Si-Hyung (Republic of Korea)
Hon. Elijah Doro Muala (Solomon Islands)
H.E. Mr. Kasit Piromya (Thailand)

Hon. Lotoala Metia (Tuvalu)
H.E. Mr. Le Hoai Trung (Viet Nam)

55. The senior officials segment of the session met in two Committees of the Whole. The following officers were elected:

(a) *Committee of the Whole I:*

Chair:

Mr. Makmur Sanusi (Indonesia)

Vice-Chair:

Mr. Minute Taupo (Tuvalu)

Mr. Damdin Tsogtbaatar (Mongolia)

(b) *Committee of the Whole II:*

Chair:

Mr. Igor Shcherbak (Russian Federation)

Vice-Chair:

Ms. Carmelita N. Ericta (Philippines)

Mr. Solo Mara (Fiji)

56. The Commission also constituted a Working Group on Draft Resolutions under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Sohail Mahmood (Pakistan) to consider draft resolutions submitted during the session. Mr. Kurtulus Aykan (Turkey) was elected Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

B. Agenda

57. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries:
 - (a) Addressing development gaps, including the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;
 - (b) Other matters.
3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the ESCAP regional institutions:
 - (a) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development;
 - (b) Trade and investment;
 - (c) Transport;
 - (d) Environment and development;
 - (e) Information and communications technology;
 - (f) Disaster risk reduction;
 - (g) Social development;

- (h) Statistics;
 - (i) Subregional activities for development.
4. Management issues:
 - (a) Draft programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013;
 - (b) Programme changes for the biennium 2010-2011;
 - (c) Midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission;
 - (d) Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions.
 5. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
 6. Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission (2012).

Ministerial segment

7. Policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region:
 - (a) Key challenges to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (b) Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2011.
8. Theme topic for the sixty-seventh session: "Beyond the crises: long-term perspectives on social protection and development in Asia and the Pacific".
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Account of proceedings

Agenda item 1

Opening of the session

Senior officials segment

58. The senior officials segment of the sixty-seventh session was opened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP on 19 May 2011. The Executive Secretary delivered a welcoming statement.

Ministerial segment

59. The Acting Chair of the sixty-sixth session, Hon. Lotoala Metia (Tuvalu), declared open the ministerial segment of the sixty-seventh session on 23 May 2011. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP read out the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered her welcome statement.

60. Keynote addresses were made by H.E. Mr. Jigmi Y. Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan, and H.E. Mr. Enkhbold Miyegombo, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia. H.E. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address.

Agenda item 2

Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries

Sub-item (a)

Addressing the development gaps, including the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action

61. The Commission had before it a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/67/1), a note verbale from Mongolia (E/ESCAP/67/22) and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020⁷ as a background document.

62. Representatives of the following countries made statements: Bhutan; India; Kazakhstan; Mongolia; Russian Federation; and Tuvalu.

63. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP delivered a statement, and the Chair of Committee of the Whole I moderated a high-level panel on the development challenges and prospects faced by the least developed and landlocked developing countries in an era of rapid change and transformation consisting of Mr. Lotoala Metia, Minister, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Industries of Tuvalu, and Mr. Damdin Tsogtbaatar, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia. The main objective of the exchange was to discuss the highlights of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, which had been adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and to explore options for strengthening regional cooperation in promoting greater connectivity, as part of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration, which had been adopted by the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Ulaanbaatar from 12 to 14 April 2011.

64. The Commission commended the Special Body as an important forum for exchanging views as well as synchronizing and coordinating capacity development activities for the least developed and landlocked developing countries. That role had now been strengthened by the newly adopted Istanbul Programme of Action,⁷ which articulated one of the roles of the regional commissions as being to conduct biennial reviews of the progress in the implementation of the new programme of action.

65. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of Bangladesh and to the secretariat for undertaking an effective regional review process regarding the Brussels Programme of Action, which had led the Commission to endorse the Dhaka Outcome Document⁴ as the Asia-Pacific region's contribution to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. The Commission acknowledged that the Dhaka Outcome Document had enabled Asia-Pacific least developed countries to make an effective contribution to the Conference and had provided a strong foundation for the Istanbul Programme of Action.

66. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Government of Mongolia and to the secretariat for convening the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries in Ulaanbaatar from 12 to 14 April 2011. It noted that the meeting had provided an opportunity to review the progress made thus far by the landlocked developing countries and further consolidate their positions on implementing the Almaty Programme of Action, which had been the driving force for promoting transport and trade facilitation across landlocked developing countries. In that context, the Commission noted the importance of the decisions made at the High-level Policy Dialogue in Mongolia and the draft resolution sponsored by the Government of Mongolia

(E/ESCAP/67/L.4) which was now before it for consideration. It welcomed the Ulaanbaatar Declaration as an important outcome for promoting regional cooperation in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

67. The Commission expressed its support for the full implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, which would become the driving force in the creation of appropriate conditions for sustainable development in the least developed countries. In that context, the Commission was cognizant of its mandate to follow up on global agreements at the regional level and to ensure that subregional and national implementation strategies were provided with effective policy support and technical cooperation. It noted that development gap analyses and peer reviews were essential elements for effective follow-up arrangements.

68. The Commission noted that, although the least developed and landlocked developing countries had made some notable progress, they continued to face major challenges in narrowing their development gaps. The Commission expressed its concern that, along with the economic crisis, food shortages and rising fuel prices had had significant adverse impacts on most countries of the region, but the least developed and landlocked developing countries had suffered the most due to their inadequate ability to cope with such crises. It also noted that those crises threatened to reverse the progress made thus far by those countries towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

69. The Commission noted that, in the light of the continuing rise in food and fuel prices, the need to address productive capacity constraints in agriculture and food security was particularly significant for those least developed countries that were net food importers. It also noted that, for Pacific least developed countries, fisheries and ocean resources—the blue economy—was a key priority along with agriculture and food security.

70. The Commission noted the special development challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries, given their geographical isolation. In that connection, it noted that infrastructure development and maintenance were keys to the socio-economic development of those countries. The Commission was informed of the various initiatives, including rail and road links, undertaken by many landlocked developing countries to improve their transit-transport systems. It noted with appreciation that subregional organizations, such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), were opening up new opportunities for enhancing regional integration and connectivity for many landlocked developing countries. It noted with satisfaction the cooperation between ESCAP and the Economic Commission for Europe on the implementation of SPECA.

71. The Commission welcomed the initiative of integrating the highway and railway networks through the development of dry ports, which would greatly facilitate building efficient intermodal transport and logistics services in landlocked developing countries. It noted, however, that there were still many missing links in physical infrastructure.

72. The Commission noted that the ESCAP region had witnessed the occurrence of natural disasters with increasing frequency and that that had become a major setback for least developed and landlocked developing countries in their efforts to alleviate poverty. It also noted that the major brunt of natural disasters had been borne by the poorest and weakest segments of the society, thus increasing their vulnerability. It noted with concern that unemployment and poverty increased the risk of least developed and landlocked developing countries to ecological disasters, drawing those countries into a vicious cycle which continued to reduce their capacity to cope with external shocks. The Commission highlighted the economic

and social impact of disasters in least developed and landlocked developing countries, which was seriously hampering the progress required to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

73. The Commission emphasized the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment as a key to human and social development in the least developed countries. While emphasizing the specific vulnerability of least developed and landlocked developing countries, some delegations highlighted the need for social protection as a crucial investment designed to increase resilience against external shocks and to reduce poverty.

74. The Commission noted that crisis resilience and mitigation, climate change adaptation and the ability to cope with natural disasters were particularly important for low-lying countries in the Pacific subregion, including the five least developed countries located in that subregion. In the case of those countries, the capacity to cope with natural disasters remained a significant challenge. It emphasized the need for those countries to adopt a development approach that fostered growth in their economies without jeopardizing their future. Therefore, capacity-building to cope with such situations at all levels should be a high priority in all least developed countries, as highlighted in the Istanbul Programme of Action.

75. The Commission noted that, for the Pacific least developed countries, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, offered a great opportunity to advance the Istanbul Programme of Action, particularly in the areas of climate change and environmental sustainability. The Commission recognized that an opportunity existed to foster economic growth—of both green and blue economies—that was environmentally sustainable and minimized the causes and effects of climate change. It noted that South-South cooperation could play an important role in supplementing North-South cooperation and providing transfer of knowledge and technology in the ESCAP region.

76. The Commission noted that poverty and unemployment represented a major challenge for landlocked developing countries. Without reducing poverty and unemployment, landlocked developing countries would have difficulty in closing their infrastructure gaps. Lack of earning capacity to finance infrastructure investments impeded their ability to benefit from trade.

77. The Commission highlighted the importance of soft infrastructure and trade facilitation in connecting landlocked countries to the region. One delegation explained that the geographical isolation of landlocked developing countries prevented them from reaping the full economic development benefits of international trade, pointing in particular to border delays, cumbersome procedures and higher transaction costs. An ESCAP study on average costs of trade indicated that the time required for trade in landlocked developing countries was discouragingly long. Promoting such soft infrastructure might require landlocked developing countries themselves to make additional efforts for trade facilitation, including reducing their own bureaucratic hurdles. Landlocked developing countries were also required to use their own judgment in adopting appropriate policies to acquire resources for their development.

78. The Commission noted that the resource-rich landlocked developing countries faced multiple development dilemmas. For example, in Mongolia, the boom in foreign investment had been highly concentrated in its mining sector, preventing any meaningful diversification of its economy or the development of other sectors. A greater understanding of the needs of least developed and landlocked developing countries was needed, which would contribute to the

improvement of trade and transport facilitation, as well as issues related to the poverty reduction.

79. The Commission noted that the Istanbul Programme of Action contained many elements which were concrete and action-oriented. For example, one target was to enable half the number of least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020. Increased financial resources for the least developed countries and their improved access to such resources was another priority of the Istanbul Programme of Action. Such support measures did not exist for the landlocked developing countries or small island developing States. It was therefore important for those least developed countries which were also landlocked and for small island developing States to take full advantage of those resources so as to be able to address their development gaps.

80. The Commission noted that, while some least developed countries and landlocked developing countries had made steady progress in their economic and social development with the assistance of development partners, those countries would continue to rely on financial resources, and increasing those resources and improving access to them were priorities identified by both the Istanbul and Almaty programmes of action. It noted with appreciation the assistance provided by India as a development partner country in support of the least developed and landlocked developing countries in such areas as agriculture, infrastructure, telemedicine, energy, banking and information technology under its Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme as well as other existing and new initiatives.

Sub-item (b)
Other matters

81. No issues were raised by the Commission under the sub-item.

82. The Commission adopted resolution 67/1 on the Ulaanbaatar Declaration: Outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries.

Agenda item 3
Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the ESCAP regional institutions

83. The Commission had before it the subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/2, sections I to IX), the summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/67/3), and the report on the activities of the Commission 2010-2011 (E/ESCAP/67/INF/3/Rev.1).

Sub-item (a)
Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development

84. In addition to the common documents being considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it the report of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (E/ESCAP/67/4).

85. Representatives of the following countries made statements: Afghanistan; Bangladesh; China; India; Malaysia; Nepal; Pakistan; Russian Federation; and Thailand.

86. The Commission expressed appreciation for the work being carried out under the subprogramme and high-quality documents, as well as the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2011*.¹⁵ The Commission requested the continuation of in-depth research and advocacy work in the area of macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development.

87. The Commission was informed of the experiences of several countries in terms of growth, poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and how various policies and strategies were being pursued to accelerate progress in those areas and to tackle emerging challenges.

88. The Commission noted the analyses of the secretariat which highlighted the new challenges facing the region, including high food and fuel prices and imbalances due to the measures that many major global economies had adopted to deal with the crises, such as easy money policies. The Commission expressed concern about the impact of those challenges on the efforts of countries in the region to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

89. The Commission acknowledged the efforts of the secretariat to promote greater regional economic integration through recommendations in publications such as the *Survey* and noted a request to the secretariat to conduct more detailed analysis of the barriers that are preventing countries in the region from exploiting opportunities for greater regional economic integration.

90. Reaffirming its role as the most representative intergovernmental forum in the region, the Commission welcomed the efforts of the secretariat to promote a coordinated regional voice through the organization of the High-level Consultation on the G20 Seoul Summit, which had helped facilitate consultations among G20 and non-G20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The view was expressed that the Commission was the most effective forum for transferring knowledge between countries of the region and for promoting an Asia-Pacific innovative model of development.

91. The Commission underlined the impact of high food and fuel prices and the slow pace of global economic recovery on the development, especially, of the least developed and landlocked developing countries. It noted with appreciation the efforts of the secretariat in ensuring that the Dhaka Outcome Document⁴ was effectively integrated as a regional input to the global review conducted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which had been held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011.

92. The Commission commended the work of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) and expressed appreciation for the support provided by the secretariat in the implementation of resolution 65/4 with a view to revitalizing and strengthening the Centre. The change of the Centre's name was considered appropriate in view of the challenges faced in the region in relation to food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable agricultural development. It was suggested that CAPSA continue its policy-oriented work and that it revive its focus on cross-country studies while broadening the coverage of studies to include as many member countries as possible.

93. The Commission noted a request that the secretariat promote sustained investment in agriculture and work towards the transfer of the best technologies in order to increase agricultural production. The Commission acknowledged that food

¹⁵ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2011: Sustaining Dynamism and Inclusive Development: Connectivity in the Region and Productive Capacity in Least Developed Countries* (ST/ESCAP/2586) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.II.F.2).

price increases would continue to have an impact on the poor and noted requests to include in the work programme of CAPSA analytical work on the effects of food price rises on the poor in collaboration with the secretariat, and to analyse the effects of trade liberalization on food security, as well as the effects of natural disasters on agriculture, to protect the poorest and most vulnerable.

94. Several member countries expressed their commitment to supporting the Centre by providing financial and in kind assistance, and to effect coordination among themselves in order to maximize the use of the Centre. Taking into account the views expressed, the Commission generally endorsed the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 prepared by CAPSA and the recommendations contained in the report of the Centre (E/ESCAP/67/4).

Sub-item (b)
Trade and investment

95. In addition to the common documents being considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it the report of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/67/5) and the report of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (E/ESCAP/67/6).

96. Representatives of the following countries made statements: China; India; Pakistan; Russian Federation; and Thailand.

97. The Commission commended the work of the secretariat and the regional institutions in building capacity for trade and investment and expressed its desire that such work be continued. Several delegations emphasized the importance of capacity-building in the agricultural sector and for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and their integration into the regional economy. The need for capacity-building with regard to stimulating foreign direct investment through, among other things, analysis of business and investment climates and the sharing of knowledge on existing good practices was noted.

98. The Commission reaffirmed the importance of the multilateral trading system and the need for a fair, equitable and rule-based multilateral regime to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. Several delegations expressed their disappointment at the current state of the stalled Doha negotiations. One delegation expressed the view that the negotiations should not be abandoned and that an agreement could be reached with the necessary political will and a clear focus on development rather than market access. The Commission noted that any agreement reached should enable developing countries to integrate smoothly into the global economy. It also noted the need to refrain from protectionist measures which would hinder the global economic recovery.

99. The Commission emphasized the importance of deeper regional cooperation on trade and investment, while also noting the proliferation of regional and bilateral trade agreements. The need to promote the consolidation of regional trade agreements as conducive building blocks of the multilateral trading regime was highlighted as the way to further expand trade and investment opportunities.

100. Some delegations noted the relevance of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement in promoting greater regional integration and expressed their continuous support as well as their appreciation to the secretariat for revitalizing and actively promoting the agreement. One APTA member emphasized the importance of active participation by all members to maximize the benefits of the agreement.

101. The Commission highlighted the importance of trade and investment facilitation as the key to promoting intraregional trade and a way to enhance

regional connectivity. The extensive and effective work of the secretariat in that area was noted, and the secretariat was encouraged to continue providing a regional platform for discussion and exchange of knowledge on related issues. One delegation noted that some of the existing regional trade agreements did not adequately address trade facilitation issues and suggested that the secretariat should consider developing a model free trade agreement which could be used by developing countries for negotiating such agreements.

102. Another delegation encouraged the secretariat to conduct research on how to promote trade and investment taking into account the potential implications of climate change for the region. The possible impact of intellectual property rights as a barrier to the adoption of climate change technologies was specifically mentioned, as well as the need to clarify the definition of environmental goods and services. The delegation proposed that the secretariat conduct a study or organize a workshop on the latter issue.

103. The Commission expressed its continued support for the work programme of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM), in particular South-South cooperation for technology transfer in the agricultural sector. It commended the work of the Centre in the area of rice production technology and supported the sharing of results and the promotion of sustainable agriculture in Asia-Pacific countries. The Commission generally endorsed the recommendations of the UNAPCAEM Governing Council, in particular that the focus of the Centre should remain agricultural machinery and engineering, covering the following areas: (a) agricultural machinery; (b) land and water management; (c) agro-industrial development; (d) application of ICT in the agricultural sector; (e) post-harvest technology and food chain quality control; (f) bio-resources, including biomass and bio-energy; and (g) climate-resilient technology.¹⁶ Support was expressed for the establishment of an Asian network for the testing of agricultural machinery as a flagship project to showcase the distinct role of UNAPCAEM. The need to take advantage of possible synergies between the work of UNAPCAEM, CAPSA and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) was also noted.

104. Appreciation was expressed for the work of APCTT in strengthening technology transfer and innovation management capacity in member countries. One delegation suggested that, in addition to its current programme of work, the Centre could initiate work in commercializing grass-roots innovation to foster inclusive development. Some delegations urged that member countries consider enhancing their institutional support to the Centre along the lines recommended by the APCTT Governing Council at its sixth session.¹⁷ The delegation of Thailand stated that its enhanced contribution had already been sent for Cabinet approval. The delegation of India urged the secretariat to assist APCTT in mobilizing resources from non-traditional sources, such as foundations, trusts and the private sector. It also urged the Centre to consider building staff costs into programme funding proposals.

105. The Commission was informed that the second session of the Committee on Trade and Investment, which would focus on capturing emerging trade and investment opportunities, would be held in Bangkok from 27 to 29 July 2011. The Commission expressed support for the organization of a Trade and Investment Week, including the Asia-Pacific Business Forum, on the occasion of the Committee session.

¹⁶ See E/ESCAP/67/6, annex III, para. 13.

¹⁷ See E/ESCAP/67/5, annex III, para. 4.

106. Taking into account the views expressed, the Commission generally endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of APCTT and the report of UNAPCAEM.

107. The Commission elected, along with the host country, India, the following countries to the Governing Council of APCTT for the period 2011-2014: Bangladesh; China; Fiji; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Malaysia; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Samoa; Sri Lanka; Thailand; and Uzbekistan.

Sub-item (c)
Transport

108. In addition to the common documents being considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Transport on its second session (E/ESCAP/67/7).

109. Representatives of the following countries made statements: Bangladesh; Fiji; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Marshall Islands; Mongolia; Nauru; Pakistan; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Thailand; Turkey; and Tuvalu. The representative of the International Maritime Organization also made a statement.

110. The Commission commended the work of ESCAP in supporting the development of transport infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region. It recognized that the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway had served as major building blocks for regional connectivity. In that respect, it also noted that subregional development frameworks, such as the Greater Mekong Subregion and ASEAN, based their transportation policies and strategies on those initiatives. It encouraged the secretariat to continue its work in fostering better transport connectivity among member countries to promote regional cooperation and integration.

111. A number of delegations apprised the Commission of their Governments' initiatives and programmes to improve and develop sections of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway passing through their countries. The Commission recognized that those projects were making significant contributions towards promoting regional transport connectivity, improving access to social infrastructure and services, fostering economic growth, and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In that respect, the Commission noted the request of Mongolia to amend annex I of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network¹⁸ to include new routes to be constructed in Mongolia.

112. The Commission noted that the *Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity*¹⁹ laid out the actions and institutional mechanisms to enhance connectivity in the ASEAN region and was a necessary step in achieving the ASEAN Community in 2015.

113. Several delegations recognized the importance of the Euro-Asian transport linkages and noted that routes across the Bosphorus and along the North-South and Trans-Siberian corridors, could offer good transport connectivity between Asia and Europe.

114. The Commission noted the development of dry ports as a means of moving towards a vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system. It further noted that the development of dry ports would contribute towards

¹⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, No. 46171.

¹⁹ Association of Southeast Asian Nations, *Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity* (Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat, 2010). Available from: www.aseansec.org/documents/MPAC.pdf.

regional economic growth through the development of trade clusters as well as facilitating the movement of goods from production sites to their destination.

115. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for its work on drafting an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports, as requested by the Committee on Transport at its second session, held in Bangkok in November 2010. The Commission noted that a number of countries had already informed the secretariat of potential dry ports in their countries to be included in an annex to the draft agreement.

116. One delegation requested assistance in identifying possible locations of dry port projects. In that respect, the Commission noted that the secretariat was assisting selected ASEAN member countries to conduct pre-feasibility studies of dry ports with the support of the Republic of Korea.

117. The Commission also noted the development of logistics villages and parks to undertake cargo handling, distribution, processing and packaging away from major cities to reduce urban traffic congestion and distribution costs. Turkey expressed its willingness to share its experience in the development of those villages and parks.

118. The Commission noted the emphasis placed by member countries of ASEAN on capacity-building for the logistics industry and green logistics, and that such initiatives would improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions.

119. The Commission observed that the existence of non-physical barriers continued to hinder cross-border and transit transport movements. It noted a number of examples of such barriers, including inconsistent and difficult border-crossing formalities and procedures; duplication of inspections by different authorities; incompatible working hours at borders; different standards for vehicles and drivers; and a lack of coordination among various stakeholders. The Commission attributed importance to eliminating or at least reducing such barriers to transport, to streamlining and simplifying customs formalities and to reducing waiting times at border crossings in the region. In that context, the Commission noted the recommendation that the secretariat assist member countries in exploring ways of reducing transport costs through, among other things, the facilitation of border-crossing procedures.

120. The Commission noted the policies adopted by a number of countries to facilitate transit transport through the development of their transport infrastructure.

121. The Commission noted with appreciation the assistance of the secretariat in formulating the Agreement between the Governments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States on Facilitation of International Road Transport and its annexes, and called upon the member States concerned to work towards finalizing the annexes in the nearest future.

122. The Commission noted that the public-private partnership modality had become an important option for financing of infrastructure projects in many member countries. In that regard, it also noted the efforts of several member countries in promoting private investment in infrastructure, including transport projects.

123. The Commission noted that, because of the vast distances between islands in the Pacific, shipping services to, from and within those countries faced unique challenges, including low and often irregular traffic volumes, long voyage distances and physical constraints in associated seaport infrastructure, superstructure and equipment. In that respect, it welcomed and endorsed the inclusion of a thematic area on inter-island shipping in the draft of the Regional Action Programme for

Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016), of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/63/13, chap. V). It was further suggested that that thematic area could be implemented in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, as appropriate. The representative of the International Maritime Organization informed the Commission of her organization's experience in implementing activities related to inter-shipping and expressed its willingness to explore cooperation with the secretariat in that area.

124. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for its work on road safety and encouraged it to continue its work in that area. The Commission also expressed its full commitment to the Decade of Action for Road Safety, 2011-2020, proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/255 of 2 March 2010 on improving global road safety, which had been launched on 11 May 2011. The Commission was informed that a poster entitled "Safe Roads, Safe Rides, Save Lives" was available for delegates to sign during the current session, to show their personal commitment to the Decade of Action.

125. The Commission expressed the expectation that the ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Transport, to be held in Bangkok in November 2011, would stimulate opportunities for further and wide-ranging cooperation in transport development for the region. A number of delegations stated that they were looking forward to the deliberations and a successful outcome of the Conference. In that respect, the Commission requested the secretariat to facilitate the preparations for the Conference and to engage all interested parties in the preparatory meeting. The Commission also noted with appreciation that the Government of the Republic of Korea was considering a plan to provide financial support for the Ministerial Conference.

126. The Commission noted with appreciation the support provided by the Government of Japan for the development of the Asian Highway through, among other things, the secondment of experts to ESCAP since 1963.

127. The Commission expressed its appreciation to donor countries and other development partners that were providing financial and technical support to the secretariat in the implementation of its work programme.

128. Taking into account the views expressed, the Commission generally endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Transport on its second session. It urged the secretariat to implement the recommendations of the Committee, including the thematic areas which were proposed for inclusion in the draft of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016), the development of a draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports and the convening of the Ministerial Conference on Transport in November 2011.

Sub-item (d)
Environment and development

129. The Commission had before it the report of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development on its sixth session (E/ESCAP/67/8) in addition to the other documents that were being considered under agenda item 3.

130. Representatives of the following countries made statements: China; India; Japan; Kazakhstan; Pakistan; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Samoa; Thailand; Tuvalu; and Vanuatu.

131. A representative of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia also made a statement.

132. Several delegations noted that economic growth needed to be harmonized with social inclusion and environmental sustainability under the broader framework of sustainable development. They also shared success stories related to green national economic and development programmes, such as the Green India Mission and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for restoration of natural capital, as well as transboundary biodiversity conservation and community-level biogas pilot projects in the Pacific.

133. Several delegations underlined the importance of the work of the secretariat in promoting green growth. Some delegations underlined the importance of the continuous support that the secretariat furnished to member States so that they could increase their national capacity for developing and implementing green growth policy options. As a recent example of such a successful capacity development activity, one delegation mentioned the First National Seminar on Green Growth Policy Tools for Low Carbon Development in Thailand, which had been held in Bangkok on 23 and 24 February 2011.

134. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the efforts of the secretariat and the Government of Kazakhstan in organizing and bringing to a successful conclusion in September 2010 the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, which had produced a number of important outcome documents. The Commission noted the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2010, recognizing that green growth “as appropriately adapted to country-specific circumstances and as understood in the context of sustainable development, is one of the approaches for supporting rapid economic growth, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and environmental sustainability”.²⁰ Some delegations noted that the secretariat’s work should be guided by that Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015, and that member States should be provided with assistance on request. One delegation recognized the importance of the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative: Europe-Asia-Pacific Partnership for the Implementation of “Green Growth” and looked forward to its becoming operational. Several delegations indicated that the outcome documents from the Ministerial Conference could be used to produce an input statement from the Asia-Pacific region to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which would be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012.

135. Several delegations highlighted the importance of the ongoing preparatory process for that Conference and expressed willingness to take an active part in the regional preparatory process. One delegation expressed its appreciation for the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Region, which was scheduled to be held in Seoul on 19 and 20 October 2011. The Commission was informed that, in addition to that preparatory meeting for the Conference, a subregional preparatory meeting was scheduled to be held in the Pacific. Several delegations informed the Commission that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, with its focus on a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, was highly relevant to the Asian and Pacific region.

136. In discussing issues related to sustainable urban development, the Commission noted the efforts of some countries to promote sustainable urban development, including through improvements in public transport, the provision of water and wastewater infrastructure, slum improvement and solid waste management. The delegation of Pakistan noted that its Government had listed sustainable urban development as a key component of its national development

²⁰ See E/ESCAP/67/8, chap. I, Sect. A, para. 1(b).

strategy. Some delegations noted the importance of the clean development mechanism and carbon financing as ways to reduce pollution and waste.

137. Some delegations commended the secretariat for its work in promoting sustainable urban development, including the publication of the *State of Asian Cities 2010/11*,²¹ the completion of the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, the regional project on pro-poor housing finance and the ongoing technical assistance programme on Integrated Resource Recovery Centres in Urban Areas. The representative of Pakistan requested that the secretariat introduce a pilot project on such centres in that country.

138. Some delegations noted the importance of sharing best practices and urged the secretariat to strengthen its work on documenting and disseminating best practices. In that connection, the delegation of Thailand informed the Commission that it would share best practices at the Fifth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, which was scheduled to be held in Bangkok in June 2011.

139. In the discussion on issues related to energy security and water resources, some delegations shared their experiences and plans to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy by recognizing their importance in the context of energy security and sustainable development.

140. The Commission recognized that member States had valid potential for further promoting energy cooperation by, among other things, establishing reliable and developed energy infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region. In that context, support was elicited for the adoption of the draft resolution on promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/L.5).

141. The Commission noted the progress made in implementing its resolution 64/3 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, and called upon the secretariat to play an even greater role in promoting renewable energy in the context of energy security and sustainable development. It also stressed the importance of developing close cooperation between ESCAP and the Economic Commission for Europe in the field of efficient water and energy resources management.

142. The Commission recommended that the ESCAP secretariat should continue to work towards enhancing financial and technology flows for the development and deployment of new and renewable energy technologies in developing countries and try to tap other funding sources to that effect.

143. The Commission was informed that the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia was conducting an initiative with a focus on climate change and energy security. It was aimed at strengthening the capacity of members to support the role of geosciences in the development of unconventional oil and gas resources and in the development of a legal framework for carbon capture and storage.

144. The Commission noted the importance of the development of water infrastructure, such as reservoirs and irrigation systems, and integrated water resources management with a view to encouraging business sector involvement and preserving water resources.

145. The Commission adopted resolution 67/2 on promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia

²¹ Available from www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3078.

and the Pacific and resolution 67/3 on the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific.

146. Subsequent to the adoption, the representative of Japan stated that, despite having joined the consensus on resolution 67/2, his country was very sensitive to additional programme budget implications, but it wished to express its sincere appreciation to the Russian Federation for having tabled a draft resolution on such an important issue. With regard to the programme budget implications of the resolution,²² Japan accepted the argument that the matter of financing the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum that was proposed to be convened in 2013 be left to the process in New York, leading to the approval by the General Assembly of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, but that the referral of financing matters to Headquarters should not constitute a precedent. Japan held the view that decisions on whether or not to convene intergovernmental meetings should be taken by ESCAP members in accordance with the priorities they set in the programme of work for the biennium concerned. In that connection, it was the view of Japan that ACPR should devote more time to elaborating the programme of work in general, and to setting priorities for various outputs in particular, with the goal of indicating more clearly to Headquarters the activities that the members of the Commission wished to see carried out during the biennium concerned.

Sub-item (e)
Information and communications technology

147. In addition to the common documents being considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology on its second session (E/ESCAP/67/9) and the report of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (E/ESCAP/67/10).

148. Representatives of the following countries made statements: India; Indonesia; Japan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; and Thailand.

149. The Commission recognized the importance of the ICT sector for the Asia-Pacific region as well as its increasingly important role for disaster risk reduction and socio-economic development.

150. The importance of regional cooperation in addressing challenges and gaps related to ICT access and connectivity, infrastructure-building for ICT and the expansion of broadband connectivity in the region was acknowledged, as was the need to address the availability, affordability and reliability of the services. It was also noted that people should have universal and equitable access to education, public health, disaster risk monitoring and early warning, as well as other public services and knowledge, and that the secretariat should therefore promote regional cooperation to improve access to information and ICT services and facilities, particularly for vulnerable groups, including the poor, the aged, youth, persons with disabilities and people living in rural and remote areas.

151. The Commission noted that rapid advances in ICT had benefited disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation and adaptation. It also noted that the utilization of such technologies in developing countries would require technical and institutional capacity-building at the regional, national and local levels. In that respect, regional cooperation in space applications, geographic information systems and emergency communications was critical for sharing data and technologies and enhancing the capabilities of developing countries. It was noted that adequate

²² See annex I, paras. 3 and 4.

emphasis should be placed on developing affordable technologies and making them available to countries and communities for disaster risk reduction.

152. The Commission emphasized the need for member States to collectively address challenges related to regulations and laws governing telecommunications, Internet governance and cybersecurity. In that context, one delegation noted that cybersecurity issues should continue to be addressed by the International Telecommunication Union, which had the mandate to tackle cybercrime.

153. The Commission recognized the importance of developing content and applications for the improved delivery of education, public health, the protection of personal information and property, the preservation of culture and moral values, environmental protection, disaster monitoring and the promotion of modern lifestyles with universal and equitable access to public services and knowledge using broadband networks.

154. The Commission expressed appreciation for the continuous support of the Republic of Korea to APCICT, for the work of ESCAP in the ICT sector of the region, and for the offer of India to support ESCAP member States in training, capacity-building, consultancy and implementation in the areas of e-governance, broadband proliferation, mobile applications, cybersecurity and regional connectivity.

155. The Commission also expressed appreciation for the work of the secretariat aimed at achieving the objectives of the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society²³ and noted that significantly expanding broadband and mobile networks in the region would provide new opportunities for ESCAP to foster socio-economic development to meet the goals of the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action of the Summit,²⁴ as well as the Millennium Development Goals. In view of that, the Commission noted a recommendation that the secretariat further study effective and advanced models of ICT usage in social development, including e-government, e-banking and e-education.

156. The Commission noted a proposal to move the consideration of ICT applications for disaster risk reduction from the Committee on Information and Communications Technology to the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction so that the Committee on ICT could focus on its core areas of concern.

157. The Commission noted with appreciation the work of the secretariat in promoting regional cooperation mechanisms for the effective use of space technology, the sharing of data and knowledge, and ICT capacity-building. It also emphasized the importance of broadening cooperation with other organizations in that regard.

158. The Commission supported the intent of the secretariat to promote and develop innovative projects that made effective use of ICT and space technology in the area of transport, including satellite-based navigation and positioning systems, and the use of ICT in the area of trade. It requested the secretariat to prepare studies and specific proposals relating to those areas for presentation to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology at its third session, in 2012.

159. The Commission expressed strong support for the capacity development work that was being carried out by APCICT in the use of ICT to achieve national development goals, especially through the Centre's flagship programme, the

²³ See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.

²⁴ See A/C.2/59/3.

Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders, which targeted policymakers, project managers and trainers.

160. Having noted the achievements of the Academy programme, including the localization of the training modules into different languages and the establishment of new strategic partnerships with national training institutions with a view to expanding the programme, some delegations expressed support for the extension of the Academy training, with one delegation supporting the inclusion of chief information officers and another supporting coverage of universities and colleges. The Commission noted the relevance of the programme to national efforts for the development of ICT human resource capacities.

161. The Commission underlined the need to continue to expand the ICT capacity-building initiatives of APCICT, including the Academy programme, in order to help bridge the digital divide and assist members and associate members in utilizing ICT for socio-economic development.

162. The Commission expressed appreciation for the cash and in kind contributions provided by the Government of the Republic of Korea for the continued operation of APCICT and welcomed the efforts of the members of the APCICT Governing Council as well as other member States to diversify the Centre's sources of funding.

163. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of India to host the next session of the APCICT Governing Council in 2011.

164. The Commission, having taken into account the views expressed, generally endorsed the recommendations contained in documents E/ESCAP/67/9 and E/ESCAP/67/10.

Sub-item (f)
Disaster risk reduction

165. In addition to the common documents being considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it a note verbale dated 18 April 2011 from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Thailand addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/21) and two information documents: the report of the Typhoon Committee (E/ESCAP/67/INF/6) and the report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (E/ESCAP/67/INF/7).

166. Representatives of the following countries made statements: India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Pakistan; Russian Federation; and Thailand.

167. The Commission expressed deep condolences to the countries that had recently been affected by large-scale disasters, including Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan and the United States of America.

168. In recognition of the frequency of disasters and their significant impact on society, the Commission expressed appreciation for the efforts of the secretariat in promoting regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction in collaboration with relevant international organizations and stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region.

169. The Commission also expressed appreciation for the work of the secretariat in facilitating the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters²⁵ and undertaking

²⁵ A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

significant initiatives in that respect, including the publication of the 2010 *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report*²⁶ launched at the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development introduced at the second session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology.

170. The delegation of Japan expressed deep gratitude to the members and associate members of the Commission and to the secretariat for the sympathy and strong support given to Japan in the wake of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that had recently struck north-eastern Japan.

171. The Commission emphasized the need to build resilience to disasters among communities by building linkages between socio-economic development policies and disaster risk reduction strategies. The Commission noted a request that the secretariat undertake further efforts to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation and adaptation into major development goals, such as poverty alleviation, employment generation and rural development.

172. The Commission was informed that the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management had recently been established. One of the aims of the Centre was to facilitate partnerships and coordination between ASEAN member States and the United Nations for humanitarian assistance in disaster management.

173. Recalling the devastating impact of the 2010 floods, the delegation of Pakistan expressed deep appreciation for the strong solidarity and support accorded by ESCAP members and associate members and the rest of the international community. The delegation also expressed appreciation for the leadership of the Executive Secretary in galvanizing support through the organization of two meetings, one in China and one in Pakistan, to improve disaster risk reduction and management in the recovery and reconstruction process. The delegation further informed the Commission that those efforts were being followed up by national institutions, including the National Disaster Management Authority.

174. The Commission, in noting key outcomes of the third session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, organized by the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 8 to 13 May 2011, recalled that, at the session, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had called for the “coalition for action” on disaster risk reduction to be broadened.²⁷

175. The Commission noted the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish a regional centre for the development of disaster information management, as contained in document E/ESCAP/67/21. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran recalled the observations and recommendations made by the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction at its first session, as reported in E/ESCAP/65/9. The Commission was informed that the main objective of the proposed centre was to assist the members and associate members, as well as regional, national and community-based institutions, with capacity development on disaster information management in order to reduce the human loss and socio-economic damage associated with disasters. The Commission noted that a draft resolution on the

²⁶ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *The Asia-Pacific Disaster Report, 2010: Protecting Development Gains—Reducing Disaster Vulnerability and Building Resilience in Asia and the Pacific*.

²⁷ Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Remarks to the Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, Switzerland, 10 May 2011. Available from www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2011/programme/statements.

proposal contained in E/ESCAP/67/21 was under consideration in the Working Group on Draft Resolutions (see E/ESCAP/67/L.7).

176. The Commission noted with appreciation the series of activities on the effective use of space technologies in disaster risk reduction that had been carried out under the memorandum of understanding between the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and ESCAP that had been signed in December 2008 and the extension of the memorandum that had been signed in December 2010. Activities under the memorandum included the promotion of regional cooperation to monitor disasters in the Asian and Pacific region through the regional cooperation programme Sentinel Asia.

177. One delegation requested the secretariat to provide details regarding its cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization and the status of activities of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development.

178. The Commission appreciated the efforts of the secretariat in developing the Asia-Pacific Gateway for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development for the sharing of knowledge and good practices in disaster risk management and regarded the Gateway as an important initiative and area of focus for the work of the secretariat. The Commission called for continued efforts to promote data sharing and data collection on disasters.

179. The Commission expressed support for the launch of the Regional Cooperative Mechanism on Disaster Monitoring and Early Warning, Particularly Drought, and stressed the need for common operational procedures for drought monitoring in drought-prone countries, as well as information sharing for drought monitoring and response. The Commission requested that the secretariat make concerted efforts to promote cooperation on drought monitoring with other partners, including FAO and the World Meteorological Organization, and expressed appreciation for the offer of a number of countries to contribute satellite-based technical services and other forms of support to drought-prone countries.

180. The Commission welcomed the efforts of APCICT to develop two new modules for its Academy programme, one on ICT for disaster risk reduction and one on climate change adaptation, and highlighted them as good initiatives in the area. The Commission noted a call for more initiatives for regional cooperation in data sharing, knowledge exchange, emergency response systems, and the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into development planning.

181. The Commission noted that India had joined the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System, established with the support of ESCAP, and that it would be prepared to share its substantial domestic early warning experience with the System's members.

182. The Commission adopted resolution 67/4 on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management.

183. Subsequent to the adoption, the representative of the United States stated that, following a thorough review, her delegation was not able to support the resolution on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management. While the United States remained genuinely concerned about the feasibility and financial sustainability of the proposed centre, it did not want to stand in the way of the ESCAP tradition of adopting resolutions by consensus. The delegation expressed its wish to disassociate itself from the adoption by consensus of the resolution, explaining that disassociation was a

practice the United States employed to allow consensus to occur while ensuring that the text would not be binding domestically.

Sub-item (g)
Social development

184. In addition to the common documents considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Social Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/67/11).

185. Representatives of the following countries made statements: China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Pakistan; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; and Thailand.

186. The Commission commended the secretariat for the successful organization of the second session of the Committee on Social Development.

187. The Commission emphasized the vital role of social development in regional efforts to combat poverty, promote inclusive development and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It commended the secretariat for the effective implementation of its programme of work in the field of social development. The Commission called upon the secretariat to continue its efforts to further raise the profile of the Commission's work on social development and to strengthen regional cooperation, through analysis, documentation and the sharing of good practices, and capacity development on a range of social development policy and programme areas.

188. The Commission noted that, at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals at its sixty-fifth session in September 2010,²⁸ global leaders had committed themselves to making every effort to achieve those Goals by 2015 through, among other things, promoting comprehensive systems of social protection that provided universal access to social services and a minimum level of social security and health for all.

189. The Commission emphasized the role of social protection in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable groups in the region, especially persons with disabilities, older persons, economically dependent women, people living with HIV and AIDS, and those living in remote and rural communities. Several delegations reported on the range of social protection programmes under way in their countries, including the extension of services to poor and marginalized communities, particularly those in rural and remote areas; support for pensioners, women and children with disabilities and their families; extension of conditional cash transfers for poor households to support health and education; funding support for persons disabled or ill due to workplace injury, and their families; and progressive steps to extend social protection coverage in areas such as old age, illness, maternity and unemployment. The secretariat was requested to furnish further support for the development of national social protection policies and programmes in the region, including for capacity development in mainstreaming social protection programmes into national development frameworks.

190. In indicating that it highly valued the secretariat's work on the promotion of inclusive social development, the delegation of China informed the Commission that it was working with the secretariat on the development of a project to advance gender equality and conduct related training.

²⁸ The General Assembly adopted an outcome document entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals" through resolution 65/1.

191. In expressing appreciation for the focus of the second session of the Committee on Social Development on disability-inclusive development, several delegations articulated support for the Committee's recommendation that called for the Commission at its sixty-eighth session to proclaim a new decade to promote the rights of persons with disabilities from 2013 to 2022. One delegation expressed the view that preparations for the new decade should yield tangible goals and strategies, particularly with mechanisms for monitoring and review, resource mobilization and international cooperation, for effective implementation of the decade. Some delegations indicated their support for the establishment of a regional multi-donor trust fund to broaden support for the implementation of the proposed new decade.

192. The Commission emphasized the importance of convening the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, which would be hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea in Incheon, in October 2012. The delegation of the Republic of Korea informed the Commission that its Government was making every effort to host that meeting successfully; in doing so, it was cooperating closely with representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities and other key stakeholders. The Commission also welcomed the statements of the delegations of Japan and Thailand indicating that their respective Governments would actively contribute to preparations for the high-level intergovernmental meeting. The Commission commended the secretariat for the initial preparatory activities, including its close engagement with Governments, organizations of persons with disabilities and other key stakeholders, in accordance with Commission resolution 66/11.

193. The Commission noted with appreciation the secretariat's continuing commitment to and work on the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework,²⁹ the Biwako Plus Five³⁰ and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.¹² The Commission also appreciated the progress made by Pakistan and the Russian Federation in taking the necessary steps towards ratification of the Convention. Several delegations reported on policies, programmes and efforts under way for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities, including legislation and harmonization of domestic laws and policies with the Convention; measures to improve accessible and barrier-free environments, facilities, transportation and other services; provision of inclusive education and free education up to the university level; various social protection schemes and rehabilitation services; promotion of employment of persons with disabilities; and tax incentives to encourage private sector support of persons with disabilities.

194. The Commission commended the secretariat for the successful regional launch of the "Make the Right Real" campaign to promote the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It noted with appreciation the national launch and follow-up of the campaign in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and the Republic of Korea. The secretariat was requested to support, in collaboration with other United Nations entities and organizations of persons with disabilities, more national-level campaigns in different parts of the region.

²⁹ Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific in the current Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012 (E/ESCAP/APDDP/4/Rev.1) (see also Commission resolution 59/3).

³⁰ Biwako Plus Five: Further Efforts towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific in the current Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012 (E/ESCAP/APDDP(2)/2) (see also Commission resolution 64/8).

195. The secretariat was called upon to prioritize disability-inclusive development in the implementation of the ESCAP programme of work for the next biennium. The secretariat was also called upon to continue promoting regional cooperation and provide analytical, documentation and technical support to improve accessibility to the built environment, transportation, information and services for persons with disabilities in the region; harmonize national laws and policies with the Convention; promote the participation of persons with disabilities in national disability-related decision-making processes; improve the availability and quality of disability data; and address issues faced by women and children with disabilities, as well as persons with disabilities in rural and remote areas. With respect to addressing issues of accessibility for persons with disabilities, the secretariat was also called upon to continue its efforts to foster a disability-sensitive work environment and to improve the accessibility of its own facilities and services, as it could thereby serve as a model in the United Nations system.

196. In recalling General Assembly resolution 65/182 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing and Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/14 on the future implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, the Commission welcomed the initiation of regional preparations for the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing³¹ to be conducted in 2013.

197. The Commission noted that regional preparations would include national reviews by Governments, preparation by the secretariat of a regional report, based on government inputs, concerning progress in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action in Asia and the Pacific, the holding of a regional preparatory meeting in late 2011 to determine the priorities and agenda for the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, which would be convened in 2012, as mandated by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2010/14.

198. The Commission noted that the dramatic and unprecedented pace of population ageing in Asia and the Pacific would have far-reaching social, economic and political implications. The region faced a number of challenges, such as the lack of social protection coverage for older persons, including health insurance and old age pensions; the limited capacity of existing health systems to meet the need for geriatric care services; the lack of age-friendly and barrier-free environments; the shrinking workforce that might have a negative impact on economic performance; and the feminization of the population of older persons due to the generally higher life expectancy of women. The Commission called upon the secretariat to promote regional cooperation in addressing population ageing challenges and protecting the rights of older persons.

