

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT
2 MAY 2013 - 23 MAY 2014

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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SUPPLEMENT No. 19



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List of abbreviations

APCICT	Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
CAPSA	Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture
CSAM	Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Machinery
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
NEASPEC	North-East Asia Subregional Programme for Environment Cooperation
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

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

Part I

Introduction

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held its seventieth session in two phases owing to special circumstances in Bangkok. Phase I was held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok on 23 May 2014, and Phase II was held at UNCC from 4 to 8 August 2014. The present report is divided into two parts, the first covering Phase I of the Commission session (23 May 2014) and the second covering Phase II (4-8 August 2014); the account of proceedings of the session is contained in a separate document (E/ESCAP/70/35).

Chapter I

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

2. At its seventieth session (Phase I), the Commission adopted two resolutions and seven decisions, which are reproduced below. The two resolutions are brought to the attention of the Council.

A. Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its seventieth session (Phase I)

Resolution 70/1

Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 68/10, in which it decided to convene the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Integration in 2013,

Welcoming the successful outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 17 to 20 December 2013,¹

1. *Endorses* the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the recommendations of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) To assist members and associate members in setting up and supporting the work of the four area-specific expert working groups in accordance with section II, paragraphs 3 and 6(b), of the Bangkok Declaration;

(c) To convene in 2015 the intergovernmental open-ended preparatory meetings for the second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific mentioned in section II, paragraph 3, of the Bangkok Declaration;

(d) To convene the second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific in 2015 to review the progress on the agenda of regional economic integration outlined in section III of the present Declaration, consider the recommendations of the intergovernmental open-ended preparatory meetings and decide on follow-up actions, as expressed in section II, paragraph 6(d), of the Bangkok Declaration;

¹ See E/ESCAP/70/7.

(e) To report to the Commission at its seventy-first and seventy-second sessions on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Second plenary meeting
23 May 2014*

Annex

Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific

I. Preamble

We, the Ministers and representatives of members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific attending the Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 17 to 20 December 2013,

Emphasizing the need to sustain the region's inclusive and sustainable development to continue to reduce the number of poor people living in absolute poverty from the current levels and to close the development gaps across countries,

Reaffirming the unique role of the Commission 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,

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

Also recalling important contributions of the Commission to regional economic cooperation and integration, as highlighted in its resolution 68/10 on enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific, and noting other important regional economic cooperation and integration initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region,

Further recalling that the Commission in its resolution 68/10 requested the Executive Secretary to support the convening of the First Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Integration in 2013, marking the fiftieth anniversary of the First Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Cooperation, and to review the theme study for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission, entitled *Growing Together: Economic Integration for an Inclusive and Sustainable Asia-Pacific Century*,^{a, b}

Recalling Commission resolution 69/10 on promoting regional information and communications technology connectivity and building knowledge-networked societies in Asia and the Pacific,

Also recalling General Assembly resolutions 64/186 and 67/194 on building connectivity through the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway and 67/298 on developing cooperation for better connectivity and telecommunications transit routes in the Trans-Eurasian region,

Recognizing the important role of safe, efficient, clean, reliable and affordable transport systems in supporting sustainable economic growth, improving social welfare of people and enhancing regional integration in Asia and the Pacific,

^a ST/ESCAP/2629.

^b See also E/ESCAP/68/22.

Also recognizing that, given the vast land mass, oceans and diversity of the Asian and Pacific region, land-based and sea-based fibre-optic cable networks and satellites play a critical role in developing a seamless regional information space,

Further recognizing that, in the context of economic uncertainties after the global financial and economic crisis and with the rising economic prominence of the Asia-Pacific region in the world economy, the promotion of intraregional trade within Asia and the Pacific can provide enormous opportunities to support economic growth and employment creation in the region,

Reaffirming the imperatives of sustainable development, reducing poverty and inequalities, increasing the resilience of our economies to natural and economic disasters and the effects of climate change, sustainable management of natural resources, enhancing food and energy security, closing the digital divide and reducing development gaps across countries to enhance social cohesion,

Emphasizing that fostering trade, investment, and economic and development cooperation among countries in Asia and the Pacific can create opportunities not only for supporting economic growth, but also for achieving wider developmental objectives,

Noting that improving connectivity with regard to land, river, sea and air transport as well as energy and information and communications technology infrastructure, as well as trade facilitation, is critical to boost trade, investment and the movement of people among countries,