199. A number of delegations shared their national experiences and good practices in developing and implementing policy measures on ageing. Those included the provision of universal health care, old-age pensions and care services for older persons; and the promotion of active ageing. Other measures cited included social assistance for vulnerable and neglected older persons; life-long education, including “third age universities” and other related services; and special funds for older persons. One delegation highlighted the need to address the impact on older persons, especially those who were poor, female and disabled, of issues such as economic crises, migration, environmental disasters and climate change. That delegation also emphasized the need to enhance the capacity of families and communities to care for older persons.

³¹ *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

200. The delegation of China informed the Commission of its cooperation with ESCAP on addressing ageing issues, including the organization of the Regional Forum on Elderly Care Services in Asia and the Pacific in January 2011 in Nanjing, China, and expressed its support for the secretariat's related future capacity development activities in the region.

201. Many delegations expressed support for the regional preparatory process for the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, including the organization of a high-level intergovernmental meeting in 2012, the outcome of which would serve as the input from the ESCAP region to the global review.

202. The Commission took note of General Assembly resolution 65/180 on the organization of the 2011 comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. That review would be undertaken by the General Assembly at its High-level Meeting on AIDS, to be held in New York from 8 to 10 June 2011.

203. In reviewing regional progress in achieving the above-mentioned commitments, the Commission noted that the overall trend in the region had been positive, with most national HIV epidemics having stabilized during the preceding five years. The number of people living with HIV, approximately 4.9 million in the region, remained constant as compared with five years previously. The Commission noted, however, that key affected populations, namely men who had sex with men, sex workers, people who used drugs and transgender populations, continued to be vulnerable to HIV, with 75 per cent of all infections occurring among those groups.

204. The Commission also noted the successful joint convening in March 2011 by ESCAP and UNAIDS of the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support as a regional contribution to the June 2011 General Assembly High-level Meeting on AIDS.

205. Some countries reported on their national HIV responses and cited the benefits of, among other things, integrating HIV issues into their development agenda, improving the quality of life of people living with HIV and AIDS and engaging Governments at the highest political level. The effective use of resources and strengthening cooperation at all levels, including of government, civil society organizations and the private sector, were highlighted. Attention was also directed to other strategies, such as targeted interventions and focusing on emerging risk groups, including adolescents.

206. The representative of UNAIDS informed the Commission that effective national HIV responses were addressing issues related to punitive laws, discrimination and stigma against people living with HIV, men who had sex with men, transgender people, people who used drugs, sex workers and migrants. The representative emphasized the need for access to affordable treatment, informed leadership, promotion of high-impact interventions and evidence-based planning, as well as stronger systems for measuring the impact and monitoring the deployment of human and financial resources.

207. The Commission noted with appreciation the generous financial contributions of the Governments of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation to the work of the secretariat in the field of social development.

208. In taking into account the views expressed, the Commission generally endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Social Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/67/11).

209. The Commission adopted the following resolutions in the field of social development:

(a) Resolution 67/5 on the full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region;

(b) Resolution 67/6 on enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP;

(c) Resolution 67/7 on the role of cooperatives in social development in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Resolution 67/8 on strengthening social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific;³²

(e) Resolution 67/9 on the Asia-Pacific regional review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

Sub-item (h)
Statistics

210. In addition to the common documents being considered under agenda item 3, the Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Statistics on its second session (E/ESCAP/67/12) and the report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/13 and Corr. 1).

211. Representatives of the following countries made statements: Australia; China; India; Japan; Mongolia; Nepal; Philippines; Russian Federation; and Thailand. Additionally, a representative of UNFPA made a statement.

212. The Commission recognized the importance of promoting the development of official statistics in support of inclusive and sustainable development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in Asia and the Pacific. In that regard, the Commission expressed appreciation for the unique role of ESCAP in promoting statistics development.

213. The Commission expressed appreciation for the achievements of the Committee on Statistics, the successful work of the Bureau of the Committee and the contribution of the secretariat.

214. The Commission endorsed the decisions and recommendations as contained in the report of the Committee on Statistics on its second session. Specifically, the Commission endorsed the long-term strategic goals of the Committee, which were aimed at ensuring that all members and associate members of ESCAP would have by 2020 the capability to provide an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environmental statistics, and were also aimed at creating a more adaptive and cost-effective information management system for national statistical offices through stronger regional collaboration.

215. The Commission supported the direction of the work of the Committee on Statistics as reflected in the draft resolutions on strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/L.14), on the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/L.15) and on a core set of economic statistics to guide the improvement of basic economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/67/L.13).

216. The Commission supported the establishment of a steering group on economic statistics to oversee the implementation of a regional programme on

³² For further discussion related to the resolution, see paras. 359 to 383 below.

improving the capacity of ESCAP members and associate members to produce a core set of basic economic statistics; the establishment of a technical advisory group on social statistics to develop a regional programme for the improvement of social statistics; and the establishment of a working group on training to develop a strategy for strengthening the coordination, relevance and impact of statistical training. The Commission welcomed the decision of the Committee on Statistics to develop a regional implementation plan for the global strategy for the improvement of agricultural and rural statistics; in that regard, the secretariat was encouraged to work closely with FAO and urgently move forward that process.

217. The Commission took note of the specific suggestions put forward by the delegations of India and the Russian Federation regarding the terms of reference of those steering/technical advisory bodies, and noted further that the issues raised would continue to be taken into account.

218. The Commission welcomed the expression of interest by several delegations to actively support and participate in the work programme of the Committee on Statistics, specifically by participating in the various groups that had been established by the Committee, sharing best practices regarding information management that was adaptive and cost-effective, and willingly providing technical expertise.

219. The Commission expressed appreciation and support for the work of the secretariat, including the contribution that ESCAP had made to the Global Statistical System and the United Nations Statistical Commission; its tracking of regional progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals; and the contributions that had been made to the development of official statistics in the region. The Commission requested that the secretariat continue to promote disability statistics; support countries in the development of updated business registers; and work to build the capacity of institutional frameworks for data collection on trade in services.

220. The Commission recognized the important contribution of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) in supporting national statistical capacity-building in the region through the provision of training on official statistics during the preceding four decades. The Commission also expressed strong appreciation to the Government of Japan for its contribution to statistical development in the region through its support for SIAP (with both in kind and cash contributions), especially in view of the severe financial constraints experienced by that Government and the enormous financial burden caused by the recent earthquake and tsunami.

221. Some Commission members expressed the continuing need for statistical training as provided by SIAP, including Tokyo-based, in-country, distance and e-learning courses. In recognizing the benefit of the training in official statistics offered by SIAP for national statisticians, some members of the Commission encouraged other member States to participate in SIAP courses. One delegation also noted the usefulness of the core skills framework for identifying training needs and for designing training modules. The representative of India expressed interest in building a partnership between its National Academy of Statistical Administration and SIAP. The representative of UNFPA also noted the importance of SIAP and the high value that the Fund attached to its collaboration with SIAP. The Commission welcomed the recent increase in voluntary contributions to SIAP by India and Thailand; specifically, India had increased its contribution in 2010 to \$25,000 and Thailand was planning to contribute \$30,000 for the Thai fiscal year 2012 (October 2011- September 2012). The Commission welcomed the statement from Japan which indicated that a contribution to SIAP of \$1,676,400 in 2011 had already been secured. The Commission encouraged members States to increase their voluntary contributions to SIAP.

222. The Commission expressed appreciation for the commitment of the Government of China to support global and regional statistical capacity-building, including the recent establishment of the China International Statistical Training centre in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division and other United Nations statistical entities, which had potential for promoting statistical capacity-building in the Asia-Pacific region.

223. The Commission adopted the following resolutions in the field of statistics:

(a) Resolution 67/10 on a core set of economic statistics to guide the improvement of basic economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Resolution 67/11 on strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific;

(c) Resolution 67/12 on the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Resolution 67/13 on the revision of the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

Sub-item (i)

Subregional activities for development

224. Representatives of the following countries made statements: China; Fiji; Indonesia; Japan; Marshall Islands; Mongolia; Nauru; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Solomon Islands; and Tonga.

ESCAP Pacific Office

225. Several delegations expressed strong support and appreciation for the work of ESCAP in the Pacific, through the ESCAP Pacific Office, in addressing the unique development challenges faced by Pacific small island developing States. The secretariat was commended for the work of the ESCAP Pacific Office in strengthening national planning and policy development, including through the National Sustainable Development Strategy process.

226. The secretariat was encouraged, through its Pacific Office, to advocate for the special and unique needs of Pacific small island developing States in global platforms. This included facilitating access to the markets of the developed economies of the ESCAP region to help Pacific small island developing States move out of least developed country status, and support in preparation for the Rio+20 process.

Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia

227. The Commission noted that the overall objective of the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia was to achieve all-inclusive sustainable economic and social development in the subregion. It noted further that the work of the Office centred on clusters covering subregion-specific challenges: environmental issues, through the work of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC); the promotion of knowledge sharing; and the further strengthening of partnerships with civil society and other key development partners.

228. The Commission noted that the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia had become fully operational within its first year of operations, implemented various activities related to subregion-specific development priorities, expanded partnerships of ESCAP with various subregional stakeholders and launched modalities of knowledge-sharing.

229. The Commission noted that the ESCAP subregional offices could become important platforms for economic development and cooperation in view of the wide geographic coverage of ESCAP and its varied socio-economic systems.

230. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the head of the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia for his leadership and efficient work, which had resulted in the Office becoming fully operational at an early stage, and confirmed the support of member States of the work currently carried out by the Office in accordance with the mandates given to it by the member States.

231. The Commission noted its appreciation for the periodic newsletter of the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia as an effective tool for knowledge-sharing. For example, the latest edition had highlighted the meaning and importance of green economies, which was considered timely.

232. The Commission underlined the need for the subregional offices to avoid duplication of work with substantive divisions of ESCAP and other United Nations bodies, to have transparency and accountability through close contact with member States, and to promote shared interests and balanced relationships with all member States.

233. The Commission noted the significance of ensuring a consensus among member States on the nature of the activities carried out under NEASPEC, while at the same time encouraging that the Programme harness its full potential in addressing transboundary environmental challenges, in broadening the geographical scope of environmental cooperation and in acting as a subregional hub for South-South cooperation between East and North-East Asia and other subregions.

234. The Commission decided to discontinue the interim nature of ESCAP serving as the secretariat of NEASPEC and endorsed the proposal that the Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia serve as the secretariat of NEASPEC.

Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia and Subregional Office for North and Central Asia

235. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress that had been made on: (a) the establishment of the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, including the recent signing of the host country agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Kazakhstan; (b) the selection of staff members; and (c) the renovation of the office building.

236. Several countries expressed their full support for the implementation of the activities of the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia according to the mandate that had been given by the Commission.

237. The Commission was briefed on the most recent progress in establishing the Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia and the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, including progress in reaching a consensus between the secretariat and the Government of India on the final text of the host country agreement, selection of senior staff members and renovation of the office for the Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia.

Agenda item 4

Management issues

Sub-item (a)

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013

238. The Commission had before it the draft programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 (E/ESCAP/67/14), and a note by the secretariat containing a summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/67/3), in particular the progress made in the implementation of resolution 66/15 on the strengthening of the evaluation function of the secretariat of the Commission, including planned evaluations for 2012-2013.

239. Representatives of the following countries made statements: Australia; China; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Pakistan; Russian Federation; and United States of America.

240. In introducing the draft programme of work, the Executive Secretary indicated that the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013,³³ which had been adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/244 of 24 December 2010, was aimed at achieving the following development results: (a) Governments of Member States would have more effective, inclusive and sustainable development policies for addressing development from a multidisciplinary perspective, to narrow development gaps and build resiliency; (b) global processes would be shaped by a stronger coordinated regional voice and countries would be supported in implementing international commitments; and (c) regional cooperation mechanisms and institutional frameworks would be in place to promote regional integration and inclusive development. The programme of work was designed to achieve those expected results with outputs reflecting the priorities of member States, particularly those related to mandates to strengthen the work of the ESCAP subregional offices.

241. The Executive Secretary outlined the review process that had taken place prior to the submission of the draft programme of work to the Commission, including the review by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR). She stated that the secretariat would have difficulty accommodating any additional outputs recommended by ACPR, as the Secretary-General had requested a 3 per cent cut, below the indicative planning figure adopted in the budget outline.

242. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of ACPR regarding additional outputs as contained in the annex to the draft programme of work. The secretariat indicated that, in view of the budget constraints with regard to regular budget resources, the inclusion of those additional outputs could be accommodated by using extrabudgetary resources.

243. The Commission noted the evaluation plan for the biennium 2012-2013 contained in the note by the secretariat (see E/ESCAP/67/3, para. 74). It also noted that evaluation plans for subsequent bienniums would be integrated into the work programme cycle and reported to the Commission through the biennial evaluation report.

244. The Commission expressed support for the work of the secretariat and generally endorsed the draft programme of work, including the recommendations of ACPR as contained in the annex to the draft programme of work.³⁴

³³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/65/6/Rev.1).*

³⁴ See also para. 146.

Sub-item (b)
Programme changes for the biennium 2010-2011

245. The Commission noted that no programme changes had been identified for the biennium 2010-2011 subsequent to the latest revision of the programme of work approved by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session.³⁵

Sub-item (c)
Midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission

246. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/67/15 containing a report on the midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission, which focused on the extent to which the new structure adopted as a result of resolution 64/1 had served the purpose of improving efficiency and attracting higher and wider representation from members and associate members.

247. Representatives of the following countries made statements: China; India; Japan; Pakistan; Russian Federation; and Thailand.

248. In her opening remarks, the Executive Secretary indicated that over the last few years the Commission had embraced, with more energy and conviction, its unique role as the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region, as well as its comprehensive mandate as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations system for Asia and the Pacific. She noted that the midterm review was the first step towards the Commission's final review of the conference structure at its sixty-ninth session, and expressed the hope that immediate steps to further improve the working of the Commission could be taken as a means to ensure that it functions in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

249. The Commission noted the importance of periodically reviewing the conference structure to ensure that it functions in an efficient and effective manner and to respond to the changing needs and priorities of members and associate members. It was further noted that the conference structure had benefited members and associate members in formulating development policies from a multidisciplinary perspective, in coordinating a stronger regional voice, in enhancing regional cooperation and in fulfilling international commitments.

250. The Commission also noted that since this was the midterm review of resolution 64/1, it was too soon to fully assess the impact of the changes instituted so far and that more time would be needed to fine-tune the conference structure mechanism. In response to the report of the midterm review, support was expressed for improved working methods, better time management during Commission sessions, more concise policy statements based on the theme topic, as well as paperless Commission sessions with fewer and higher quality documents.

251. The Commission emphasized the need to avoid duplication, improve efficiency and effectiveness and keep the focus on core strengths in the Commission's work. It also emphasized the importance of ensuring that: (a) there should be a full balance between the normative, analytical and operational work of the secretariat; (b) all key decisions were made by the Commission; and (c) the role of ACPR in addressing programmatic and administrative matters be strengthened, including through the establishment of its own rules of procedure. The Commission recognized that draft resolutions should be well considered and more precise, submitted in a timely manner so that they could be debated in a constructive manner and, once adopted, be monitored to measure the progress of implementation.

³⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 19* (E/2010/39-E/ESCAP/66/27), paras. 175-178.

252. In preparation for a final review of the conference structure at its sixty-ninth session, the Commission requested the secretariat to carry out further studies concerning: (a) the governance structure of the regional institutes, including the respective roles and relevant mandates of the Commission, the committees and the governing councils; and (b) a review of the relevance of each regional institute to each subprogramme, the budget allocations of the regional institutes, and possibly the participation of ESCAP regular staff in joint projects of the regional institutes in order to support their work.

253. One delegation expressed a preference to retain the current duration and frequency of the Commission session and its subsidiary bodies, and suggested that in the future, the Commission might consider raising the status of ACPR to an executive committee to steer the work of the Commission during the intersessional period.

254. The Commission noted that the issues raised in the report on the midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure would be further debated during the consideration of the draft resolution on that topic.

255. The Commission adopted resolution 67/14 on cooperation between the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and other United Nations and regional and subregional organizations serving Asia and the Pacific and resolution 67/15 on the midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission.

256. Subsequent to the adoption, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that his country had joined the compromise in good faith and with the intention of strengthening regional cooperation and trust among the members and associate members of the Commission, as well as to further support the activities of the Executive Secretary. It maintained its view, however, that such resolutions as 67/14, as well as issues pertaining to the functioning and mandates of other United Nations and regional and subregional organizations serving Asia and the Pacific, fell within the purview of the mandate of the General Assembly.

Sub-item (d)
Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

257. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/67/16, which provided an overview of the secretariat's technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions in 2010.

258. Representatives of the following countries made statements: China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Pakistan; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; and Thailand.

259. In her introductory remarks, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the secretariat had shifted its technical cooperation work towards a capacity development programmatic approach as a core feature of the secretariat's organizational effectiveness initiative. Key to this approach was the development of a limited number of integrated capacity development project documents for each subprogramme for the period 2011-2013. The Executive Secretary also highlighted key achievements of the secretariat's capacity development work in 2010.

260. The Commission noted that the total contributions received by the secretariat for technical cooperation activities in 2010 from the regular budget and from voluntary sources amounted to approximately \$16.8 million and that delivery of technical cooperation in 2010 amounted to approximately \$13.9 million.

261. Several delegations expressed their appreciation and support for the technical cooperation work of the secretariat, including the activities of the five ESCAP regional institutions, while some emphasized the need for the secretariat to work closely with member States, regional organizations and other United Nations entities in implementing the ESCAP programme of work.

262. The delegation of the Russian Federation said that there was a need to strengthen the status of ACPR and its role in addressing issues pertaining to programmatic and administrative activities, including strategies for technical cooperation and the mobilization of resources, as well as the approval of projects to be funded from both regular and extrabudgetary resources. The delegation was of the view that a shift towards a new programmatic approach for ESCAP would need to be considered and agreed upon by member States, and it expressed reservations about contributing to a general pooled fund, as that would reduce its ability to monitor the utilization of its extrabudgetary contributions.

263. The delegation of China underscored the importance of ESCAP technical cooperation activities and expressed appreciation for the secretariat's efforts to improve its work in that area. The delegation, however, shared some of the concerns regarding the shift towards a programmatic approach. In that connection, it suggested that the views of the member States on the issue be taken into consideration and that prior consultations with member States be undertaken on how best to achieve the Commission's technical cooperation goals and on how to consider innovative additional funding sources and enhance the secretariat's internal management.

264. The Commission noted that the secretariat should avoid duplication with other agencies and focus on areas in which it had developed special expertise or a comparative advantage. One such area, for example, in which ESCAP had done commendable work and made considerable progress, was the improvement of regional connectivity.

265. The delegation of Sri Lanka informed the Commission that its Government intended to conduct ICT capacity-building workshops through national training institutions and universities as part of the APCICT Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders programme and recounted the training that had been conducted under the programme so far. In addition, the delegation conveyed its willingness to share the large number of ICT case studies that had been compiled in Sri Lanka with other member States through the knowledge dissemination channels of APCICT.

266. The Commission noted the following contributions pledged by members and associate members of ESCAP for 2011.

267. *Brunei Darussalam.* The Government of Brunei Darussalam had notified the secretariat in writing that it would make the following contributions:

SIAP	\$15 000
Pacific Trust Fund	\$1 000

268. *China.* The delegation of China indicated that its Government would make the following contributions:

China-ESCAP	RMB 1 500 000
Cooperation Programme	and \$150 000
APCTT	\$30 000
SIAP	\$40 000
UNAPCAEM	\$20 000

269. In addition, the delegation of China indicated that its Government would also support specific projects with additional contributions, and that it intended to consider an increase in its contribution to SIAP in the future.

270. *Hong Kong, China.* The secretariat had received written notification that the government of Hong Kong, China, would make the following annual contribution from 2010 through 2015:

SIAP	\$30 000
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271. *India.* The delegation of India announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

APCICT	\$10 000
APCTT	\$200 000
SIAP	\$25 000
ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia	\$154 000

272. The delegation of India advised that its contribution to UNAPCAEM was under consideration. It added that \$250,000 had been approved through the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the implementation of Commission resolution 64/3 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, through APCTT, of which the remaining balance of \$87,500 would be released in the current financial year. The delegation also confirmed its support for the three-year project implemented by APCTT and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research of India at an estimated cost of \$321,750, of which \$121,750 had already been provided.

273. *Indonesia.* The delegation of Indonesia announced that its Government would make an in kind contribution equivalent to \$350,000 to APCICT. In addition, the delegation indicated that its contributions to the other regional institutions were under consideration and referred to the previous year's contributions as an indication.

274. *Iran (Islamic Republic of).* The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran had notified the secretariat in writing that it would make the following contributions:

ESCAP programme of work	\$18 000
APCTT	\$15 000
SIAP	\$12 000
UNAPCAEM	\$15 000

275. *Japan.* The delegation of Japan announced that its Government would make the following contributions for the period April 2011 to March 2012:

Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$85 000
SIAP	\$1 676 400

276. In addition, the delegation of Japan announced that its Government intended to make an in kind contribution equivalent to \$1,167,517 to SIAP for the period from April 2011 through March 2012. In addition, as part of its technical cooperation programme through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, in cooperation with SIAP, the delegation announced its Government's intention to provide fellowships for 66 participants in specific training courses on official statistics.

277. *Macao, China.* The secretariat had received written notification that the government of Macao, China, would make the following contributions:

APCICT	\$5 000
APCTT	\$5 000
CAPSA	\$3 000
SIAP	\$20 000

278. *Mongolia.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Mongolia would make the following contributions:

ESCAP programme of work	\$5 000
SIAP	\$10 000

279. *Myanmar.* The Government of Myanmar had notified the secretariat in writing that it would make the following contributions:

ESCAP programme of work	\$2 000
SIAP	\$1 000

280. *Republic of Korea.* The delegation of the Republic of Korea announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$300 000
APCICT	(approximate) \$2 000 000
ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia	\$1 426 000

281. In addition, the delegation of the Republic of Korea indicated that its Government intended to make an in kind contribution equivalent to \$461,000 to the ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia and an in kind contribution of approximately \$500,000 to APCICT. It was noted that the United States dollar amounts of contributions to APCICT and the subregional office would be dependent on exchange rates. The appreciation of the Government of the Republic of Korea was also conveyed for the work of APCICT in building the human and institutional capacity of ESCAP members and associate members under the leadership of its current director, in particular through the introduction of the APCICT Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders in 19 countries, the mainstreaming of the Academy into national Government training frameworks and its expansion beyond the Asia-Pacific region, such as to Africa. The delegation also thanked all of the member States that had implemented APCICT capacity development initiatives and encouraged them to contribute resources to APCICT to strengthen the Centre's activities.

282. *Russian Federation.* The delegation of the Russian Federation announced its Government intended to make a voluntary contribution of \$1,200,000 to the Russia-ESCAP trust fund for the implementation of mutually agreed technical cooperation projects.