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

Recalling Commission resolution 69/6 on the implementation of the Tehran Declaration to promote public-private partnerships in infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development,

Emphasizing the need to develop existing, evolving and innovative national, regional and global partnerships to help members and associate members address the challenges and seize the opportunities associated with growing populations, the demographic dividend, internal and international migration, and urbanization,

Noting the urgent need to increase the availability of and access to financing for regional infrastructure projects, especially those that link least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States with each other and with other economies in Asia and the Pacific, including through facilitating transit transportation to seaports,

Also noting with satisfaction the adoption of the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific,^c which is aimed at improving the economic feasibility of the provision of regular and predictable inter-island shipping services in the Pacific subregion,

Emphasizing that cooperation among countries in the region is critical to increase resilience to address vulnerabilities and risks of natural disasters, food and energy insecurity, scarcity of surface- and groundwater resources, and unsustainable use of natural resources, including those in the oceans, and the effects of climate change in order to pursue a sustainable development path,

^c See E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/6.

Also emphasizing the need to address the growing gap in broadband connectivity between developed and developing countries, so that affordable access to high-speed networks is available to all,^d

Noting that the Zero Hunger Challenge, which was launched globally by the Secretary-General in Brazil in June 2012 and regionally by the Deputy Secretary-General on the occasion of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission, could provide a useful framework for regional cooperation in the area of food security,

Recognizing the accumulation of financial resources within Asia and the Pacific, the need for facilitating their broader flow and the positive role of financial cooperation in enhancing economic resilience and closing infrastructure gaps in the region, and building on the work under way for widening the scope of existing arrangements and deliberating on new relevant coordinated mechanisms, such as a regional financial institution that promotes infrastructure investment and complements existing financial institutions,

Acknowledging the valuable role of regional groupings and organizations, such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Customs Union and Common Economic Space of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia, the East Asia Summit, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Melanesian Spearhead Group, the Micronesian Trade Committee, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, in the area of regional and subregional economic cooperation and integration,

Taking note of the visions for a broader Asian and Pacific community,

Having reviewed the theme study prepared for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission, *Growing Together: Economic Integration for an Inclusive and Sustainable Asia-Pacific Century*,

II. Policy directions

1. *Resolve* to work together to pursue enhanced regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific in the following four areas:

- (a) Moving towards the formation of an integrated market;
- (b) The development of seamless connectivity across the region in the areas of transport, energy and information and communications technology, among others, including through the full realization of key regional initiatives;
- (c) Enhancing financial cooperation for, among other things, closing infrastructure gaps across countries in the region and exploring the possibility of providing liquidity support;
- (d) Increasing economic and technical cooperation to address shared vulnerabilities and risks;

2. *Agree* to pursue the agenda for such cooperation as outlined in section III of the present Declaration as an important step towards realizing a broad long-term vision of an economic community of Asia and the Pacific;

^d The gap in broadband connectivity is widening in terms of indicators, such as total international Internet bandwidth, international Internet bandwidth per user, and in terms of broadband access between the developing and developed countries of Asia and the Pacific. *Source*: ESCAP, based on the International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database 2013.

3. *Decide* to create four area-specific expert working groups to take stock of current regional efforts pertaining to economic cooperation and integration, to identify gaps in those efforts, to recommend concrete actions to make progress in each of the four areas listed in operative paragraph 1 above, and to submit their recommendations to intergovernmental open-ended preparatory meetings to be convened for the second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific to take place in 2015;
4. *Agree* to assist countries with special needs, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in taking advantage of opportunities arising from regional economic cooperation and integration, including, as appropriate, through support to enhance their capacities and through technical assistance;
5. *Invite* members and associate members of the Commission, donor countries, multilateral financing institutions, relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental and regional organizations, relevant non-governmental organizations, international think tanks and the private sector to provide financial and technical support, within their mandates and core competencies, for the implementation of the agenda for regional economic cooperation and integration;
6. *Request* the Executive Secretary:
 - (a) To accord high priority to the agenda for regional economic cooperation and integration in the work of ESCAP;
 - (b) To support the work of the four area-specific expert working groups including the preparation of their terms of reference in consultation with members and associate members and convene the intergovernmental open-ended preparatory meetings for the second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific referred to in operative paragraph 3 above;
 - (c) To ensure effective coordination with United Nations and multilateral agencies concerned, including relevant subregional technical organizations within their respective mandates and core competencies, in supporting the implementation of the regional economic cooperation and integration agenda;
 - (d) To convene the second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific in 2015 to review the progress on the agenda of regional economic integration outlined in section III of the present Declaration, consider the recommendations of the intergovernmental open-ended preparatory meetings and decide on follow-up actions.