283. *Thailand.* The delegation of Thailand announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

APCTT	\$15 000
CAPSA	\$10 000
SIAP	\$30 000
UNAPCAEM	\$15 000

CCOP	\$40 000
Typhoon Committee	\$12 000
Tropical Cyclone Trust Fund	\$2 000
Pacific Trust Fund	\$1 000
Trust fund for the participation of the disadvantaged economies in transition and Mongolia	\$2 000

284. In conclusion, the secretariat thanked the Commission for its comments and concerns and addressed the issues raised regarding the ESCAP programmatic approach by emphasizing that: (a) all ESCAP technical cooperation work was in line with mandates provided by member States; (b) donor contributions would focus on specific ESCAP capacity development projects, which were reflected in outputs included in the programme of work endorsed by the Commission and approved by the General Assembly; and (c) the move towards multi-donor trust funds was in line with the Joint Inspection Unit's recommendation to the General Assembly and current practices in other regional commissions, such as the Economic Commission for Africa.

Agenda item 5

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

285. The Commission had before it the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/67/17). In his capacity as Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to ESCAP presented the highlights of the activities of the Committee during the past year.

286. Representatives of the following countries made statements: Indonesia; Pakistan; and Russian Federation.

287. Since the sixty-sixth session of the Commission, ACPR had held five regular sessions, one retreat and eight meetings of the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions.

288. A key focus of the work of ACPR during the period under review had been to consider the major achievements of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission, including the adoption of 15 resolutions, in particular resolution 66/1, known as the Incheon Declaration.

289. The Advisory Committee had also considered other aspects of the sixty-sixth session, including the convening of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries in its elevated status as an integral part of the Commission session.

290. The Advisory Committee had provided comments regarding the draft programme of work of ESCAP for the biennium 2012-2013 as well as suggestions for changes, which had been presented to the Commission (see E/ESCAP/67/14, annex).

291. On the midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission, ACPR had considered background information, including a discussion paper, on the implementation of Commission resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure, and provided the secretariat with feedback and comments. ACPR members had provided additional views during the ACPR retreat, during which 39 participants from 23 member States had taken part in further informal discussions, which were summarized in E/ESCAP/67/15.

292. Taking into consideration the recommendations made during the discussions on the midterm review of the conference structure, the Commission noted the importance of ACPR as a channel for members of the Commission to participate effectively in, and contribute to, the implementation by the secretariat of the decisions of the Commission.

293. The Commission also noted that ACPR had continued effectively fulfilling its role of providing the Executive Secretary with advice and maintaining close cooperation and dialogue between the members and the secretariat; in that regard, the ACPR retreat had played a significant role in strengthening the partnership among ACPR members. The Executive Secretary was encouraged to continue to organize such activities in support of the work of the secretariat in meeting the challenges faced by the region.

Agenda item 6

Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission (2012)

294. The Commission had before it the note by the secretariat on the dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission (2012) (E/ESCAP/67/18).

295. Representatives of the following countries made statements: Bangladesh; China; India; Pakistan; Thailand; and Turkey.

296. The Commission decided to hold its sixty-eighth session in Bangkok in April or May of 2012. The exact dates would be determined in consultation with ACPR.

297. With regard to the theme topic for the sixty-eighth session, two alternative topics were proposed for consideration, namely:

(a) Addressing the challenge of urbanization: towards inclusive and sustainable urban development;

(b) Enhancing regional economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region.

298. Taking into account the overall preference indicated by countries, the Commission endorsed “Enhancing regional economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region” as the theme topic for its sixty-eighth session.

Agenda item 7

Policy issues for the Asia-Pacific region

Sub-item (a)

Key challenges to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

Policy statement by the Executive Secretary

299. The Executive Secretary began by informing the Commission that the Asia-Pacific economies had recovered strongly from the Great Recession of 2008/09, assisted by the prompt action taken by Governments in terms of fiscal stimulus packages and monetary easing. The region’s developing economies had expanded at an impressive rate, 8.8 per cent, in 2010. In 2011, they were expected to grow at an average rate of 7.3 per cent, led by China at 9.5 per cent and India at 8.7 per cent. Despite that moderation, Asia and the Pacific would remain the region with the most dynamic growth in the world.

300. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to a number of downside risks posed by rising prices, especially those of food and oil, and short-term capital flows. Furthermore, the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan would also have a wide impact on the economies in the region. More importantly, the earthquake was another reminder of the region's vulnerability to natural disasters, with Asia and the Pacific accounting for almost 90 per cent of the world's natural disaster victims.

301. Rising food prices were having dire effects on the poor and were reversing hard-won development gains. According to ESCAP estimates, up to 42 million additional people could remain in poverty in 2011, in addition to the 19 million already affected in 2010, as a result of the increases in food and energy prices. In a worst case scenario, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal on poverty would be postponed by up to half a decade in a number of developing countries. Rising food prices were thus a particularly urgent policy issue.

302. At the national level, Governments should consider lowering taxes and tariffs on food products to bring down prices. Vulnerable sections of the population needed to be protected through more efficient public food distribution systems, food vouchers and targeted income transfer schemes, and more effective use of buffer stocks to reduce the volatility of staple prices. The Executive Secretary added that, in the medium term, emphasis should be put on reversing the neglect of agriculture in public policy, with enhanced support for agricultural research and development, extension services and rural credit to foster a new green revolution based on sustainable agriculture. Agricultural productivity could also benefit from greater South-South and triangular cooperation, as demonstrated by the ASEAN+3 emergency rice reserve agreement and the SAARC Food Bank.

303. At the international level, cooperation was necessary to deal with rising food and oil prices. At ESCAP, it was felt that the G20 should act decisively to moderate the volatility of oil and food prices, which could take the form of regulating speculative activity in food commodities and disciplining the conversion of cereals into biofuels. For oil price volatility, the G20 could engage the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to demarcate a benchmark "fair" price of oil and seek to restrict oil price movements within an agreed band around it. In addition, the G20 could create a global strategic oil reserve and release it counter-cyclically to moderate the volatility of oil prices.

304. The *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2010*³⁶ had warned about the emerging threats arising from rising short-term capital inflows to the region resulting from the easy money policies adopted in the western world. The capital controls imposed by a number of Governments, such as those of Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, had been endorsed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Such controls could be helped if developed countries were to tax short-term capital outflows and regulate trade in derivatives.

305. The Executive Secretary observed that, over the medium term, Asia-Pacific exporting economies would need to generate more aggregate demand in the region to sustain their dynamism in order to mitigate some loss of demand from the developed economies. That challenge could be turned into an opportunity to promote inclusive and sustainable development in the region. The Executive Secretary then outlined elements of a five-point policy agenda to that end:

(a) First, consumption rates could be enhanced by generating more household income, closing Millennium Development Goal gaps, raising minimum wages, enhancing employment opportunities or expanding social protection programmes. ESCAP estimates suggested that closing the Millennium Development

³⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.II.F.2.

Goal gaps would require additional spending of \$636 billion over the next five years. In addition, a post-crisis macroeconomic framework should seek full employment for men and women, in addition to addressing economic growth targets, inflation and sustainable public finances. In that regard, social protection provided a fundamental means to address persistent problems of poverty, income inequality and social exclusion. The ESCAP theme study on that topic had outlined the basic elements of a universal, rights-based social protection floor that would ensure a minimum level of access to essential services and income security for all. The study presented a compelling case for strengthened social protection systems and indicated that even low-income countries should aim to provide a level of social protection for all, especially in the context of the demographic shifts that the region was expecting to witness in the coming decades;

(b) Second, the ESCAP infrastructure index had reported that wide infrastructure gaps existed in the region, with the least developed countries particularly lagging behind in infrastructure development. Estimates suggested a need for annual investments of about \$800 billion over the next decade to close the infrastructure gaps. For that purpose, it was possible that the development of a regional financial architecture would enable the region to mobilize a part of its savings, including foreign exchange reserves of \$5 trillion, for its growing infrastructure investment needs;

(c) Third, the Executive Secretary emphasized the development of new, greener industries. The Asia-Pacific region's dynamism faced a serious threat from the growing scarcity of natural resources. The region should tap opportunities in trade and investment in green technologies by building a first mover advantage. For its part, ESCAP had been leading regional cooperation on green growth, the importance of which had been reaffirmed at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Kazakhstan in 2010;

(d) Fourth, with the emergence of the Asia-Pacific region as the growth pole of the world economy, the importance of exploiting the potential for regional economic integration for sustaining the region's dynamism could not be overemphasized. The findings of the 2011 *Survey* indicated that the intraregional trade of ESCAP countries had grown faster than their global trade but the potential was even greater. The analysis had found substantial complementarities within the subregions and even greater ones between them. Therefore, the *Survey* had made a case for focusing not simply on deepening integration within subregions but also on fostering trade links across subregions to build a seamless Asia-Pacific economic space. In that regard, the exploitation of intraregional trade potential was critically dependent upon strengthening regional connectivity. ESCAP had also supported the preparation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, which had been adopted at the seventeenth ASEAN Summit in Hanoi in October 2010. Physical infrastructure needed to be strengthened and the soft connectivity covering trade facilitation needed to be improved, including through paperless trade, as the hidden cost of red tape could amount to as much as \$300 billion, or 15 per cent of the value of goods being exported;

(e) Fifth, the regional review conducted by ESCAP of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010³⁷ by Asia-Pacific least developed countries showed that they had not been able to take advantage of the opportunities arising from the expansion of global and regional trade. They had not been able to diversify their production structure in favour of more complex, differentiated modern products with greater possibilities of value addition. Therefore, it was critical to assist them in building their productive capacities, as had also been emphasized in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.⁷

³⁷ A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

306. The Executive Secretary concluded by saying that the Asia-Pacific region had emerged from the global financial crisis as a growth driver and anchor of stability of the global economy. It now had the historic opportunity to rebalance its economic structure to sustain its dynamism with strengthened connectivity and balanced regional development to make the twenty-first century a truly Asia-Pacific century. ESCAP stood ready to work with member States on the exciting journey to secure an inclusive and sustainable future for all.

Summary of messages from the High-level Panel on Sustaining Dynamism and Inclusive Development: Connectivity in the Region and Productive Capacity in Least Developed Countries

307. The High-level Panel on Sustaining Dynamism and Inclusive Development: Connectivity in the Region and Productive Capacity in Least Developed Countries focused on the new policy challenges for the region after its strong recovery from the global financial crisis in 2010. The keynote speech was given by Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Professor in the Professional Practice of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, and former Under-Secretary General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP made introductory remarks, highlighting the key areas of concern for economies in the short and medium term, and served as moderator of the panel. The panellists were:

- Mr. Lee Si-hyung, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Republic of Korea
- Mr. Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister and Minister of International Monetary Cooperation, Sri Lanka
- Mr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN
- Mr. Jackson R. Ngiraingas, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce, Palau
- Mr. Abdul Hadi Arghandehwal, Minister of Economy, Afghanistan
- Mr. Timur Suleimenov, Vice Minister, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Kazakhstan

308. The Executive Secretary highlighted the key message of the *Survey 2011*,¹⁵ which was that the region, despite its strong recovery from the global financial crisis, faced a number of key emerging risks. They included rising prices, especially for food and oil; natural disasters, such as the recent one in Japan; a deluge of short-term capital flows; and sluggish recovery in the advanced economies. In particular, the return of the food-fuel crisis had serious implications for the region's efforts to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals and it required an immediate policy response at the national, regional and international levels. In addition to addressing short-term risks, policymakers had to meet the challenge of rebalancing the region's economies in favour of domestic and regional investment and consumption. While poverty and wide development gaps in the region provided significant headroom for the expansion of domestic demand, the deepening of regional economic cooperation was also critical to sustaining dynamism in the coming years. Some of the areas needing policy attention were the enhancement of connectivity between markets and peoples through improved transport linkages, regional institution-building, streamlined transport and trade facilitation, and the achievement of progress towards the creation of a regional energy framework. Finally, in the context of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, earlier in May, the Survey had focused on the challenges faced by the region's least developed countries, especially their inability to benefit from the expanding markets and strengthened connectivity owing to their lack of productive capacity.

309. In his keynote statement, Mr. Ocampo expressed his agreement with many of the messages of the *Survey 2011* and focused on two of the key issues. They were, first, the economic prospects of the region and their link to global imbalances and the global trading system and, second, the issues raised in relation to capital flows. With regard to the first point, the world faced an unprecedented situation where the developing world was leading global growth and was expected to do so for a considerable time to come. As trade growth with the developed world was not expected to return to previous levels, it was increasingly important to generate regional demand and trade. The policy of China to reduce global imbalances by raising wages was appropriate, as it would also serve to boost domestic consumption and therefore spur regional demand. With regard to the second point, the pressure of capital inflows to the region would continue in the medium term due to interest rate differentials with the developed world related to divergent growth prospects. Capital account regulations were needed to deal with that pressure. Although the recent endorsement of such regulations by IMF was a welcome move, the Fund should devote greater attention to supporting international cooperation on such regulations by encouraging source countries to engage in complementary policies to regulate the capital flows. Regarding the reform of the global monetary system, it was important to promote a diversity of strong international currencies and to increase the role of special drawing rights as a global currency. To complement global reform efforts, the region could further promote its own financial architecture, for example, by expanding the scope of such initiatives as the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization of the ASEAN+3 countries. Specifically, the Initiative should be delinked from IMF in order to increase the independence of its conditionalities, and it should be expanded to include more countries in the region.

310. Mr. Lee Si-hyung provided a broad picture of the initiatives led by the G20 in the aftermath of the global financial crisis of 2008/09. At the G20 Seoul Summit in November 2010, an agreement had been reached to develop indicative guidelines for assessing persistently large global imbalances. In addition, global financial safety nets and provisions for capital controls had been introduced to address the negative impacts of sudden capital flow reversals. Most importantly, development issues had been introduced and mainstreamed into the G20 agenda for the first time, resulting in the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth and its Multi-Year Action Plan on Development.³⁸ In 2011, under the French presidency, the G20 was working to implement and make further progress on those agreements. In addition, the mitigation of excessive price volatility in commodities and the advancement of food security were high on its agenda. Finally, he reiterated the strong G20 commitment to consult non-G20 countries and engage the broader international community.

311. Mr. Sarath Amunugama provided his views on the reform of the global financial system and his reflections on his country's ongoing borrowing programme with IMF. The growing role of emerging markets in the global economy had necessitated a fresh consideration of the issues of voice and quota in the Bretton Woods institutions. The functions of IMF were also being reconsidered in the context of the new global environment. For example, capital controls had been accepted by the organization as a legitimate part of the policy toolkit for countries. IMF had also revised its policies on least developed countries, particularly with regard to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, with joint representations by Asian countries having ensured that the Initiative was extended to Asian countries. The success of an IMF programme, in his view, required the popular will of the people, which could be obtained if a country was able to take ownership of the required policy reforms.

³⁸ The Seoul Summit Document, annexes I and II. Available at http://www.g20.org/Documents2010/11/seoulsummit_annexes.pdf

312. Mr. Surin Pitsuwan provided an overview of the current priorities of ASEAN to promote integration. The two main methods for ASEAN to promote that objective were through, first, the policy of centrality and, second, the policy of connectivity. With regard to centrality, ASEAN was playing a leading role by serving as a hub for the integration of the region as a whole through its cooperation with dialogue partners using ASEAN+1, ASEAN+3 and ASEAN+6. In cooperation with those partner countries, important initiatives had been taken. They included the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization and the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office. He expressed the view that the region should move step by step in developing those initiatives. As such, ASEAN should not delink the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization from IMF at the current stage, as the link provided confidence through its indication of the support of the global financial institutions. With regard to connectivity, it was a necessary condition for effectively achieving centrality because ASEAN could not provide the role of centrality for the region if it was not well connected among ASEAN member countries. Connectivity involved the three main areas of physical connectivity, institutional connectivity and people-to-people connectivity. There was still work to be done, as the ASEAN region remained less integrated than a number of other regions of the world. ASEAN had worked closely with ESCAP and other international organizations in formulating its connectivity policies and looked forward to continued cooperation.

313. Mr. Jackson Ngiraingas explained that the challenges faced by the Pacific island developing economies were truly unique. Their remoteness, dispersion, small size and associated high shipping costs, which were two to three times higher than those in the Caribbean, made those economies “ocean-locked”. Those challenges could, however, be seen as an opportunity for greater connectivity with regard to a number of sectors. In that context, he pointed out the potential of information and communications technologies to help island economies overcome their remoteness by opening possibilities for e-commerce and trade in services. In addition, given the extreme vulnerability of the islands to natural disasters and climate change, he commended a number of ESCAP initiatives on disaster risk reduction, including training on disaster damage assessment in Vanuatu and the use of satellite imagery for disaster risk management. Greater attention needed to be paid to improving energy efficiency and using renewable energy in inter-island shipping transport systems. In addition, the transfer of more efficient and renewable energy technologies was important for development in the Pacific islands, and those technologies were beginning to come to the Pacific through such activities as the renewable energy green growth pilot project introduced by ESCAP and the Government of the Republic of Korea.

314. Mr. Abdul Hadi Arghandehwal noted the many challenges faced by the least developed countries and emphasized the importance of increasing their productive capacities for their inclusive and sustainable development. To overcome the special constraints of being a landlocked least developed country and a country facing conflict, Afghanistan had prioritized its investments to strengthen its agricultural base, develop human resources, rebuild infrastructure and engage in regional economic cooperation. Regional connectivity, including energy connectivity, was extremely important for the country and, as a result, the Government had committed itself to important regional energy projects. Trade had increased manifold and renewed infrastructure, when completed, was expected to make the country a transport hub connecting Central Asia, South Asia and the Middle East. Afghanistan’s mineral deposits, which included significant reserves of copper, cobalt, gold and industrial production metals such as lithium, were estimated to be worth about \$3 trillion.

315. Mr. Timur Suleimenov reported the results of the Astana Economic Forum 2011, which had taken place in the capital of Kazakhstan during the first week of May. In an open letter to the leaders of the G20, the participants of the forum, which had included six Nobel laureates, had argued that negotiators from

developing countries lacked the capability to take full advantage of international trade negotiations under the Doha Round, advocated the removal of nationality restrictions for the heads of IMF and the World Bank, and expressed the view that national and international financial regulations were not catching up with the pace of globalization and needed to be revamped.

Sub-item (b)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2011

316. The Commission had before it the summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2011 (E/ESCAP/67/19).

317. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Afghanistan; Australia; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Turkey; Tuvalu; United States of America; Viet Nam; and Hong Kong, China.

318. The Commission commended the quality of the comprehensive documentation prepared by the secretariat pertaining to the challenges facing the region as contained in the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2011*.¹⁵

319. The Commission noted that, despite the region's strong recovery from the global financial crisis, Asia and the Pacific faced new challenges, as analysed in the *Survey*. Those challenges included the return of high food and fuel prices, the sluggish recovery in the market of developed countries and the disruptive short-term capital inflows spurred by the easy money policies of many developed countries. The challenges were affecting the efforts of developing economies in the region to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, with the poorest and most vulnerable countries being the most affected.

320. The return of high food prices had made the issue of food security increasingly important. A key measure to reduce the impact of food prices would be to enhance food security by boosting agricultural productivity. Other measures such as South-South cooperation were also important.

321. The Commission noted that, notwithstanding those challenges, the strong performance of the region in recovering from the global financial crisis had resulted in the emergence of the region as an anchor of global growth and stability. In that regard, the presence of leading centres of growth within Asia and the Pacific had reaffirmed the need for the region to integrate further in order to support its continued development. Furthermore, the cross-country nature of many of the challenges required that policy actions be coordinated within the region in order to be effective. South-South cooperation should be an important element in supporting regional integration. The need for an Asian investment bank to support the region's development was also stressed.

322. The Commission stressed that the interdependence of global and regional policies required the region to effectively integrate its policies at both the global and regional levels. In that regard, countries in the region should effectively utilize global forums, such as the G20, to enact measures, for example, to reduce the global imbalances, which had been one of the causes of the recent global financial crisis, as well as to establish a global financial safety net.

323. The Commission stressed the need for the secretariat to continue its important role of providing policy advice to support Governments in overcoming the challenges for inclusive and sustainable growth in the region. The Commission expressed the view that the secretariat should take measures to actively support the process of regional integration as well as serve as the forum to undertake key decisions for the region. The Commission highlighted the need for the secretariat to provide analyses of key global economic issues which had had an impact on the region, including global economic governance and commodity prices. It requested the secretariat to provide an additional analytical framework for the development of a regional voice in international forums, particularly the G20, as had been done prior to the G20 Seoul Summit, thus helping to translate global initiatives into concrete regional policy actions.

324. The Commission acknowledged the importance of enhanced connectivity for the economic and social development of the region, as it would facilitate growth in regional trade and provide the vulnerable communities with access to the basic social services, as highlighted in the *Survey*. The Commission noted that enhanced regional connectivity would benefit all ESCAP members and that sharing experiences in that area was important. It supported the development of transport as well as other means of connectivity in the region, highlighting, in particular, the importance of private sector investment in enhancing connectivity. It was underscored that the secretariat needed to play an important role in promoting soft infrastructure development, in particular in the areas of trade facilitation and the diversification of productive capacities.

325. The delegation of Mongolia observed that the assistance provided to Mongolia by ESCAP in the areas of trade facilitation and accession to APTA had led to tangible results and constituted a visible example of intensified cooperation between Mongolia and ESCAP. The delegation looked forward to continued technical assistance in those areas.

326. The Commission noted the importance of the expansion of trade and investment for economic and social development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It also noted the importance of investment for technology transfer. In that regard, there was a need for countries to pursue trade diversification, the facilitation of intraregional trade and the establishment of a favourable environment for investment. In highlighting the vital importance of the expansion of regional demand and the principle of inclusiveness, one delegation suggested that the secretariat undertake a study on the feasibility of a free trade area covering the larger Asia-Pacific region.

327. The Commission noted that trade was crucial for the development of the region. It acknowledged the need to tap the full potential of intraregional and South-South trade to sustain the growth of the region. Removing tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade was necessary to develop new sources of demand within the region. It called for strengthened regional cooperation in that area, given its importance for the development of least developed and landlocked developing countries, in particular.

328. The Commission noted the importance of concluding the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations and reducing agricultural subsidies to ensure food security for less and least developed countries, while least developed countries should be given better terms of trade to enable them to keep up with higher food import prices. In that context, one delegation emphasized the importance of Millennium Development Goal 8 on a global partnership for development, which was often forgotten while assessing progress towards achieving the Goals, although the achievement of that Goal would help to enable the achievement of others. One delegation stressed the need to facilitate the accession process to the World Trade

Organization for developing and emerging economies, in particular taking into account their development needs during bilateral market access negotiations.

329. The Commission noted the timely and visionary choice of the theme topic of its sixty-seventh session, as social protection was a priority issue for countries in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission also noted that social protection measures taken in response to the recent crises had contributed to mitigating risks and vulnerabilities, especially for the poor and most vulnerable groups. In particular, the Commission noted the importance of social protection as an investment for economic development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In that respect, the Commission underscored the fact that social protection formed an integral foundation for achieving inclusive and sustainable development.

330. The Commission noted the importance of social protection for achieving social justice and equity, including through the equitable distribution of national wealth. Some delegations pointed out that social protection ensured the basic rights of people. It was highlighted that the successful implementation of social protection programmes needed to incorporate a rights-based approach.

331. Several delegations expressed the need to move towards comprehensive social protection systems that ensured universal access, especially to health care. In that respect, several delegations shared the experience of their Governments in expanding existing coverage, for example, to informal sector workers.

332. The Commission noted the value of targeted social protection approaches, especially for reducing poverty and mitigating the negative impact of external shocks. In that connection, several delegations informed the Commission of national good practices of their Governments in providing targeted assistance to vulnerable groups, such as the poor, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV and AIDS, pregnant women, street children and older persons. One delegation pointed out that targeted social protection programmes needed to have a reliable, objective and transparent targeting system with a monitoring and evaluation component in order to be successful. Another delegation underscored the idea that social protection systems should be sustainable, include community-based schemes and recognize the role of the family.

333. The Commission noted the range of approaches and programmes initiated by member States to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment, especially in education. Some delegations emphasized that gender equality and women's empowerment formed a cornerstone of economic and social development. In that context, they highlighted the need to further implement measures to eliminate gender-based violence.

334. Several delegations reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.¹² One delegation informed the Commission of its appreciation of the secretariat's instrumental role in the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-Free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific²⁹ and the Biwako Plus Five: towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.³⁰ The Commission noted that some delegations accorded priority to the high-level meeting on the final review of the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2012), which would be held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in 2012, and advocated for a third decade of persons with disabilities.

335. The Commission was also informed of the importance of remittances for the economies of several countries in the region, especially during the recent crises. In that respect, one delegation emphasized the need to protect the rights of migrant workers.

336. The Commission noted the impact of population ageing as a challenge that several countries across the region were facing. In that context, several delegations informed the Commission that their Governments accorded priority to protecting the rights of older persons and providing them with social protection. Some delegations also reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.³¹

337. The Commission emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in supporting the provision of social protection. It highlighted the secretariat's important role as a platform for the exchange of good practices in that respect, as well as its role in capacity-building and providing policy support for designing social protection programmes. The secretariat was called upon to play an enhanced role in identifying and disseminating innovative approaches for providing social protection.

338. The Commission noted the efforts of member States in improving transport infrastructure, including highways, railways, seaports and rural roads. It also noted that their initiatives in developing the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway were making a significant contribution towards an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system for the region.

339. The Commission noted with appreciation the various initiatives taken to improve transit transport through the negotiation of bilateral and subregional transit transport agreements. It further noted the development of transport corridors, such as the Western Europe-Western China and Trans-Siberian corridors, which would help improve transit transport linkages between Asia and Europe. The Commission welcomed the secretariat's initiative to address issues related to inter-island shipping as part of its programme of work.

340. Connectivity was a high priority for Pacific island delegations, and the secretariat was encouraged to provide further support in the area of inter-island shipping to facilitate trade and economic opportunities. Pacific island delegations expressed their strong support and appreciation for the work of the secretariat in the Pacific, through the ESCAP Pacific Office, in addressing the unique development challenges faced by Pacific small island developing States. The secretariat was encouraged to use its inclusive platform to advocate for the special and unique needs of Pacific small island developing States, including in supporting preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

341. In highlighting the increasing need for investment in infrastructure, the Commission emphasized that the private sector and public-private partnerships would need to expand their role in infrastructure development, replacing traditional financing schemes, such as official development assistance. In that regard, the Commission was informed of the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host and organize the Third Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in 2012.

342. The Commission emphasized environmental sustainability as the key foundation for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and a broader development agenda. It also noted that the challenges of rapid growth, urbanization, and environmental and resource constraints could be addressed by developing strategies for a green economy, green growth, sustainable resource use and environmental safeguards. In addition, it also emphasized the significance of economic restructuring to facilitate systemic changes in support of those strategies. The Commission commended the secretariat's work in those domains, including the organization of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific. Some delegations also commended green growth capacity-

building and the development of a regional road map for low-carbon development alongside growth as technical cooperation projects.³⁹

343. The Commission was informed by the Government of Kazakhstan that the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative,⁴⁰ included in the outcome of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, provided a key avenue for regional cooperation on environment and sustainable development by strengthening partnerships between interested countries in the European and Asia-Pacific regions. Member States were invited to participate in the Partnership Programme under the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative.⁴¹

344. The Commission underscored the potential for new investments, in particular by the private sector, in areas related to promoting environmental sustainability. The areas mentioned included afforestation, water resource management, the development of renewable and new energy sources, energy efficiency improvements, clean technologies and climate change adaptation. The Commission took note of the possible use of fiscal incentives to guide such investments.

345. The Commission highlighted the specific challenges posed by climate change in the region’s development agenda. One delegation noted that the international response to climate change should be accelerated based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and called for substantive progress in discussing both mitigation and adaptation actions at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, scheduled to be held in December 2011. Another delegation stressed the role of international financial organizations in addressing climate change through effective mechanisms on mitigation and adaptation.

346. The Commission noted with appreciation the work that had been done by the secretariat in areas related to environment and development, including the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.¹⁰

347. The Commission underscored the need to safeguard energy requirements by enhancing energy security and increasing investment in the sector. It also encouraged the secretariat to continue its efforts to promote regional cooperation in that important area. Several delegations reiterated the determination of their Governments to support the development of policies that promoted energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy trade for inclusive and sustainable development.

348. The Commission emphasized the importance of water resources management, environmentally sustainable development and the initiatives and programmes in member States that aimed to preserve and restore natural resources, such as water supply, irrigation and hydropower, with incentives and other sustainable development tools. The Commission took note of the secretariat’s work in the Mekong River area and supported the efforts of the secretariat to extend its cooperation with the Mekong River Commission.

³⁹ The technical cooperation projects on (a) improving capacity and institutions for the sustainable development of developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region and (b) the development of low carbon green growth roadmap for East Asia and the organization of the second East Asia climate forum.

⁴⁰ E/ESCAP/67/8, chap. I, sect. C.

⁴¹ See ECE/CEP/S/2011/L.5.

349. The Commission recognized the challenges of rapid urbanization and the need to provide basic services, particularly education, health and housing, on the basis of affordability, to both the rural and urban poor and other disadvantaged groups. It also noted that national Governments played an important role in providing low-cost housing.

350. The Commission noted that, while least developed countries had made some progress in socio-economic development during the past decade, they still had low per capita incomes and limited productive capacity, and their economies remained vulnerable, while most of them were not likely to reach some of the Millennium Development Goal targets by 2015. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for the development of the least developed countries lay with the countries themselves, some delegations stressed that development partners should continue providing them with assistance.

351. The Commission noted that, while the Millennium Development Goals had provided a powerful framework within which both developed and developing countries had been able to work together to advance human development and lift millions of the most vulnerable people out of poverty, the level of progress across ESCAP subregions in achieving the Goals had been uneven and remained a challenge, in particular for Goal 1 which dealt with poverty reduction. To achieve the Goals by the 2015 deadline, countries of the region would need to consolidate and strengthen international partnership and cooperation, renew stronger political commitment and redouble efforts at the country level. The Commission emphasized its commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In that context, it noted a request that the secretariat play an appropriate supporting role in capacity-building, as well as in mobilizing resources to address the gaps in achieving the Goals.

352. The Commission noted that South-South cooperation, complementing North-South cooperation, could be an important contributing factor enabling the least developed countries to build productive capacities in order to integrate their economies into regional and global markets and achieve socio-economic development, as emphasized by the *Survey* and the Dhaka Outcome Document,⁴ which had contributed to the Istanbul Programme of Action.⁷ In that respect, the delegation of Turkey emphasized that building and diversifying productive capacities in the Asian and Pacific economies was one of the priority areas on which the secretariat should focus in order to foster structural transformation, employment generation and economic growth to reduce the vulnerability of those countries to external shocks. The Commission expressed appreciation for the secretariat's support in ensuring that the Asia-Pacific least developed countries had played an active role in shaping the outcome of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

353. The Commission observed that the frequency and scale of natural disasters had increased in the region. Several delegations expressed concern about the impact of climate change and the resulting sea level rise, especially in low-lying areas of the Pacific, and noted that many Himalayan and Pacific countries that hardly contributed to global warming were most affected by it. In the light of the increased incidence of natural disasters in the region, the Commission expressed the view that the secretariat's role in disaster risk reduction and management should be strengthened.

354. The Commission observed that responses to the various large-scale natural disasters that had affected the Asian and Pacific region in recent years had demonstrated the willingness and ability of nations, institutions, and individuals to come together and engage in humanitarian assistance, rebuilding and development in many unprecedented ways. In that respect, the Commission expressed deep sympathy to the peoples and Governments of Japan and Pakistan for the loss of life

and economic damage caused by the recent major natural disasters in those countries.

355. In response, the delegation of Pakistan expressed gratitude for the multiple ways in which the secretariat had sought to help Pakistan following the devastating floods in 2010, which had affected 20 million people and washed away years of development gains, causing an estimated \$10 billion in losses in housing, businesses, crops, livestock and physical infrastructure.

356. The representative of Japan expressed profound gratitude to the members and associate members and to the international community for their solidarity and for the moral, material and monetary support that had been provided to Japan in the wake of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that had killed over 24,000 people. The delegation provided detailed information about the recovery measures taken in the affected region, including the road map for controlling and preventing the release of radioactive material into the environment from the damaged nuclear plant, and assured the Commission that further information would continue to be provided to the international community in a transparent manner. The delegation further assured the Commission that the vast majority of the country was open to travel, study and business as usual, and that the food supply in the country was safe for consumption.

357. The Commission took note of several proposals to improve disaster preparedness in the region. Those included a proposal by the Government of Thailand to use U-Tapao Naval Air Base as a rapid development centre for disaster management as well as a training centre for both civilians and the military, and to offer assistance through it to other countries of the region. In addition, the delegation of India informed the Commission that India, along with some other countries of the region, would be contributing satellite information-based technical services to drought-prone countries through the ESCAP Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Cooperative Mechanism. India had also joined the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia and would be contributing its early warning capabilities to it.

358. One delegation noted that exchanging experiences and transferring technology among developing countries through regional ESCAP institutions, including APCTT, CAPSA and UNAPCAEM, could be another important modality of South-South cooperation.

Agenda item 8

Theme topic for the sixty-seventh session: “Beyond the crises: long-term perspectives on social protection and development in Asia and the Pacific”

359. The ministerial round table was chaired by Mr. Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister and Minister of International Monetary Cooperation, Sri Lanka, and Chair of the Commission.

360. The following distinguished speakers addressed the round table:

Special guest:

- H.E. Mr. Jigme Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan

Panellists:

- Ms. Margaret Wilson, former Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives, and Minister of Labour and other portfolios in the Government of New Zealand
- Dr. Mongkol Na Songkhla, former Minister of Public Health, Government of Thailand

Moderator:

- Ms. Nisha Pillai, award-winning international journalist

361. Representatives of the following members of the Commission made statements and shared their experiences and good practices concerning their Government's social protection policies and programmes: Bangladesh; China; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Kazakhstan; Pakistan; Philippines; and Russian Federation.

362. In her introductory remarks, the Executive Secretary stated that the current session was the first time that social protection had been explicitly placed on the Commission's policy agenda. That reflected the priority that member States accorded to the social dimension of development, including efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Recent crises in the Asian and Pacific region presented opportunities for a systemic transformation to address the underlying causes of persistent poverty and inequality. The Executive Secretary stressed that social protection was a means of mitigating rising insecurity and social risks that millions of people across the region were facing. Governments were examining ways of integrating social protection into broader economic and social strategies. The ministerial round table provided a vital regional platform for member States to share lessons learned and consider policy options for strengthening social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific.

363. The Prime Minister of Bhutan informed the Commission of his Government's commitment to equity and justice through the promotion of social, economic and political empowerment. The newly elected Government had pledged to ensure social protection and social inclusion through the implementation of a range of schemes, including investment in social and physical infrastructure and the provision of services, especially to communities in rural and remote areas. Those schemes entailed enhancing key services by 2013 in areas such as universal access to education, health, and the provision of safe drinking water and electricity. Government action was also under way to ensure universal food security and nutritional adequacy, as well as cellular telephone access. The Commission was also informed that the Government had completed a midterm review of those schemes, and that it was on track to achieve the universal provision of services. It was expected that, by 2013, Bhutan would also have achieved its goal of ensuring that every household would be in close proximity to a basic health-care centre. The Commission was informed that all those policy and programme endeavours were contributing to the Government's overarching commitment to the realization of Gross National Happiness.

364. Ms. Wilson, drawing from her extensive experience with the reform of social policies, drew attention to the development of economic and social infrastructure over the course of a century as an essential factor in the successful development of New Zealand, a Pacific island country with a relatively narrow physical resource base. Furthermore, social protection and investment in people, in the form of a "social contract" between the Government and citizens, had ensured the necessary security for innovation, risk taking and the engagement of communities in national development. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the relevance for the region of the concept of a social protection floor, with its focus on a comprehensive approach covering all areas of social provision that, among other things, guaranteed certain minimum levels of income and access to essential services for all. It was emphasized that its effective implementation required the development of a coherent framework for social protection policies and programmes and related inter-ministerial coordination. Ms. Wilson highlighted employment as a core component of the approach.

365. Dr. Mongkol Na Songkhla, in discussing the experience of Thailand as a middle-income country that had achieved universal health-care coverage, stressed the significance of the long-term commitment of political leadership and the government at all levels. In Thailand, that commitment had been systematic and had spanned 40 years over many government administrations. In the course of that period, the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand had pursued universal health-care coverage as its long-term goal through a step-by-step approach. Starting with the provision of free health care to the poor, the Ministry had eventually expanded coverage to the entire population. In Thailand, Dr. Mongkol indicated, that access to health care was the right of all citizens, as enshrined in national legislative frameworks, including the 2001 Constitution. Thai health-care coverage provided comprehensive services for a range of illnesses, including renal treatment, heart and liver transplants and cancer treatment, as well as HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Furthermore, antiretroviral therapy had been included in the package of health-care services that Thailand had offered since 2003. Also noteworthy was that, at the outset, the Ministry had managed its own budget to enable the provision of universal health-care services.

366. The Commission noted the wealth of experience in social protection in Asia and the Pacific, including the good practices of members and associate members, as contained in the secretariat's theme study, *The Promise of Protection: Social Protection and Development in Asia and the Pacific*.¹¹ The Commission noted with satisfaction that countries were moving towards more comprehensive social protection systems that guaranteed a minimum level of security for all. Those good practices reflected government commitment to building social protection systems as an investment in promoting inclusive growth and social equity in Asia and the Pacific.

367. The Commission noted that several countries had adopted a rights-based approach to social protection, which was derived from constitutional, legal and development planning frameworks. The Commission was informed that China had enacted a law on social insurance and developed comprehensive measures to expand the coverage of its social insurance programmes. Thus far, its basic medical insurance programmes covered 1.26 billion people—over 90 per cent of its population. The Commission was also informed of the priority accorded by several countries to infrastructure development as an essential means of achieving universal access to social protection, and in reducing urban-rural disparities.

368. The Commission was informed of the specific challenges that Pacific island countries and territories faced with regard to improving access to social protection across often sparsely populated geographical areas with limited resources. Among those challenges was a limited economic base for government provision of social protection, particularly for health, education, and support for older persons. Another challenge was the stress that was increasingly placed on social and cultural safety nets. The Commission was also informed of Fiji's efforts to address such challenges through economic and infrastructure development, as well as by strengthening services, including education and transportation, in the implementation of the country's 2007-2012 five-year development plan.

369. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the Commission of its Government's policies and programmes aimed at poverty alleviation and the enhancement of social security and welfare. Those policies and programmes were based on justice, rights and people's dignity, and were reflected in the Government's fifth five-year development plan. The delegation emphasized that social security was vital for the development of the region.

370. The Commission noted country experiences with regard to programmes for the protection of vulnerable groups, such as the rural poor and "the poorest of the poor", persons with disabilities, older persons and migrant workers. Many

Governments had expanded their coverage and level of support and had instituted minimum levels of social protection for those vulnerable groups. In that regard, the Commission was informed that China had developed special measures for the participation of migrant workers in social insurance schemes, including medical insurance and work injury benefits.

371. With regard to the food, fuel and financial crises and environmental disasters in the region, the Commission noted the range of national responses aimed at addressing associated risks and vulnerabilities. The delegation of the Russian Federation cited a series of anti-crisis measures that had been adopted, including those related to employment and health care. Support for mothers included indexed payments and specific support for single mothers. There were federal programmes that supported improved accessibility for persons with disabilities, as well as children whose parents were persons with disabilities. The Russian Federation had achieved a substantial increase in pension payment support. Furthermore, training and retraining programmes had helped stabilize the labour market and household incomes. The Commission was informed of the response of China through, among other things, the introduction of lower insurance rates and the deferred payment of premiums to enable wider access to social protection.

372. The Commission was informed that the Government of Pakistan had expanded its cash transfer programmes to selected households and to its rural primary health-care programme. Furthermore, in response to the 2010 flood crisis, Pakistan had launched a scheme involving prepaid debit cards called “Watan cards” to protect assets and allow for flexibility in rebuilding lives through, among other things, the Benazir Income Support Programme and the Lady Health Workers Scheme.

373. Concerning access by women and girls to social protection, the Commission noted national programmes for maternal and reproductive health, culturally sensitive health-care programmes for women, mechanisms for conditional cash transfers and schemes for increasing the participation of girls in education. The delegation of Kazakhstan drew attention to its Government’s targeted social assistance programme, as well as an increase in the scope of medical care and the provision of maternal allowances as a component of social protection.

374. The Commission noted that several countries had, through conditional cash transfer schemes, enhanced the access of the poor to education and primary health care. The delegation of Indonesia informed the Commission of its Government’s implementation of the Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH) or “Family of Hope Programme”, which provided conditional cash transfers for very poor households. PKH transferred cash to the poor with the condition that their children must attend school and that pregnant women must visit health community centres regularly.

375. The delegation of the Philippines informed the Commission that its Government, through the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Programme, or the “4 Ps”, had identified, by means of the National Household Targeting System, 4.6 million poor households that were in need of support. Having already reached 1 million households, it was expected to reach 3 million households by 2012. The conditional cash transfer programme provided cash assistance to the “poorest of the poor”. The Commission noted that the “4 Ps” had resulted in greater access to primary schooling, improved maternal health and lowered infant mortality among the poor.

376. The Commission noted that Governments in the region were strengthening and expanding health-care systems with a view to achieving universal health-care coverage by, among other things, improving primary health-care programmes, augmenting the coverage of health insurance schemes and providing “smart cards” to facilitate more efficient access to medical services. The Commission also noted that the Government of Bangladesh, as part of the provision of a number of social

protection schemes, was increasing the coverage of community health clinics with a view to providing universal health care.

377. The Commission recognized the importance of employment as a key component of social protection, income security and poverty reduction. The delegation of India informed the Commission of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which guaranteed all rural workers 100 days of paid work per year at an indexed rate. The Scheme had ensured a minimum level of income security for the rural poor and, at the same time, contributed to the improvement of the local-level economic and social infrastructure.

378. The Commission noted the various means of financing social protection in the region, including contributory and non-contributory modalities. It also noted that social protection schemes were affordable and represented a sustainable investment in long-term development. The Commission was informed that the cost of a basic universal social protection package could fall within the range of 1-3 per cent of gross national income per year.

379. Targeted social protection measures were discussed in the context of their expansion to reach a greater proportion of the population. The Commission noted that family and community cultural social networks were viewed as valuable and inclusive forms of social protection, although they required greater recognition and support. The Commission noted the need to formulate social protection schemes that were responsive to the changing needs of citizens. An additional challenge was the need to maintain the real value of social protection over time, for example by indexing payments to mitigate the impact of inflation.

380. In his concluding remarks, Dr. Mongkol Na Songkhla stressed that the provision of universal social protection coverage, including financing, was as much a political choice as it was an economic one. He emphasized that a long-term vision, political commitment and the engagement of a broad coalition of stakeholders, including civil society and academia, were key factors that had contributed to the success of Thailand in achieving universal health coverage for its people.

381. Ms. Wilson emphasized the importance of a long-term vision, the active involvement of all key stakeholder groups, evidence-based research, and a professional and independent public service as key factors in ensuring that social protection policies and programmes remained relevant in the context of changing economic and social circumstances.

382. In her concluding remarks, the Executive Secretary thanked all delegations for their active participation in the ministerial round table and for sharing their national experiences, which provided a strong basis for strengthening regional cooperation to enhance social protection systems in the Asian and Pacific region. She emphasized that social protection was an essential foundation for the achievement of equality and poverty reduction and welcomed the growing recognition by governments that social protection was an investment in the building of human capacities which would yield rich economic and social dividends. Actors other than the State, including the private sector and civil society, also played a vital role in promoting effective social protection policies and programmes. A system of social protection based on rights and reflecting a social contract between a government and its citizens was fundamental to achieving inclusive and sustainable development.

383. In concluding the round table, the Chair expressed appreciation to all speakers and participating Governments for their contributions and valuable insights, which had ensured a rich discussion on policy options, national experiences and good practices in social protection in Asia and the Pacific. The

Chair also expressed appreciation to the moderator for her able facilitation of the discussion.⁴²

Agenda item 9
Other matters

384. No other matter was discussed.

Agenda item 10
Adoption of the report of the Commission

385. The report of the Commission on its sixty-seventh session was adopted unanimously at its fifth plenary meeting on 25 May 2011.

⁴² See paragraph 209 above for the adoption of the related resolution.

Chapter IV

Resolutions and other decisions adopted by the Commission at its sixty-seventh session

Resolution 67/1

Ulaanbaatar Declaration: Outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries⁴³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,⁴⁴ which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/201 of 23 December 2003,

Recalling also its resolutions 63/9 on the implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), 64/4 on the implementation of the Seoul Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, 65/6 on support for the establishment of an international think tank of landlocked developing countries, 66/4 on the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia, and 66/5 on the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling further the outcome document of the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/2 of 3 October 2008,

Acknowledging the important contributions of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network⁴⁵ and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network⁴⁶ in promoting the development of transport infrastructure, especially in landlocked developing countries,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 64/214 of 21 December 2009, in which the Assembly welcomed the establishment of the international think tank for the landlocked developing countries, and 65/172 of 20 December 2010, in which it welcomed the progress made since the establishment of the think tank,

Recalling also the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, which was held from 20 to 22 September 2010,⁴⁷

⁴³ See paras. 61 to 82 above.

⁴⁴ *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I).

⁴⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. 41607.