III. Suggested agenda for regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific

1. The agenda for regional economic cooperation and integration is aimed at deepening and broadening economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific and at moving towards the formation of an economic community of Asia and the Pacific as a long-term goal.
2. Recognizing the important progress achieved by regional groupings and organizations in integrating their subregions, the agenda is designed to support their efforts and further strengthen their contribution as building blocks of a broader regional initiative. For this purpose, the subregional offices of the secretariat could provide support to and liaise with the subregional groupings in their respective subregions within their respective mandates.
3. In order to promote and facilitate opportunities for mutual learning and coordination among regional groupings and organizations, including their sectoral cooperation initiatives, ESCAP could facilitate consultations among such groupings and organizations at the annual sessions of the Commission for the purpose of discussing

progress in economic cooperation and integration in ESCAP subregions, sharing best practices and considering ways to enhance economic cooperation and integration among the subregions.

4. It is important to recognize that challenges generally associated with least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, such as small market sizes, geographic limitations and absence of relevant trade infrastructure, reduce the impact of regional cooperation and integration initiatives that are meant to enhance trade, market development and improve economic growth. In order to broaden the access of those countries to regional trade and connectivity, there is a need to implement specific policies that focus on productive capacity-building related to infrastructure development, broadening the economic base, access to finance and providing assistance in overcoming the risks and shocks of entering into a regional trade block.

5. The second Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, which is proposed to be held in 2015, will take stock of the progress made on the agenda of cooperation and integration agreed at the First Ministerial Conference and consider the recommendations of the area-specific expert working groups established by it.

A. Moving towards the formation of an integrated market

6. In order to exploit complementarities between subregions, it is critical to move towards an integrated market of Asian and Pacific economies. One of the four area-specific expert working groups will explore the possible options for building an integrated market of the Asian and Pacific region in an inclusive and equitable manner.^e

7. Recognizing the importance of trade for growth and development, members and associate members will strive to foster trade facilitation, bring down trade barriers through cooperation on liberalization, and resist and refrain from protectionism.

8. It is necessary to recognize the importance of migration flows for tackling structural labour demand and supply mismatches across countries and the critical developmental role that remittances play. In this context, it is also necessary to enhance regional consultations to address the protection of rights of migrant workers in accordance with internationally agreed principles, as appropriate, as well as applicable national laws, regulations and policies.

9. Intraregional tourism, which has been growing in Asia and the Pacific as a consequence of the region's progress in raising standards of living and reducing poverty, could help spur development in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the region. However, the development of the tourism sector is highly dependent on the existence of efficient, regular and affordable air services connecting recipient and source countries. Regional cooperation in this area is particularly important in order to support these countries in promoting the development of their tourism sectors.

B. The development of seamless connectivity in the region

10. In order to strengthen seamless transport connectivity in the region, it is essential, as appropriate, to implement the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific,^f and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016),^g the Regional Strategic

^e The word "equitable" refers to the principle of special and differential treatment in favour of weaker economies, as included in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

^f Commission resolution 68/4, annex.

^g Ibid., appendix I.

Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport,^h the Ministerial Declaration on Transport as a Key to Sustainable Development and Regional Integration,ⁱ and the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific.^j It is also important for ESCAP members and associate members that have not already done so, to consider becoming parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network,^k the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network^l and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports.^m

11. In view of the critical importance of the connectivity agenda, one of the four area-specific expert working groups will take a closer look at cross-sectoral synergies among transport, energy, and information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and make recommendations.

12. The Asian and Pacific Energy Forum could address the need to develop energy connectivity by facilitating the evolution of an “Asian energy highway”, including oil and gas pipelines and grid connections across borders, to exploit demand-supply mismatches among countries and to further develop a regional energy market and a Pacific regional energy data repository for sustainable energy for all. In view of the importance of energy cooperation for the energy security of the region, the Forum could consider means of implementing a review mechanism for its recommendations. The Forum could also enhance cooperation among energy-producing, transit and energy-consuming countries for the sustainable use of resources.