⁴⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, No. 46171.

⁴⁷ See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

Expressing concern at the gaps faced by the landlocked developing countries in the process towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizing that the greatest challenge facing the landlocked developing countries is that of promoting inclusive and sustainable growth for reducing poverty and improving the quality of life of the people,

Expressing concern also at the re-emergence of rising food and energy prices and the special vulnerabilities of the landlocked developing countries to such price rises,

Stressing the enormous capacity-building needs in the area of trade and transport facilitation in landlocked developing countries,

Emphasizing the need for continued international support for the achievement by the landlocked developing countries of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Re-emphasizing that the interests and concerns of landlocked and transit developing countries should be taken fully into account while establishing transit transport systems, and urging development partners to take a constructive and inclusive approach in the implementation of regional transit projects,

Recalling that the final review of the Almaty Programme of Action is scheduled for 2013,

Noting with appreciation the convening of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries, which was organized jointly by the Government of Mongolia and the secretariat of the Commission, held in Ulaanbaatar from 12 to 14 April 2011, and inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Mongolia,

Taking note of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration,⁴⁸ the outcome of the Policy Dialogue, which encompasses issues related to the Millennium Development Goals and other development challenges, market access and trade opportunities, and transit transport connectivity as well as South-South and triangular cooperation as important for the landlocked developing countries,

1. *Commends* the Executive Secretary for advancing the implementation and review of the Almaty Programme of Action⁴⁴ in Asia and the Pacific;

2. *Appreciates* the Ulaanbaatar Declaration⁴⁸ as an outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries;

3. *Notes* the Bhutan development philosophy, Gross National Happiness, which provides a framework for holistic and sustainable development, and notes with appreciation the proposal made by Bhutan to include happiness as “the ninth voluntary Millennium Development Goal” at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Calls upon* members and associate members to consider implementing, as appropriate, the recommendations contained in the Ulaanbaatar Declaration, including the provision of assistance to landlocked developing countries in Asia and the Pacific;

⁴⁸ E/ESCAP/67/22, annex.

5. *Urges* landlocked developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region to sign and ratify the Multilateral Agreement on the Establishment of the International Think Tank for the Landlocked Developing Countries of 24 September 2010 at their earliest convenience in order to bring the think tank, which was established in Ulaanbaatar on 27 July 2009, to full operation;

6. *Invites* the development partners to assist landlocked developing countries in fostering cooperation with the transit countries;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist landlocked developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region, in cooperation with other relevant international entities, in implementing the recommendations of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration;

(b) To continue to assist landlocked developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region, in cooperation with other relevant international entities, in their pursuance of the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) To provide, in collaboration with relevant international organizations, necessary assistance to the landlocked developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region during the final review of the Almaty Programme of Action,⁴⁴ which is scheduled for 2013;

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

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

Resolution 67/2

Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific⁴⁹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,⁵⁰ in particular those parts which concern energy, and General Assembly resolution 65/151, in which the Assembly decided to declare 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All,

Recalling also its resolutions 63/6 on the implementation of intercountry energy cooperation to enhance energy security for sustainable development with a view to widening access to energy services in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and 64/3 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2010,⁵¹ adopted by the sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific on 2 October 2010,

Recognizing that energy security is a key development issue for all countries in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States,

⁴⁹ See paras. 129 to 145 above.

⁵⁰ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap I, resolution 2, annex.

⁵¹ E/ESCAP/67/8, chap. I, sect. A.

Recognizing also that nearly one billion people in the Asia-Pacific region today do not have access to modern affordable energy services,

Emphasizing the need to improve access to reliable, affordable and environmentally sound energy resources for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that energy demand in the Asia-Pacific region is rising faster than in other regions and is projected to almost double by the year 2030 and that fossil fuels are likely to remain the main source of energy for meeting that demand,

Expressing concern that volatile oil prices may threaten the region's nascent recovery from the global economic crisis and its prospects for achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

Recognizing the potential of various new and renewable energy technologies in meeting the challenges presented by unmet energy demand,

Expressing appreciation for the work of the ESCAP secretariat in promoting subregional energy cooperation with a view to enhancing energy security and sustainable development,

Welcoming the ongoing efforts of Governments to promote regional and interregional cooperation for enhanced energy security and sustainable use of energy resources,

1. *Calls upon* all members and associate members to further promote regional cooperation in addressing energy security challenges and to formulate and implement coherent energy policies based on comprehensive assessments of their environmental and social impacts;

2. *Urges* members and associate members, as appropriate, to give due attention to supply-side constraints, the management of energy demand and the consequences of price volatility and potential disruptions to energy supply,

3. *Calls upon* members and associate members to cooperate proactively in the development and deployment of cost-effective new and renewable energy technologies, and to promote cooperation on increasing energy efficiency, in particular, in the context of South-South cooperation;

4. *Encourages* all members and associate members to develop and strengthen efficient policy and regulatory structures at the national and subnational levels that will encourage private-sector investment in energy products;

5. *Also encourages* members and associate members to actively engage the private sector in order to enhance investments, to generate innovations and to take leadership as a partner in creating a sustainable energy future;

6. *Invites* Governments, donor countries, relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, international and subregional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, as well as the private sector and civil society, to actively consider contributing towards the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To strengthen the role and capacity of the ESCAP secretariat in the area of energy security;

(b) To ensure effective coordination with other United Nations bodies and agencies, in particular through UN-Energy, and with multilateral agencies and subregional organizations in working towards enhancing the capacity of ESCAP member States;

(c) To collaborate effectively with development partners in order to mobilize financial and technical support to promote regional cooperation for enhanced energy security;

(d) To assist members and associate members in meeting their energy security challenges through: (i) the collaborative development of energy security scenarios; and (ii) the organization of meetings and regional networking arrangements aimed at promoting the exchange of experiences and information;

(e) To convene, in 2013, the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum at the ministerial level to discuss the progress achieved in the Asia-Pacific region in addressing the energy security challenges at the regional, national and household levels, and to facilitate continuous dialogue among member States with a view to enhancing energy security and working towards sustainable development;

(f) To report to the Commission at its seventieth session on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

**Resolution 67/3
Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific⁵²**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing that all the Millennium Development Goals are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, and therefore underline the need to pursue these goals through a holistic and comprehensive approach, as well as the need for the members of the Commission to continue rapid economic growth in order to lift millions of people out of poverty and achieve Millennium Development Goal 1, while keeping environmental sustainability high on the agenda, as proposed in Millennium Development Goal 7, while maintaining the pace of growth and environmental vigilance,

Noting with satisfaction the successful holding of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Astana from 27 September to 2 October 2010, which adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2010, and the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015, and welcomed and endorsed the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative: Europe-Asia-Pacific Partnership for the Implementation of “Green Growth”,⁵³ as outcomes of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development,

Noting that the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative is intended to provide a forum for dialogue among European, Asian and Pacific countries and therefore can serve as a contribution to the preparatory process for the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, to be held in 2011,

Noting with appreciation the continuous commitment of the Government of Kazakhstan, which has provided financial, expert and logistic support for the

⁵² See paras. 129 to 145 above.

⁵³ See E/ESCAP/67/8.

development of the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative and its draft partnership programme, the establishment of a secretariat (“Green Bridge” Office) and the preparatory meeting for the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” to discuss the Europe Asia-Pacific partnership programme of Green Growth of the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative held in Astana on 5 May 2011,

Reaffirming its commitment to fostering regional and intraregional cooperation activities aimed at furthering progress towards sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes and recognizes* the outcomes of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific;⁵⁴

2. *Emphasizes* that the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2010, which outlines Asian and Pacific perspectives and approaches to achieving sustainable development, can serve as a regional input to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

3. *Encourages* all members and associate members of the Commission:

(a) To participate actively, as appropriate, in the implementation of the three outcome documents⁵⁴ of the Ministerial Conference;

(b) To formulate programmes and strategies, as appropriate, to implement the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015, at the national, regional and subregional levels;

(c) To encourage the private sector and civil society to participate in activities related to the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative;

(d) To facilitate joint research on the development and application of policies and tools, including environmentally sound technologies, and take all practical steps to promote and facilitate, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies;

(e) To promote knowledge-sharing networks to exchange experiences and analyses and lessons learned from sustainable development pilot projects highlighting pro-poor pro-environment growth;

(f) To support the necessary flow of new technologies and transfer of know-how and technologies for capacity-building to developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region;

4. *Invites* all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned, multilateral financial institutions and donors, as well as non-governmental organizations, to contribute to and be part of the partnership programme of the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist members and associate members, upon request, in implementing the provisions of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2010;

(b) To assist, upon request, countries in the region by providing technical assistance in the execution of the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2011-2015, and relevant national strategies and actions;

(c) To organize policy dialogues and forums on issues under the six programme areas covered by the Regional Implementation Plan;

⁵⁴ E/ESCAP/67/8, chap. I.

(d) To support the implementation of the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative and its proposed programme for partnership between Europe and Asia and the Pacific, through various activities, including participation in meetings and conferences organized by the Government of Kazakhstan and the Economic Commission for Europe;

(e) To encourage strongly effective coordination and joint pursuit of the regional activities of the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in facilitating the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

(f) To report on the progress made in the execution of the Regional Implementation Plan based on information provided by members and associate members, on a voluntary basis, to the 2013 session of the Committee on Environment and Development, and to the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, in 2015;

(g) To convene the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2015.

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

**Resolution 67/4
Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management⁵⁵**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Expressing deep concern at the increasing number and expanding scale of disasters triggered by natural hazards in recent years and their social, economic and environmental impacts on vulnerable people and societies, especially in developing countries,

Recalling the outcome of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005⁵⁶ and the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters⁵⁷ and its strategic goals and priorities for action as well as recommendations, which include establishing or strengthening existing specialized regional collaborative centres, as appropriate, to undertake research, training, education and capacity-building in the field of disaster risk reduction,⁵⁸

Recalling also its resolution 63/10 of 23 May 2007 on the review of modalities for regional cooperation in natural disaster management, in particular the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management, in which, among other things, it recognized the significant role of natural disaster management in achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction and acknowledged the importance of natural disaster information management,

Recalling further paragraph 1 of its resolution 66/8 of 19 May 2010 on the review of the proposal for the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in which it noted with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the proposed centre, and

⁵⁵ See paras. 165 to 182 above.

⁵⁶ See A/CONF.206/6, chap. I, and Corr.1.

⁵⁷ Ibid., resolution 2.

⁵⁸ Ibid., para. 31 (d).

invited the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the Commission with the supplementary information requested in paragraph 1 of resolution 64/10 and to consider revising its draft resolution to take into account the outcome of the review requested in paragraph 1 of resolution 64/10, in consultation with the secretariat, for submission to the Commission for consideration at its sixty-seventh session,

Recognizing the demand for disaster information services in the Asian and Pacific region reflected in several Commission resolutions and reports published by the secretariat, including the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2010*,⁵⁹ as well as the request of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction at its first session that, among other things, the secretariat continue promoting regional cooperative mechanisms and knowledge-sharing arrangements for disaster risk reduction, including on information, communications and space technologies, to improve different aspects of disaster risk management, such as multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks,⁶⁰

Recognizing also the importance of regional and subregional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific for enhancing preventive and responsive measures against disasters, in particular in the subregions with higher levels of disaster risk and lower levels of capacity in collaborative mechanisms on disaster risk reduction and management,

Recognizing further the importance of institutional and technical capacity development in disaster information management in the countries and organizations of the region towards achieving the objectives and expected results of disaster risk reduction and management more effectively,

Noting with appreciation the outcome of the efforts made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to further develop the proposal for the establishment of the centre and for making the necessary adjustments according to resolution 66/8 in consultation and coordination with the secretariat,⁶¹

Expressing deep appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its generous offer to support the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management as a regional facility serving the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the related areas, and to bear the costs of establishing as well as operating the centre and its programmes for five years, up to US\$ 50 million,

Noting that the main objective of the centre would be to reduce losses and damage resulting from natural hazards by developing the capacities and capabilities of the countries and organizations of the region and strengthening regional cooperation on information sharing and management for disaster risk reduction, and that the Centre would commence its functions and programmes with a focus on the more vulnerable subregions of Asia and the Pacific,

1. *Decides* to initiate the process for the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (the Centre) in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in line with the procedures described in paragraph 5;

⁵⁹ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, *Protecting Development Gains: Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2010*. Available from www.unescap.org/idd/pubs/Asia-Pacific-Disaster-Report%20-2010.pdf.

⁶⁰ See E/ESCAP/65/9, para. 3.

⁶¹ E/ESCAP/67/21.

2. *Invites* all members and associate members to participate actively in the process of developing the programmes of the Centre and to support its activities, as appropriate, in a comprehensive manner;

3. *Encourages* the United Nations and other international and regional organizations and agencies as well as non-governmental agencies to support actively the process for the establishment of the Centre;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to support the process for the establishment of the Centre, including, inter alia, the development of the required modalities and arrangements for its operationalization through:

(a) Enhanced engagement under ESCAP subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction, with the more vulnerable countries and subregions in the areas of disaster risk reduction and disaster information management;

(b) Enhanced engagement under the ESCAP subregional offices in the areas of disaster risk reduction and disaster information management;

(c) Cooperation with United Nations entities, in particular with the Asia Pacific Office of the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and with other international, regional and non-governmental entities;

(d) Inclusion of the details of the activities under paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above in the secretariat's annual reporting to the Commission;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to include in the secretariat's evaluation plan for 2013 an evaluation of the activities under paragraph 4 and the need for, and benefit of, establishing the Centre as a subsidiary body of the Commission for the development of disaster information management, and to submit the results of that evaluation to the Commission at its seventieth session.

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

**Resolution 67/5
Full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region⁶²**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, in which the Assembly endorsed the Political Declaration⁶³ and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,⁶⁴

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, in which the Assembly encouraged all Member States to further implement the Madrid Plan of Action as an integral part of their national development plans and poverty eradication strategies, and recommended an expanded role for the regional commissions on ageing issues,

⁶² See paras. 184 to 209 above.

⁶³ *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), annex I.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, annex II.

Further recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/14 of 22 July 2010 on the future implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, in which the Council decided to conduct the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2013 at the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, and acknowledged the essential contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the implementation, review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, including the organization of regional review and appraisal meetings and the preparation of their outcome documents,

Recognizing the unprecedented pace of demographic transition towards an ageing society in the Asia-Pacific region and its profound and far-reaching social, economic and political implications,

Noting the enormous demand for elderly care services and the human resource gaps in meeting the needs of older persons in the region,

Also noting the higher proportion of women among older persons,

Concerned about the vulnerability of older persons, in particular older women, to poverty, social isolation and violence,

Welcoming the holding of the Regional Seminar on Health Promotion and Active Ageing in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok on 15 and 16 November 2010, and the Regional Forum on Elderly Care Services in Asia and the Pacific in Nanjing, China, on 21 and 22 January 2011, which contributed to the review of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, in particular, on health and care of the elderly,

Noting with appreciation the support provided by the Government of China to the Commission's programme on ageing, including the capacity development inputs of the newly established Human Resource Development Centre for Elderly Care Services based in Zhongshan College, Nanjing, China,

1. *Decides* to convene the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Regional Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in early 2012 to provide a regional input to the global review;

2. *Encourages* all members and associate members:

(a) To accelerate the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;⁶⁴

(b) To conduct a national review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action using, among other things, a bottom-up participatory approach;

(c) To ensure high-level representation in the Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting;

(d) To provide financial or other forms of support for regional cooperation aimed at promoting the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action in the Asia-Pacific region;

(e) To incorporate a gender perspective into all policy actions on ageing, and to strengthen the empowerment and legal protection of older persons, in particular older women;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To further emphasize the role of the Commission in supporting members and associate members in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action;

(b) To provide members and associate members, upon request, with technical assistance to strengthen their capacity for effective implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including its review and appraisal;

(c) To facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices on ageing, including the monitoring and implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

(d) To support members and associate members, upon request, in developing their national capacities for the provision of elderly care services in cooperation with existing training institutions focusing on ageing in the region;

(e) To encourage the participation of all key stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the private sector, in the preparatory process for the second global review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventieth session on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

Resolution 67/6
Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP⁶⁵

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁶⁶ on 3 May 2008,

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolutions 61/106 of 13 December 2006 and 62/170 of 18 December 2007, requested the United Nations system to make concerted efforts to improve the accessibility of its facilities and services for persons with disabilities,

Also recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/186 of 21 December 2010, urged the United Nations system to make a concerted effort to integrate disability issues into its work,

Reaffirming the region's commitment to the principles of creating inclusive and barrier-free societies as outlined in the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific⁶⁷ and Biwako Plus Five: towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific,⁶⁸

Recalling its resolution 64/8 of 30 April 2008, in which the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to improve the accessibility of the facilities and services of ESCAP for persons with disabilities, in collaboration with United Nations agencies and organizations and disabled persons' organizations,

Noting the progress made by the secretariat in improving the accessibility of its facilities and services for persons with disabilities and acknowledging the need to continue such efforts in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

⁶⁵ See paras. 184 to 209 above.

⁶⁶ General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.

⁶⁷ E/ESCAP/APDDP/4/Rev.1 (see also Commission resolution 59/3).

⁶⁸ E/ESCAP/APDDP(2)/2 (see also Commission resolution 64/8).

Mindful of the need to share good practices with regard to enhancing accessibility in the region as well as in the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note of* the report of the Committee on Social Development on its second session;⁶⁹

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue and strengthen, as appropriate, her efforts to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP, which may encompass the following:

(a) To develop and implement further measures, in consultation with United Nations Headquarters, to enhance the accessibility of the secretariat's physical environment, information and communications systems, and other facilities and services, and support the development of assistive technologies for persons with disabilities, taking into account, as appropriate, the principles and relevant articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(b) To work with United Nations Headquarters to establish an inter-agency advisory group comprising concerned United Nations entities, and conduct an open dialogue with key stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities from Asia and the Pacific, to review the accessibility of facilities and services in the United Nations complex in Bangkok and to make recommendations for their further improvement to the Executive Secretary;

(c) To establish a mechanism within the secretariat to promote the full inclusion and rights of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others, bearing in mind United Nations system-wide policies and the principles and relevant articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(d) To integrate the perspective of persons with disabilities into the secretariat's work, including its activities relating to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific;

(e) To promote greater knowledge and awareness among secretariat staff of the rights of persons with disabilities, including through, exploring with United Nations Headquarters, the provision of disability-sensitive training for staff at large;

(f) To continue the progressive implementation, in consultation with United Nations Headquarters, of standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

Resolution 67/7
Role of cooperatives in social development in Asia and the Pacific⁷⁰

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 64/136 of 18 December 2009, in which the Assembly proclaimed the year 2012 the International Year of Cooperatives,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/184 of 21 December 2010 on cooperatives in social development, in which the Assembly invited Member

⁶⁹ E/ESCAP/67/11.

⁷⁰ See paras 184 to 209 above.

States to consider taking action towards establishing national mechanisms, such as national committees, to prepare for, observe and follow up on the International Year of Cooperatives,

Recognizing the growing role and important contribution of cooperatives in alleviating poverty, reducing unemployment, improving the livelihood of people and promoting economic and social development in the Asia-Pacific region,

Emphasizing the importance of developing and enhancing cooperatives for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve the development goals set by major United Nations and other world conferences, including the Millennium Summit,⁷¹

Reaffirming the need for further action at the regional level to raise public awareness of the activities of cooperatives with a view to creating an enabling environment for their growth and sustainability,

Welcoming the holding of the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Cooperatives in Social Development: beyond 2012, in Ulaanbaatar, from 3 to 6 May 2011, prior to the official launch of the International Year of Cooperatives,

1. *Invites* all members and associate members to consider taking action towards establishing national mechanisms, such as national committees, to prepare for, observe and follow up on the International Year of Cooperatives, in particular for the purpose of planning, stimulating and harmonizing the activities of the governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations concerned with the preparations for and observance of the Year;

2. *Encourages* governments to take appropriate policy measures to create and promote a supportive and enabling environment for the development and enhancement of cooperatives through close partnership with the cooperative movement, better legislation, wider advocacy of the role and contribution of cooperatives to the socio-economic development of their countries, and awareness-raising activities;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist members and associate members, upon request, in preparing for and observing the International Year of Cooperatives;

(b) To facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices of cooperatives at the regional level;

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

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

Resolution 67/8
Strengthening social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific⁷²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010 on keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in which Heads of State and Government committed themselves to, among other things, promoting comprehensive systems of social protection that provide universal

⁷¹ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

⁷² See paras. 184 to 209 and paras. 359 to 383 above.

access to essential social services, consistent with national priorities and circumstances, by establishing a minimum level of social security and health care for all,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/12 of 22 July 2010, in which the Council, among other things, recognized that social protection is an investment in people and in long-term social and economic development, while appropriate social protection systems make a critical contribution to meeting the development goals directed towards poverty eradication and exerting a positive impact on economic growth, social cohesion and social development,

Recalling further that the Commission at its sixty-sixth session endorsed “Beyond the crises: long-term perspectives on social protection and development” as the theme topic for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission,

Noting that the theme study for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission,⁷³ through its analysis and recommendations, offers a valuable contribution to the policy debate on the direction of social protection in Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing that social protection must be integrated into broader economic and social strategies to guarantee all citizens a minimum level of security,

Emphasizing the mutually reinforcing interrelationship among the Millennium Development Goals and how, without due consideration of risks in the development process and the provision of suitable social risk management mechanisms, including social protection, the Millennium Development Goals will not be achieved,

Acknowledging that political commitment at the highest level and the participation of multiple actors, including the beneficiaries themselves, are crucial to formulate and implement social protection policies that effectively meet the needs of all in society,

Acknowledging also the range of social protection programmes in the Asian and Pacific region that are aimed at addressing inequality, vulnerability and social exclusion,

Noting with concern that the coverage of existing social protection programmes tends to be low and uneven, with the most excluded social groups — in particular the poor and vulnerable — having the lowest levels of protection, despite having the greatest need,

1. *Calls upon* all members and associate members:

(a) To accord higher priority to social protection policies and programmes based on universal principles as a core component of development policy and planning at the national level, and as a foundation for the attainment of equality and poverty reduction, as well as the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) To further strengthen and build effective systems of social protection in order to shield people better from many of the risks of daily life, including ill health and disability, unemployment and falling into poverty in old age;

(c) To ensure the development of integrated approaches to social protection that are rooted in universalism and a rights-based framework and that

⁷³ *The Promise of Protection: Social Protection and Development in Asia and the Pacific* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.II.F.5).

effectively address processes of discrimination and exclusion based on national capacity;

(d) To invest in building social protection systems that might form the basis of a “social protection floor”, which would offer a minimum level of access to essential services and income security for all, and subsequently enhancing the capacity for extension, according to national aspirations and circumstances;

(e) To encourage active participation of all segments of society, including the poor and disadvantaged, in processes regarding developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating social protection programmes;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with other concerned United Nations bodies and relevant stakeholders:

(a) To support members and associate members in their capacity-building by mainstreaming social protection concerns into diverse development sectors in support of fulfilling internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in the region;

(b) To provide a regional platform for the sharing and dissemination of knowledge related to social protection;

(c) To undertake analytical studies and comprehensively document good practices on social protection in order to develop a toolbox of policy and programme options for social protection, for use by member States, as appropriate, which is adaptable to the specific conditions of each country, including data collection, monitoring and evaluation tools, and support regional cooperation for further country-level initiatives;

(d) To promote South-South and triangular cooperation, which complements North-South cooperation, as well as effective public-private partnerships in order to enhance the affordability, scope and depth of social protection;

(e) To undertake advocacy on investing in social protection in order to create enabling environments for programmes based on universal principles and within a rights-based framework;

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

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

Resolution 67/9

Asia-Pacific regional review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS⁷⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/262 of 2 June 2006, by which the Assembly adopted the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,⁷⁵

Recalling also Commission resolutions 57/1 of 25 April 2001 and 59/1 of 4 September 2003, in which the Commission called for members and associate members to undertake regional action to fight HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, and Commission resolution 66/10 of 19 May 2010, in which it noted with particular concern the continuing high prevalence of HIV among key affected populations,

⁷⁴ See paras. 184 to 209 above.

⁷⁵ General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

including sex workers, injecting drug users and men who have sex with men, as well as the extent of the legal and policy barriers that impede progress in developing and implementing effective ways of responding to HIV,

Welcoming the 2011 comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS⁷⁶ and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, to be undertaken by the high-level meeting which the General Assembly decided to convene in its resolution 65/180 of 20 December 2010, which will mark the ten-year review of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the five-year review of the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS with the goal of achieving universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010, and the important opportunity provided by the high-level meeting, which is scheduled to be held from 8 to 10 June 2011, for countries to review progress, obstacles, gaps, challenges, opportunities and lessons learned,

Noting Human Rights Council resolution 16/28 of 25 March 2011 on the protection of human rights in the context of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), in which the Council bore in mind the vision of zero new infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero discrimination in the global HIV/AIDS response, referred to in the 2011-2015 Strategy of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and reaffirmed the urgent need to scale up efforts significantly towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support,

Acknowledging the progress made by governments in Asia and the Pacific during the past decade in addressing the HIV epidemic, which has resulted in a 20 per cent decline in new infections and a stabilization of the AIDS-related mortality rate,

Welcoming the efforts made by some countries in the region to increase national ownership by substantially increasing support and funding for their responses to HIV through domestic budgetary provisions, as well as through the integration of care, support and treatment into national health insurance and social protection schemes,

Affirming the significant role that the region has played in manufacturing and ensuring the availability of high-quality, affordable generic drugs which have delivered life-saving treatment for millions of people living with HIV globally and play a critical role in achieving universal access,

Noting with concern the continuing barriers to access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support faced by key affected populations, particularly sex workers, injecting drug users, men who have sex with men and transgender populations,

Having reviewed national progress made in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,

Noting that the theme study for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission⁷⁷ identifies the most excluded social groups, including those living with HIV, as those in the greatest need of social protection,

⁷⁶ General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

⁷⁷ *The Promise of Protection: Social Protection and Development in Asia and the Pacific* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.II.F.5).

1. *Calls upon* members and associate members to further intensify the full range of actions to reach the unmet goals and targets of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS⁷⁶ and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS⁷⁵ by:

(a) Developing national strategic plans and establishing strategic and operational partnerships at the national and community levels between representatives of public health, law enforcement and civil society and key affected populations to scale up high-impact HIV prevention, treatment, care and support to achieve 80 per cent coverage for key affected populations with a view to achieving the universal access target;

(b) Enhancing financial sustainability, national ownership and capacity, as well as committing a greater proportion of national resources in line with national priorities, to improve the programmatic effectiveness of responses to HIV;

(c) Considering processes that encourage stakeholder consultation in promoting access to affordable medicines, diagnostics and vaccines, bearing in mind the relevant provisions in General Assembly resolution 60/262 (the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS);

(d) Initiating, as appropriate, in line with national priorities, a review of national laws, policies and practices to enable the full achievement of universal access targets with a view to eliminating all forms of discrimination against people at risk of infection or living with HIV, in particular key affected populations;

(e) Increasing the effectiveness of national responses by prioritizing high-impact interventions for key affected populations, reducing service delivery costs, improving accountability mechanisms and ensuring that monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks are focused on impact, outcomes, cost-effectiveness and efficiency and are also well integrated into relevant planning processes, relating to both HIV-specific planning and more comprehensive development planning;

(f) Continuing to develop their national strategies to address all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, particularly against women and girls;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To bring the present resolution to the attention of the high-level meeting on AIDS to be convened by the General Assembly from 8 to 10 June 2011 as a basis for the preparation of a draft declaration which could serve as an outcome document of that meeting;

(b) To coordinate with other relevant United Nations agencies to produce an overview of the progress made in achieving universal access;

(c) To report to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

Resolution 67/10

A core set of economic statistics to guide the improvement of basic economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific⁷⁸

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Stressing the importance of and need for timely, reliable and comparable official economic statistics for monitoring financial and economic trends, and evaluating related economic policies and their impact,

⁷⁸ See paras. 210 to 223 above.

Recalling that, in response to the recognition by member States of a need to improve economic statistics in developing economies of the Asia-Pacific region, the Commission's Committee on Statistics at its first session, held in Bangkok from 4 to 6 February 2009, decided, among other things, the following:

(a) To adopt a coordinating governance structure that would guide the development, implementation and monitoring of an action plan for the development of economic statistics in the Asian and Pacific region;

(b) To establish a technical advisory group to advise its Bureau...and to formulate a minimum core set of economic statistics that each country in the Asian and Pacific region would be in a position to produce,⁷⁹

Having considered and taken note of the report of the Committee on Statistics on its second session,⁸⁰

1. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee on Statistics to use the core set of economic statistics⁸¹ as a regional framework to focus regional efforts, coordinate training and mobilize donor support for capacity-building,⁸²

2. *Recommends* that members and associate members use, as appropriate, the core set of economic statistics as a framework and guide in the development of their national statistical systems.

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

**Resolution 67/11
Strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific⁸³**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁸⁴

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁸⁵ in which Heads of State and Government strongly reiterated their determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit,

Recalling further the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, as adopted by the Statistical Commission in 1994,⁸⁶

Recalling its resolution 62/10 on strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific,

⁷⁹ See E/ESCAP/65/13, chap. I, decision 1/2.

⁸⁰ E/ESCAP/67/12.

⁸¹ E/ESCAP/CST(2)/4.

⁸² See E/ESCAP/67/12, chap. I.

⁸³ See paras. 210 to 223 above.

⁸⁴ See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

⁸⁵ See General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

⁸⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 9* (E/1994/29), chap. V, para. 59.

Recalling also its resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission, in which it re-established the Committee on Statistics as the highest-level intergovernmental body on statistics in Asia and the Pacific to discuss and coordinate matters related to statistics development,

Recalling further its resolution 65/2 on regional technical cooperation and capacity-building in statistics development, in which it requested the Executive Secretary to continue to assist members and, as appropriate, associate members in strengthening their statistical capacity, in accordance with Commission resolution 62/10,

Having considered the report on the implementation of resolutions 62/10 and 65/2,⁸⁷

Having also considered the report of the Committee on Statistics on its second session,⁸⁸ including its recommendation on the strategic direction for statistics development in Asia and the Pacific towards 2020 and decisions on coordination and cooperation among national statistical systems and development partners,

Recognizing the difficulties that many developing countries face in meeting needs for official statistics in support of economic and social development, including the introduction of some of the major international statistical standards,

Encouraged by the capacity-building and other initiatives that are taking place at the national and international levels, in response to relevant international plans and programmes,

1. *Endorses* the strategic direction of the Committee on Statistics, as proposed by the Committee at its second session, with the two overarching goals of (a) ensuring that all countries in the region have the capability to provide an agreed basic range of population, economic, social and environmental statistics by 2020, and (b) creating a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through stronger collaboration;⁸⁹

2. *Calls on* members and, as appropriate, associate members to prioritize the strengthening of their national statistical systems and to align resources and institutional arrangements to support the achievement of the two goals described in paragraph 1 above for statistics development in Asia and the Pacific by 2020;

3. *Encourages* members and, as appropriate, associate members with advanced statistical systems, as well as relevant international organizations and institutions, to share expertise and information on their methodological, technological and managerial practices for the benefit of other countries in the region, taking into particular consideration the constraints faced by countries with special needs;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist members and, as appropriate, associate members, upon request, in developing their statistical systems and strengthening their capacity with a view to achieving the two goals for statistics development in Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 above, by 2020;

⁸⁷ See E/ESCAP/67/3, chap. IV.

⁸⁸ E/ESCAP/67/12.

⁸⁹ See E/ESCAP/67/12, chap. I, recommendation 2/1.

(b) To promote the importance of developing the capacity of not only national statistical offices but also, where appropriate, other parts of national statistical systems across the region;

(c) To provide members and, as appropriate, associate members with assistance in strengthening their capacity to monitor the progress made in achieving development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals;

(d) To facilitate the coordination of international capacity-building activities related to the development of official statistics in the region, including cooperation among the national statistical offices of developing countries;

(e) To raise awareness of the significance of enhancing the use of administrative data as a means of increasing the effectiveness of the production of official statistics;

(f) To report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its seventy-second session.

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

**Resolution 67/12
Improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific⁹⁰**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁹¹ and the Declaration on the Right to Development,⁹²

Noting the importance of civil registration and vital statistics systems for improving development outcomes, enabling the observation and assessment of a country's progress towards nationally and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Stressing the significant role of civil registration within a country's legal systems for recognizing the rights and privileges of individuals and enabling the progressive realization of those rights,

Recognizing that civil registration systems capable of generating reliable and timely vital statistics contribute significantly to improved evidence-based planning and increased efficiency in resource allocation,

Recognizing also the importance of civil registration and vital statistics in raising the visibility of and improving policy focus on the most vulnerable groups, including women and children in poverty, migrants and other marginalized groups, and providing a basis for designing social protection schemes that reduce risks and vulnerabilities,

Emphasizing the fundamental responsibility of members and associate members in establishing, operating and maintaining reliable civil registration and vital statistics systems,

⁹⁰ See paras. 210 to 223 above.

⁹¹ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

⁹² General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.

Recognizing the role of knowledge creation, strategic research and analysis in supporting health and social development, especially for capacity-building, the transfer of technology, the sharing of good practices and lessons learned, and South-South cooperation,

Underlining the need for sustained investment in civil registration and vital statistics systems,

Noting the need to build greater understanding and appreciation of the benefits of civil registration and vital statistics on the part of national authorities and development partners,

Recognizing the important role of civil society organizations and communities in advocacy and community mobilization for civil registration,

Acknowledging the wide differences in the level of development of the civil registration and vital statistics systems of countries in Asia and the Pacific,

Expressing deep concern that:

(a) Countries in the region continue to face major challenges in assessing progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular those related to health and the reduction of child and maternal mortality;

(b) While the region has experienced rapid economic growth, and improvements in development indicators have been achieved at the national level, inequalities between population groups and geographic areas have grown in many countries, and currently many national statistical systems are inadequately equipped to observe and assess such inequalities;

(c) There is a lack of sustained high-level political commitment and resources for improving civil registration and vital statistics in some countries, leading to underinvestment in and neglect of this fundamental governance responsibility to a certain extent;

(d) There is a lack of awareness among families and communities of the potential benefits of civil registration and the importance for development of reliable and timely vital statistics;

(e) In many countries in the region, there is inadequate coordination and collaboration among the stakeholders involved in civil registration and vital statistics, resulting in duplication of effort and inefficient use of resources;

(f) In many countries in the region, health-information and statistical systems are constrained by weak institutional capacity, resulting in incomplete coverage and poor quality of civil registration and vital statistics;

(g) The potential of information and communications technologies to improve the efficiency of the collection, compilation, sharing, dissemination and analysis of data on vital events, especially births, deaths and causes of death, has yet to be fully realized,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee on Statistics on its second session;⁹³

⁹³ E/ESCAP/67/12.

2. *Also takes note* of the outcome statement of the Regional Forum on the Improvement of Vital Statistics and Civil Registration in Asia and the Pacific,⁹⁴ held in Bangkok from 23 to 25 June 2010, which brought together officials of national statistical organizations, civil registration offices and ministries of health as well as international development partners, to develop a regional programme for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics;

3. *Encourages* all members and associate members to review and assess the current functioning of the civil registration systems and the quality of the vital statistics produced internally within each country;

4. *Recommends* that the results of country assessments be utilized by members and associate members and stakeholders to develop and implement comprehensive and costed national strategies and plans to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems;

5. *Calls upon* members and associate members to strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions to improve civil registration and vital statistics in their countries;

6. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, other global, regional and subregional development partners and agencies, non-governmental organizations and private sector entities to increase their support to countries for the development and strengthening of civil registration and vital statistics systems;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, where practicable and in accordance with the domestic law and policies of the respective countries:

(a) To convene a high-level regional meeting of decision makers from national statistical organizations, civil registration offices, ministries of health and other relevant stakeholders to raise awareness and foster increased commitment to improving civil registration and vital statistics;

(b) To facilitate the formation of a regional platform aimed at promoting the exchange of experiences and information on strategies and plans to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems, which would, through the secretariat, report on its accomplishments, compile lessons learned and foster South-South and peer-to-peer cooperation for improving civil registration and vital statistics;

(c) To take a lead role in the region, in partnership with regional knowledge hubs and technical agencies, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Statistics Division and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in developing and disseminating standards, evidence, tools and guidelines for civil registration and vital statistics;

(d) To facilitate, in close collaboration with technical partners and United Nations agencies, technical assistance, including training and advisory services, to build national capacity in civil registration and vital statistics;

(e) To mainstream attention to civil registration into the subprogrammes on social development and subregional activities for development of the ESCAP programme of work, as appropriate, and work with relevant stakeholders to support and enhance commitment for civil registration and vital statistics;

(f) To consider collaborating closely with relevant partner agencies, especially the World Health Organization,, the Health Metrics Network, the United

⁹⁴ See E/ESCAP/CST(2)/3/Add.1.

Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, to coordinate and harmonize support and mobilize global, regional and country resources for civil registration and vital statistics;

(g) To enhance the capabilities and capacity of the secretariat to respond to the requests of members for technical assistance and support in their efforts to improve their civil registration and vital statistics systems;

(h) To support members and associate members in the region, in partnership with countries and drawing on regional resources, in monitoring progress in improving civil registration and vital statistics systems upon countries' requests, if any;

(i) To report to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

Resolution 67/13
Revision of the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific⁹⁵

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 61/2 on the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific,

Taking note of the suggestion made by ESCAP members at the sixth session of the Governing Council of the Institute,⁹⁶

Recognizing the fact that both the members of the Governing Council and the non-members have participated in the discussion on the Institute's activities,

Recognizing also the desirability of increasing the frequency with which the election to the Governing Council takes place in order to enhance the scope for countries in the region to influence the make-up of the Council and the direction of the Institute's operations,

1. *Decides*, in this regard, to adopt a revised statute for the Institute, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution, to provide for the term of the members of the Governing Council to be changed to a period of three years from the current five years;

2. *Also decides* that the revised statute shall be applied to the term of the current members of the Governing Council, which is changed from five years to three years, accordingly, effective as of the date of its adoption by the Commission.

Annex
Statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Establishment

1. The Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as "the Institute"), established in May 1970 as the Asian Statistical Institute, and accorded the legal status of a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social

⁹⁵ See paras. 210 to 223 above.

⁹⁶ See E/ESCAP/67/13, annex III, paras. 54-58.

Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as “ESCAP” or “the Commission”) pursuant to Commission resolutions 50/5 of 13 April 1994 and 51/1 of 1 May 1995, shall continue in existence under the same title and under the terms of the present statute.

2. Participation in the training and other activities of the Institute is open to all members and associate members of the Commission.

3. The Institute has the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objectives

4. The objectives of the Institute are to strengthen, through practically oriented training of official statisticians, the capability of the developing members and associate members and economies in transition of the region to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics as well as to produce timely and high-quality statistics that can be utilized for economic and social development planning, and to assist those developing members and associate members and economies in transition in establishing or strengthening their statistical training capability and other related activities.

Functions

5. The Institute will achieve the above objectives by undertaking such functions as:

(a) Training of official statisticians, utilizing existing centres and institutions for training available in member States;

(b) Networking and partnership with other international organizations and key stakeholders;

(c) Dissemination of information.

Status and organization

6. The Institute shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”), a Director and staff. ESCAP shall keep separate accounts for the Institute.

7. The Institute is located in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, Japan.

8. The activities of the Institute shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Institute shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

9. The Institute shall have a Governing Council consisting of a representative designated by the Government of Japan and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members to be elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP or his/her representative shall attend meetings of the Council.

10. The Director of the Institute shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

11. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

12. The Council shall meet at least once a year and shall adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene special sessions at the request of a majority of the Council members.

13. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

14. The nine representatives constituting the Council under paragraph 9 of the present statute shall have one vote each. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, when this is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, who shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

16. The Council shall review the administration and financial status of the Institute and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

17. The Council shall review and endorse annual and long-term workplans consistent with the programme of work.

Director and staff

18. The Institute shall have a Director and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post. The Director and Professional staff shall be appointed for a total term, in principle, not exceeding five years. All appointments shall be for a fixed duration and shall be limited to service with the Institute.

19. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of the Institute, the preparation of annual and long-term workplans and the implementation of the programme of work.

Resources of the Institute

20. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Institute. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund for the Institute, as referred to in paragraph 6, in which these contributions shall be deposited and utilized solely for the activities of the Institute, subject to paragraph 22 of the present statute.

21. United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other entities should also be encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the operations of the

Institute. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Institute.

22. The financial resources of the Institute shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

23. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by means of a resolution of the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present statute

24. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 12 of this statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

25. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

Resolution 67/14

Cooperation between the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and other United Nations and regional and subregional organizations serving Asia and the Pacific⁹⁷

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

Recalling further Commission resolutions 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission and 66/15 on the strengthening of the evaluation function of the secretariat of the Commission,

Recognizing the valuable work of the United Nations, specifically that of the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and its partners in the Asian and Pacific region,

Reaffirming its role as the main economic and social development forum in Asia and the Pacific within the United Nations system to: (a) promote economic and social development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration; (b) further contribute to the formulation and promotion of development assistance activities and projects commensurate with the needs and priorities of the region; (c) provide inputs for global policymaking processes; and (d) participate in the

⁹⁷ See paras. 246 to 255 above.

implementation of relevant policy and programme decisions taken by United Nations organizations,

Mindful of the current economic environment affecting most of Asia and the Pacific, and recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁹⁸ in which it is stated that United Nations bodies should develop good cooperation and coordination in the common endeavour of building a more effective United Nations,

Noting the importance of an inclusive, transparent and effective multilateral system, as enshrined in General Assembly resolution 65/94 on the United Nations in global governance,

Cognizant that it is critical that the existing limited resources of the Commission be targeted based on greatest need and aligned with recipient goals and priorities, including the realization of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, by ensuring that the United Nations system delivers as effectively as possible,

Taking note of the efforts made towards United Nations system-wide coherence as reflected in General Assembly resolution 62/277, including initiatives aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations development system,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 64/289, in particular paragraph 22 in which the Assembly acknowledged efforts by developed countries to increase resources for development, including commitments by some developed countries to increase official development assistance, and called for the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2015 and to reach at least 0.5 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2010, as well as the target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent for least developed countries,

1. *Encourages* member States that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in accordance with their commitments as contained in paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 64/289;

2. *Invites* member States to provide extrabudgetary funding should any additional resources be required to implement this resolution;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Assess the manner in which the secretariat carries out its mandate and coordinates its work with regional and subregional organizations operating in Asia and the Pacific, and describe the functioning, decision-making and results of the regional coordination mechanism, including how the secretariat leverages synergies and other efficiencies that could serve as a model for coordination;

(b) Consult with member States, including with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, and present the results to the Commission as part of the biennial reporting on the secretariat's evaluation activities, beginning with the sixty-eighth session of the Commission and continuing in future biennial reports.

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

⁹⁸ See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

Resolution 67/15
Midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission⁹⁹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission,

Reiterating the Commission's unique role as the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region and its comprehensive mandate as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region,

Noting the importance of further cooperation between the Commission and international, regional and subregional organizations operating in Asia and the Pacific to achieve synergies, build effective partnerships and contribute to greater United Nations system-wide coherence,

Commending the Executive Secretary for facilitating the identification by member States of key issues for further consideration, and possible action, by the Commission,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the secretariat on the midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission;¹⁰⁰
2. *Commends* the Executive Secretary for facilitating the revised conference structure to serve the purpose of improving efficiency and attracting higher and wider representation from members and associate members and encourages the Executive Secretary to continue to do so;
3. *Reaffirms* that substantive activities of the Commission, including such activities as meetings and studies, should be in line with relevant mandates of the Commission;
4. *Commends* the initiative of the Executive Secretary to seek participation by Heads of State and Government at Commission sessions and associated events, as was done at the sixty-sixth session, and encourages the Executive Secretary to continue to do so;
5. *Reaffirms* that an annual session of the Commission is desirable as it ensures continuity in a fast-changing global economic scenario and serves the useful purpose of providing ministers with opportunities to engage with their counterparts bilaterally, in addition to moving forward the Commission's agenda;
6. *Emphasizes* that discussions during the Commission session should focus on the theme topic, other key issues of contemporary relevance for the economic and social development of the region and policy challenges identified by the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific*, as well as the review and endorsement of the proposed strategic framework and programme of work;
7. *Reaffirms* that country statements serve a useful purpose by bringing a country perspective, thereby enabling member States to highlight the steps that they are taking to address the issues on the agenda of the Commission session, and calls on the respective chairs to explore, with the assistance of the secretariat, better time

⁹⁹ See paras. 246 to 255 above.