13. Improved ICT connectivity and the reduction of the digital divide may require enhanced cooperation at the regional and subregional levels in such activities as entering into public-private partnerships, exploring new opportunities emerging from technological innovations and connectivity and supporting the development of regional initiatives for ICT connectivity set forth in Commission resolution 69/10 in order to provide seamless broadband connectivity and reduce the costs of such connectivity for all throughout Asia and the Pacific. Improved regional cooperation on ICT issues could also promote policies that maximize the economic and social benefits of improved ICT connectivity, while mitigating the common challenges and threats raised by new and continuously evolving technologies.

C. Enhancing financial cooperation

14. It is important to recognize the large potential for cooperation in finance in order to develop the region’s capital markets and a regional financial architecture to facilitate the mobilization of financial resources for meeting the need for liquidity support and trade finance and to close the infrastructure gaps. One of the four area-specific expert working groups could examine ways and means of exploiting the potential of financial cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, including considering options suggested in paragraph 5(f) of Commission resolution 69/6 on the implementation of the Tehran Declaration to promote public-private partnership in infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development.

D. Increasing economic cooperation to address shared vulnerabilities, risks and challenges

15. One of the four area-specific expert working groups could explore ways and means to foster regional cooperation for addressing shared vulnerabilities, risks and challenges, including the measures discussed in the following paragraphs.

^h Ibid., appendix II.

ⁱ See E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/7, chap. I, sect. A.

^j See E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/6.

^k United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. 41607.

^l United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2596, No. 46171.

^m Commission resolution 69/7, annex.

16. The establishment of an Asian and Pacific agricultural research and innovation network could be considered to serve as a regional knowledge network aimed at addressing sustainable productivity increases and encouraging responsible investment in sustainable small-scale farming, agro-industries and rural development.
17. Regional and subregional food banks, such as that created by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ASEAN-Plus-Three Emergency Rice Reserve, could be strengthened. It is important for countries to share information on food stocks and to facilitate food trade through information-sharing related to sanitary and phytosanitary and other food safety standards, agricultural good practices and trading opportunities.
18. The Zero Hunger Challengeⁿ could provide a guideline for regional cooperation in the area of food security. Regional cooperation is particularly necessary to assist countries with special needs, such as least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.
19. While increased connectivity facilitates cross-border flows of trade and investment, it also raises the risks of transboundary shocks, which could have serious impacts on social, economic and environmental infrastructure and processes across countries of the region and could lead to systemic failures. In that context, it is important to recognize the role of relevant mechanisms for regional cooperation and coordination and in facilitating the sharing of best practices across the subregions.
20. The role of regional cooperation in ICT and space technologies for the monitoring of hazards and the assessment of vulnerabilities, exposures and risks should be recognized. Regional cooperation, such as through the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and regional disaster management support systems, such as Sentinel Asia, could also help members and associate members mainstream disaster risk reduction into their development planning, formulate disaster-resilient recovery and reconstruction measures and take into account disaster risks in their land use planning.
21. The pooling of space-based information and ground support as well as communication systems for monitoring and early warning at the regional level should be considered in order to address multiple hazards and cut across geographical boundaries through the sharing of data, information and best practices between national and subregional early warning systems. In this context, it is important to strengthen the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES).
22. As the scarcity of natural resources is becoming a constraint to the growth of Asian and Pacific economies, there is a need for appropriate and efficient pooling of resources and coordination at the regional and subregional levels with the objective of fostering research and development regarding (a) the conservation of natural resources, including oceans and energy, (b) climate change adaptation and mitigation and (c) the development of environmentally friendly technologies up to the pre-competitive stage. This could be achieved through greater coordination among national innovation agencies in Asian and Pacific countries and through the establishment of regional innovation centres for different core technologies. The role of ESCAP regional institutions, such as the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture, and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, needs to be recognized in this respect.
23. A number of members and associate members of the Commission are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as the contamination of freshwater tables by rising levels of seawater, the increased frequency and severity of cyclones, rising of sea levels and the melting of snow caps resulting in flash floods and outburst of

ⁿ See www.un.org/en/zerohunger.

glacier lakes. These impacts expose them to the risk of suffering significant damage to their physical infrastructure and productive capacity, which could strain government resources and exacerbate development challenges. Sharing of experiences and best practices among members and associate members to build resilience to the impacts of climate change is thus highly desirable. Members and associate members underline the urgency for enhancing the means of implementation to combat the adverse impacts of climate change in this region in accordance with internationally agreed mandates.