¹⁰⁰ E/ESCAP/67/15.

management in order to make the most effective use of the limited time available for each session;

8. *Decides* to move towards paperless Commission sessions with the possibility of electronic early delivery of all pre-session documents and communications, with fewer but higher quality documents, and, in this regard, requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission at its 339th session a report that would serve as the basis for a decision at the sixty-eighth session of the Commission which would take effect as of its sixty-ninth session and affect the preparations therefor;

9. *Stresses* the importance of timely submission of draft resolutions to the Commission and once again strongly encourages members of the Commission intending to submit draft resolutions to the Commission to submit them to the Executive Secretary at least one month prior to the commencement of the Commission session in order to allow sufficient time for review by members and associate members of the Commission;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to explore practical and cost-effective ways of convening the Asia-Pacific Business Forum in conjunction with the Commission session to facilitate bringing a business perspective to the discussion, at the same time ensuring that the focus on deliberations at Commission sessions, including on the theme topic, is not taken away by side events;

11. *Decides* that the subsidiary structure of the Commission, which consists of the eight committees meeting biennially with four committees meeting each year, should be maintained until the final review of its conference structure, including its subsidiary structure, at its sixty-ninth session;

12. *Also decides* to reshape the list of issues addressed by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, namely moving the component “Information and communications technology applications for disaster risk reduction” to the agenda of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that Committee sessions are scheduled evenly throughout the year in order to provide sufficient time for their preparation and avoid overlap with other important intergovernmental meetings, as part of the proposed calendar of ESCAP meetings;

14. *Commends* the significant role played by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission in dealing with all matters related to programme planning, administrative and budgetary issues, including extrabudgetary funding, and encourages the Executive Secretary to continue close consultation with the Advisory Committee;

15. *Decides* to explore ways to strengthen the role of the Advisory Committee and entrusts this task to the Advisory Committee;

16. *Also decides* to entrust the Advisory Committee to review its terms of reference and submit the results of that review to the sixty-eighth session of the Commission;

17. *Further decides* to set clear rules of procedure for the Advisory Committee and for the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions and, in this respect, requests the Executive Secretary to submit a proposal on each of the subjects to the Advisory Committee at its 337th and 338th sessions, respectively,

which would serve as the basis for a decision that will have an effect on its subsequent sessions;

18. *Reaffirms* the utility of making available outcomes of expert group meetings to member States pending the final review of the conference structure;

19. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to carry out further study and analysis, as well as the formulation of a new comprehensive questionnaire to facilitate the final review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission, and to submit the findings, including the questionnaire results, and recommendations to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session, especially on the following issues:

(a) The duration of the Commission session in order to gain efficiencies in time and cost;

(b) The governance structure of the regional institutions vis-à-vis the respective roles and relevant mandates of the Commission, the committees and the governing councils;

(c) With a view to further integrating the regional institutions into the work of the relevant subprogrammes, the relevance of regional institutions to each subprogramme and committee, and the review of budget allocations to improve support for regional institutions through such mechanisms as staff exchanges and joint projects to support their work;

(d) The feasibility of promoting and developing the role of the Advisory Committee in order for it to assist the Commission in carrying out and coordinating its tasks during the intersessional period;

20. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, as part of the final review of the functioning of the conference structure, to carry out further study on proposals for improving the utilization of, and participation in, expert group and other meetings, and possible dissemination of outcomes, in order to engage more fully and constructively with member States and to provide a clearer contribution to the intergovernmental process and further strengthen programme delivery.

*Fifth plenary meeting
25 May 2011*

Annex I

Statement of programme budget implications of actions and proposals of the Commission

1. The requests contained in the resolutions listed below will have no additional programme budget implications for the approved programme budget for 2010-2011:^a

(a) Resolution 67/1: Ulaanbaatar Declaration: Outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries;

(b) Resolution 67/2: Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific;

(c) Resolution 67/3: Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Resolution 67/4: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management;

(e) Resolution 67/5: Full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region;

(f) Resolution 67/6: Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP;

(g) Resolution 67/7: Role of cooperatives in social development in Asia and the Pacific;

(h) Resolution 67/8: Strengthening social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific;

(i) Resolution 67/9: Asia-Pacific regional review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;

(j) Resolution 67/10: A core set of economic statistics to guide the improvement of basic economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific;

(k) Resolution 67/11: Strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific;

(l) Resolution 67/12: Improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific;

(m) Resolution 67/13: Revision of the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

(n) Resolution 67/14: Cooperation between the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and other United Nations and regional and subregional organizations serving Asia and the Pacific;

^a See General Assembly resolution 65/260 of 24 December 2010.

(o) Resolution 67/15: Midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission.

2. Extrabudgetary resources, where appropriate, will be sought for the implementation of the activities required under the above-mentioned resolutions.

3. With respect to paragraph 7 (e) of resolution 67/2, one additional output and the related resources (approximately \$50,000) would need to be added to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 to reflect the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum.

4. With respect to paragraph 7 (a) of resolution 67/2, resources required beyond 2012-2013 will be addressed in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

Annex II**Meetings of subsidiary bodies and other intergovernmental bodies held since the sixty-sixth session of the Commission**

Subsidiary body and officers		Session	Document symbol
<i>Committees</i>			
I.	Committee on Social Development	Second session Bangkok 19-21 October 2010	E/ESCAP/67/11
	Chair Mr. Prince Abbas Khan (Pakistan)		
	Vice-Chair Ms. Fatemeh Rakhshani (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
	Rapporteur Mr. Wai Keung Sui (Hong Kong, China)		
II.	Committee on Transport	Second session Bangkok 1-3 November 2010	E/ESCAP/67/7
	Chair Mr. Erdem Direkler (Turkey)		
	Vice-Chairs Mr. Temir Niiazbekov (Kyrgyzstan)		
	Mr. T.L. Gunaruwan (Sri Lanka)		
	Mr. Nguyen Van Thach (Viet Nam)		
	Rapporteur Mr. Onon Rentsendorj (Mongolia)		
III.	Committee on Information and Communications Technology	Second session Bangkok 24-26 November 2010	E/ESCAP/67/9
	Chair Mr. Lalith Chandrakumar Weeratunga (Sri Lanka)		
	Vice-Chairs Mr. Meas Po (Cambodia)		
	Mr. S. R. Rao (India)		
	Mr. Henaio Iduhu (Papua New Guinea)		
	Rapporteur Mr. Manohar Bhattarai (Nepal)		
IV.	Committee on Statistics	Second session Bangkok 15-17 December 2010	E/ESCAP/67/12
	Chair Mr. Brian Pink (Australia)		
	Vice-Chairs Mr. Jiantang Ma (China)		
	Mr. T.C.A Anant (India)		
	Mr. Gerelt-Od Ganbaatar (Mongolia)		
	Member Mr. Sefuiva Reupena Muagututia (Samoa)		
	Rapporteur Mr. Romulo A. Virola (Philippines)		
<i>Governing councils</i>			
I.	Governing Council of Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT)	Fifth session Bali, Indonesia 1-2 December 2010	E/ESCAP/67/10
	Chair Mr. Udi Rusadi (Indonesia)		
	Vice-Chair Mr. Shankar Aggarwal (India)		
	Rapporteur Mr. Amgalanbat Batsuren (Mongolia)		
II.	Governing Council of Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT)	Sixth session Bangkok 13 December 2010	E/ESCAP/67/5
	Chair Mr. J. B. Disanayaka (Sri Lanka)		
	Vice-Chair Mr. Chen Linhao (China)		
III.	Governing Council of United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM)	Sixth session Bangkok 10 February 2011	E/ESCAP/67/6
	Chair Mr. Madan Mohan Pandey (India)		
	Vice-Chair /Rapporteur Mr. Mohd. Zainal bin Ismail (Malaysia)		

IV. Governing Council of Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA)	Seventh session Bangkok 18 March 2011	E/ESCAP/67/4
Chair	Mr. Hasil Sembiring (Indonesia)	
Vice-Chair	Ms. Rangsit Poosiripinyo (Thailand)	
Rapporteur	Mr. Abdullah Al-Masud Chowdhury (Bangladesh)	
V. Governing Council of Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)	Sixth session Bangkok 13-14 December 2010	E/ESCAP/67/13
Chair	Mr. Ismail bin Yusoff (Malaysia)	
Vice-Chair	Mr. Shunsuke Kimura (Japan)	

Other intergovernmental bodies

Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific	Sixth session Astana 27 September- 2 October 2010	E/ESCAP/67/8
Chair	Ms. Eldana Sadvakassova (Kazakhstan)	
Vice-Chairs	Mr. Novruz Guliyev (Azerbaijan)	
	Mr. Mohammed Hasan Mahmud (Bangladesh)	
	Mr. Pema Gyamtsho (Bhutan)	
	Mr. Pehin Dato Suyoi Haji Osman (Brunei Darussalam)	
	Mr. Khong Sam Nuon (Cambodia)	
	Mr. Ilyas Asaad (Indonesia)	
	Mr. Muhammad Javad Mohammadi Zadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran)	
	Mr. Reza Maknoon (Islamic Republic of Iran)	
	Mr. Ghorban Seifi (Islamic Republic of Iran)	
	Mr. Hikaru Kobayashi (Japan)	
	Mr. Natan Teewe (Kiribati)	
	Ms. Khempheng Pholsena (Lao People's Democratic Republic)	
	Mr. Aslam Mohamed Shakir (Maldives)	
	Mr. Akram Kamaludeen (Maldives)	
	Mr. Mattlan Zackhras (Marshall Islands)	
	Mr. Luvsandash Zorig (Mongolia)	
	Mr. Luvsandoo Dashpurev (Mongolia)	
	Mr. Min Thein (Myanmar)	
	Mr. Riddel Akua (Nauru)	
	Mr. Dominic Tabuna (Nauru)	
	Mr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota (Nepal)	
	Mr. Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi (Pakistan)	
	Ms. Margarita Songco (Philippines)	
	Mr. Lee Maanee (Republic of Korea)	
	Mr. Mikhail N. Bocharnikov (Russian Federation)	
	Mr. Nickel Lee Hang (Samoa)	
	Mr. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa Appuhamillage (Sri Lanka)	
	Mr. Chalernpol Thanchitt (Thailand)	
	Mr. Rui Manuel Hanjam (Timor-Leste)	
	Mr. Abilio de Deus de Jesus Lima (Timor-Leste)	
	Mr. Francisco da Costa Soares (Timor-Leste)	
	Mr. Makhtumkuli Akmuradov (Turkmenistan)	
	Mr. Aunese Makoi Simati (Tuvalu)	
	Mr. Paul Telukluk (Vanuatu)	
	Mr. Bui Cach Tuyen (Viet Nam)	
Rapporteur	Mr. Mohammed Shaheduzzaman (Bangladesh)	

Annex III

Publications and documents issued by the Commission

A. Publications issued since the sixty-sixth session*

Executive direction and management

Economic Policies for Growth and Poverty Reduction: Lessons from the Region and Beyond. Outcome report. Government of Myanmar and ESCAP, 2010. ST/ESCAP/2578. (E.10.II.F.16)

ESCAP M&E SYSTEM: Monitoring & Evaluation System Overview and Evaluation Guidelines, May 2010. (E.10.II.F.11)

*ESCAP Meeting Documents 2010***

*What's Ahead @ ESCAP***

Subprogramme 1

Macroeconomic policy and inclusive development

Asia-Pacific Development Journal

Vol. 17, № 1, June 2010. ST/ESCAP/2580. (E.10.II.F.14)

Vol. 17, № 2, December 2010. ST/ESCAP/2592. (E.10.II.F.21)

CAPSA Fact Sheet**

Rising food prices, February 2011

*CAPSA Flash***

Vol. 8, № 2, August 2010. Future IT Use for Small-scale Farmers in the Asia-Pacific Region

Vol. 8, № 3, December 2010. Diversification of Food Consumption: Its Current Conditions, Problems and Prospects in Indonesia

CAPSA Occasional Paper**

№ 1, June 2010. Community based responses to food insecurity

№ 2, June 2010. Food insecurities faced by women and girl children

№ 3, July 2010. Social access and social protection for food security in Asia Pacific

CAPSA Working Paper

№ 105, 2011. Forecasting food security under El Niño in Asia and the Pacific

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2010: Year-end Update, Maintaining Growth Amid Global Uncertainty, December 2010. ST/ESCAP/2588

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2011: Sustaining Dynamism and Inclusive Development: Connectivity in the Region and Productive Capacity in Least Developed Countries, May 2011. ST/ESCAP/2586. (E.11.II.F.2)

* Where applicable, the ESCAP document symbol and (in parentheses) United Nations publication sales number are noted. A double asterisk (**) denotes publications that are available online only.

Financing an Inclusive and Green Future: A Supportive Financial System and Green Growth for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, May 2010. . ST/ESCAP/2575. (E.10.II.F.4)

MPDD Policy Briefs**

№ 4, August 2010. The European debt crisis: Implications for Asia and the Pacific

№ 5, September 2010. Costing MDG gaps in the Asia-Pacific

№ 6, November 2010. Asia-Pacific perspectives on the G20 agenda

№ 7, March 2011. Rising food prices and inflation in the Asia-Pacific region: causes, impact and policy response

MPDD Working Papers**

WP/10/07, October 2010. Towards inclusive financial development for achieving the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific

WP/10/08, August 2010. G-20 agenda and reform of the international financial architecture: an Asia-Pacific perspective

WP/10/09, October 2010. The real exchange rate, sectoral allocation and development in China and East Asia: a simple exposition

WP/10/10, October 2010. Approaches to combat hunger in Asia and the Pacific

WP/10/11, November 2010. Capital flows and development: lessons from South Asian experiences

WP/10/12, November 2010. Global partnership for strong, sustainable and balanced growth: an agenda for the G20 Summits

WP/11/14, January 2011. Inflationary pressures in South Asia

WP/11/15, April 2011. Social and economic impact of disasters: Estimating the threshold between low and high levels of risk

Palawija News (CAPSA):

Vol. 27, № 2, August 2010

Vol. 27, № 3, December 2010

Paths to 2015: MDG Priorities in Asia and the Pacific. Asia-Pacific MDG Report 2010/11. ESCAP/ADB/ UNDP, October 2010 (E.10.II.F.20)

Subprogramme 2
Trade and investment

APTIAD Briefing Note: **

November 2010 - Regional Trade Agreements in Asia and the Pacific — What is in the number?

ARTNeT Alerts on Emerging Policy Challenges: **

№ 6, August 2010. Trade and climate change - development of the emission intensity indices

№ 7, November 2010. Can trade policies promote gender equality? Exploring the trade - growth - gender nexus

ARTNeT Newsletter: **

Vol. 6, № 2, February-June 2010

Vol. 6, № 3, July-October 2010

ARTNeT Policy Brief Series: **

№ 26, July 2010. Making climate change and trade mutually supportive

- № 27, September 2010. Climate change mitigation policies in the Asia-Pacific: a concern for trade policymakers?
- № 28, November 2010. Facilitating services trade in the Asia-Pacific
- № 29, November 2010. Carbon standards and carbon labelling: an emerging trade concern
- № 30, December 2010. Is China's export sophistication really special?

ARTNeT Working Paper Series: **

- № 80, May 2010. Behind-the-border determinants of bilateral trade flows in East Asia
- № 81, July 2010. Review of analytical tools for assessing trade and climate change linkages
- № 82, August 2010. Trade, infrastructure and income inequality in selected Asian countries: an empirical analysis
- № 83, September 2010. A Snapshot of contemporary protectionism: how important are the murkier forms of trade discrimination?
- № 84, September 2010. Integrating landlocked developing countries into international trading system through trade facilitation
- № 85, August 2010. Differential impacts of trade facilitation on homogeneous and differentiated products in East Asia
- № 86, November 2010. A comparative study of selected Asian countries on carbon emissions with respect to different trade and climate changes mitigation policy scenarios
- № 87, December 2010. Usable data for economic policymaking and research? the case of Lao PDR's trade statistics
- № 88, December 2010 (revision: Jan 11). An analysis of import-export procedures and processes in China
- № 89, December 2010. Improving regional trade procedures and processes: a business process analysis of export of vegetable ghee from Nepal to India and China and import of textile from India to Nepal
- № 90, December 2010. Trade and environmental sustainability in Cambodia: a case study of rice, cassava, and fish
- № 91, January 2011. Improving import-export procedures and processes In Sri Lanka
- № 92, January 2011. The Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and the agriculture sector in Sri Lanka
- № 93, January 2011. Facilitating trade through simplification of trade processes and procedures in Bangladesh
- № 94, January 2011. (Updated: February 2011). Trade facilitation in Asia and the Pacific: which policies and measures affect trade costs the most?
- № 95, February 2011. Trade facilitation in India: an analysis of trade processes and procedures

Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2010: Recent Trends and Developments, December 2010. ST/ESCAP/2590

Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor (APCTT):

- Vol. 27, № 3, May-Jun 2010. Decentralized Energy Systems and Services: Technologies, Policy and Regulatory Challenges
- Vol. 27, № 4, Jul-Aug 2010. SME Entrepreneurship: Creating Sustainable and High Performance SMEs
- Vol. 27, № 5, Sep-Oct 2010. Knowledge Management for Innovation: Best Practices

Vol. 27, № 6, Nov-Dec 2010. Patent Commercialization
Vol. 28, № 1, Jan-Feb 2011. Technologies for Social Protection

E-TISNET Monthly News and Information Sources (monthly), 2010 **

E-TISNET Quarterly News, January - March 2011 **

Feasibility Study: Rural Household Biogas & Conservation Tillage CDM Project Development. APCAEM, 2010

Improving Border Management to Facilitate Trade in SPECA: Challenges and Prospects, 2010. ST/ESCAP/2574

Rice harvesting & post-harvest technologies in Myanmar - A training manual. APCAEM, 2010

Rising Non-tariff Protectionism and Crisis Recovery. December 2010. ST/ESCAP/2587.

Studies in Trade and Investment:

№ 69, 2010. *The Development Impact of Information Technology in Trade Facilitation*. ST/ESCAP/2584. (E.10.II.F.19)

Trade and Investment Division staff working papers:

№ 03/09, 30 December 2009 (revised 1 June 2010). Achieving the trade targets of Millennium Development Goal 8: Status in the least developed countries of Asia and the Pacific

№ 01/10, 28 July 2010 (updated 20 January 2011). Intra-regional trade costs in Asia: A primer

№ 02/10, 1 December 2010. Examining the potential for cross-South Pacific trade: ASEAN and Latin America

№ 01/11, 22 February 2011. Trade facilitation in Asia and the Pacific: Which policies and measures affect trade costs the most?

№ 02/11, 25 March 2011. Trade facilitation in regional trade agreements: Recent trends in Asia and the Pacific

UNNExT Brief: Towards a single window trading environment:

№ 3, May 2010. Case of Korea's national paperless trade platform - uTradeHub

№ 4, July 2010. Case of Malaysia's national single window

№ 5, January 2011. Senegal's transition from a paper-based system to a paperless trading system

VATIS Update: Biotechnology. APCTT:

Vol. 1, № 103, May-Jun 2010

Vol. 1, № 104, Jul-Aug 2010

Vol. 1, № 105, Sep-Oct 2010

Vol. 1, № 106, Nov-Dec 2010

Vol. 1, № 107, Jan - Feb 2011

VATIS Update: Food Processing (APCTT):

Vol. 3, № 101, May-Jun 2010

Vol. 3, № 102, Jul-Aug 2010

Vol. 3, № 103, Sep-Oct 2010

Vol. 3, № 104, Nov-Dec 2010

Vol. 3, № 105, Jan-Feb 2011

Vol. 3, № 106, Mar - Apr 2011

VATIS Update: Non-conventional Energy (APCTT):

Vol. 2, № 102, May - Jun 2010

Vol. 2, № 103, Jul - Aug 2010

Vol. 2, № 104, Sep - Oct 2010

Vol. 2, № 105, Nov - Dec 2010

Vol. 3, № 106, Jan - Feb 2011

VATIS Update: Ozone Layer Protection (APCTT):

Vol. 4, № 100, May-Jun 2010

Vol. 4, № 101, Jul-Aug 2010

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Vol. 5, № 98, May-Jun 2010

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Subprogramme 3

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- № 4, May 2010. ICT trends for government leaders
- № 5, May 2010. Internet governance
- № 6, May 2010. Network and information security and privacy
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- Vol. 25, № 1, June, 2010. ST/ESCAP/2579. (E.10.II.F.99)
- Vol. 25, № 2, December, 2010. ST/ESCAP/2593

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Technical notes to *Paths to 2015 MDG Priorities in Asia and the Pacific: Asia-Pacific MDG Report 2010/11*, 24 September 2010**

- MDG progress classification
- Estimating the impact of the global economic crisis on the progress in achieving the MDGs

Subprogramme 8 Subregional activities for development

ESCAP in the Pacific Newsletter (ESCAP Pacific Office):

- Nº 5, July 2010
- Nº 7, February 2011
- Nº 6, October 2010

B. Documents submitted to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session

Document symbol	Document title	Agenda item
<i>Limited documents</i>		
E/ESCAP/67/L.1	Provisional agenda	1 (c)
E/ESCAP/67/L.2/Rev.1	Revised annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
E/ESCAP/67/L.3 and Add.1-22 and corrigendum	Draft report	-
E/ESCAP/67/L.4	Draft resolution: Ulaanbaatar Declaration: Outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries	2 (a)
E/ESCAP/67/L.5	Draft resolution: Promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific	3 (d)
E/ESCAP/67/L.6	Draft resolution: Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific	3 (d)
E/ESCAP/67/L.7	Draft resolution: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management	3 (f)
E/ESCAP/67/L.8	Draft resolution: Full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region	3 (g)
E/ESCAP/67/L.9	Draft resolution: Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities at ESCAP	3 (g)
E/ESCAP/67/L.10	Draft resolution: Role of cooperatives in social development in Asia and the Pacific	3 (g)
E/ESCAP/67/L.11	Draft resolution: Strengthening social protection systems in Asia and the Pacific	3 (g)
E/ESCAP/67/L.12	Draft resolution: Asia-Pacific regional review of the progress achieved in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS	3 (g)
E/ESCAP/67/L.13	Draft resolution: A core set of economic statistics to guide the improvement of basic economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific	3 (h)

Document symbol	Document title	Agenda item
E/ESCAP/67/L.14	Draft resolution: Strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific	3 (h)
E/ESCAP/67/L.15	Draft resolution: Improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific	3 (h)
E/ESCAP/67/L.16	Draft resolution: Revision of the statute of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	3 (h)
E/ESCAP/67/L.17	Draft resolution: Cooperation between the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and other United Nations and regional and subregional organizations serving Asia and the Pacific	4
E/ESCAP/67/L.18	Draft resolution: Midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission	4 (c)
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E/ESCAP/67/4	Report of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture	3 (a)
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E/ESCAP/67/6	Report of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery	3 (b)
E/ESCAP/67/7	Report of the Committee on Transport on its second session	3 (c)
E/ESCAP/67/8	Report of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development on its sixth session	3 (d)
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E/ESCAP/67/13 and Corr.1	Report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	3 (h)
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E/ESCAP/67/19	Summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2011	7 (b)
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Document symbol	Document title	Agenda item
E/ESCAP/67/21	Note verbale dated 18 April 2011 from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Thailand addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	3 (f)
E/ESCAP/67/22	Note verbale dated 25 April 2011 from the Embassy of Mongolia in Thailand addressed to the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	2 (a)
<i>Information documents</i>		
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E/ESCAP/67/INF/2	List of participants	-
E/ESCAP/67/INF/3/Rev.1	Report on the activities of the Commission 2010-2011	3
E/ESCAP/67/INF/4	Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	3 (d)
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