Resolution 70/2
Disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction and the role of the regional commissions in supporting member States and the development agenda,²

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/209 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in which the Assembly requested the regional commissions, within their mandates, to support the efforts of Member States to achieve disaster risk reduction as part of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,³

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 68/211 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in which the Assembly: (a) encouraged the further implementation of all priorities for action of the Hyogo Framework for Action, including the establishment of reliable disaster statistics; (b) set out the objectives of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, among which was the completion of the assessment and review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action; and (c) requested the organizations of the United Nations system to actively contribute to the preparatory process and to the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction itself,

Recalling its resolutions 64/2 on regional cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific, 67/11 on strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific, and 69/12 on enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific,

Stressing the importance of disaggregated data related to disasters in enabling a comprehensive assessment of the socioeconomic effects of disasters and strengthening evidence-based policymaking at all levels for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation,

Taking note with appreciation of the efforts of the secretariat, in coordination with other entities of the United Nations system, to promote disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its third session,⁴ in particular the recommendation that the secretariat work towards monitoring more effectively the resilience of member States to disasters, including through the development of a core set of disaster-related statistics in close coordination with the Committee on Statistics,

² General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

³ A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

⁴ E/ESCAP/70/14.

1. *Invites* members and associate members, in collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, donors, and international and regional organizations as appropriate, to build and assess their resilience to and capacity to deal with disasters through, among other measures, the improvement of disaster-related statistics,
2. *Decides* to establish an expert group comprising statisticians and disaster risk reduction experts to work towards developing a basic range of disaster-related statistics to be approved by the Commission,
3. *Also decides* that the expert group shall report on the progress made in developing a basic range of disaster-related statistics to the Committee on Statistics in 2014 and the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015,
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to support the work of the expert group, including by soliciting nominations from Governments, and convening and servicing the meetings of the expert group,
5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to inform the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction of the work initiated by ESCAP towards developing a basic range of disaster-related statistics,
6. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Second plenary meeting
23 May 2014*

B. Decisions adopted by the Commission at its seventieth session (Phase I)

Decision 70/1

Report on the evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2012-2013

At its second plenary meeting, on 23 May 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the report on the evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2012-2013 (E/ESCAP/70/20).

Decision 70/2

Programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015

At its second plenary meeting, on 23 May 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015 (E/ESCAP/70/21).

Decision 70/3

Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017

At its second plenary meeting, on 23 May 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific endorsed the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Prog. 16)) with the amended text in paragraph 16.35.

Decision 70/4

Evaluation pursuant to resolution 67/4: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management

At its second plenary meeting, on 23 May 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the request of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to postpone the evaluation related to the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management pursuant to its resolution 67/4 (E/ESCAP/70/23), and decided to review the evaluation at its seventy-first session.

Decision 70/5

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

At its second plenary meeting, on 23 May 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific took note of the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/70/24).

Decision 70/6

Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventy-first session of the Commission (2015)

At its second plenary meeting, on 23 May 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific decided that its seventy-first session would be held in April or May 2015. The actual dates would be determined in consultation with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission. The Commission also decided that the theme topic for its seventy-first session would be: “Balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development: from integration to implementation”.

Decision 70/7

Election of the members of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

At its second plenary meeting, on 23 May 2014, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific elected, in addition to the host country, India, the following 13 countries to the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology for the period 2014-2017: Bangladesh; China; Fiji; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Malaysia; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Samoa; Sri Lanka; Thailand; and Viet Nam.

Chapter II

Organization of the seventieth session (Phase I) of the Commission

A. Attendance and organization of work

3. Owing to the special circumstances in Bangkok, the seventieth session was held in two phases. Phase I was held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok on 23 May 2014, and Phase II was scheduled to be held from 4 to 8 August 2014.

4. The session was attended by representatives of the following members:

Australia
Bangladesh
Bhutan
China
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
France
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Japan
Kazakhstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Russian Federation
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Turkey
Tuvalu
United States of America
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Viet Nam

5. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Development Programme; and United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

6. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Telecommunication Union; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; and World Health Organization.

7. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian Development Bank; and Mekong River Commission.

8. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected Mr. Kazi Imtiaz Hossain (Bangladesh) as Chair of Phase I. Ms. Jocelyn S. Batoon-Garcia (Philippines) and Mr. Veali Vagi (Papua New Guinea) were elected Vice-Chairs of Phase I.

9. The Executive Secretary delivered a welcome statement.

B. Agenda

10. 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, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries:
 - (a) Preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, Samoa, 2014;
 - (b) Sustainable management of oceans for sustainable development and poverty eradication;
 - (c) Development issues relevant to least developed countries;
 - (d) Development issues relevant to landlocked developing countries;
 - (e) The perspectives of Asia-Pacific least developed, landlocked developing and Pacific island developing countries in the context of the development agenda beyond 2015;
 - (f) Other matters.
3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the 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) Report on the evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2012-2013;
 - (b) Programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015;
 - (c) Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017;
 - (d) Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions.

5. Evaluation pursuant to resolution 67/4: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management.
6. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
7. Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventy-first session of the Commission (2015).

Ministerial segment

8. 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 2014.
 9. Theme topic for the seventieth session of the Commission: “Regional connectivity for shared prosperity”.
 10. Other matters.
 11. Adoption of the report of the Commission.
11. The following agenda items were considered at Phase I:
3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions:
 - (a) Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and inclusive development;
 4. Management issues:
 - (a) Report on the evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2012-2013;
 - (b) Programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015;
 - (c) Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017;
 5. Evaluation pursuant to resolution 67/4: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management;
 6. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission;
 7. Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventy-first session of the Commission (2015);
 10. Other matters;
 11. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Adoption of the report of the Commission

12. The report on Phase I of the seventieth session was adopted at the second plenary meeting on 23 May 2014.

Chapter III

Work of the Commission since the sixty-ninth session

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

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

- (a) Committees:
 - (i) Committee on Environment and Development;
 - (ii) Committee on Trade and Investment;
 - (iii) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;
- (b) Governing Councils:
 - (i) Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;
 - (ii) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;
 - (iii) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;
 - (iv) Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development;
 - (v) Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture;
- (c) Other intergovernmental bodies:
 - (i) Asian and Pacific Energy Forum;
 - (ii) Asian and Pacific Population Conference;
 - (iii) Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport;
 - (iv) Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia;
 - (v) Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (vi) Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade;
 - (vii) Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

14. 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.

B. Publications

15. Lists of publications issued in the reporting period 2013-2014 and documents submitted to the Commission at its seventieth session are contained in annex III.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

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

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 2014-2015:^a

(a) Resolution 70/1: Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Resolution 70/2: Disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

2. Extrabudgetary resources, where appropriate, will be sought for the implementation of the activities required under the above-mentioned resolutions.

^a See General Assembly resolution 68/248 A-C.

Annex II

Meetings of subsidiary bodies and other intergovernmental bodies held since the sixty-ninth session of the Commission

Subsidiary bodies and officers		Session	Document symbol
<i>Committees</i>			
I. Committee on Environment and Development		Third session Bangkok 29-31 October 2013	E/ESCAP/70/13
Chair	Mr. Bektas Mukhametzhanov (Kazakhstan)		
Vice-Chairs	Ms. Sukontha Aekaraj (Thailand) Mr. Dae Young Ju (Republic of Korea)		
Rapporteur	Mr. Dornath Aryal (Nepal)		
II. Committee on Trade and Investment		Third session Bangkok 20-22 November 2013	E/ESCAP/70/9
Chair	Mr. Sajjad Ahmad (Pakistan)		
Vice-Chair	Ms. Karo Rupa (Papua New Guinea)		
Rapporteur	Ms. Tekreth Kamrang (Cambodia)		
III. Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction		Third session Bangkok 27-29 November 2013	E/ESCAP/70/14
Chair	Ms. Fathimath Tashneem (Maldives)		
Vice-Chairs	Mr. Namgay Wangchuk (Bhutan) Mr. Pita Tagicakiwera (Fiji)		
<i>Governing councils of ESCAP regional institutions</i>			
I. Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization		Ninth session Bangkok 19 November 2013	E/ESCAP/70/11/Rev.1
Chair	Mr. Wais Kabir (Bangladesh)		
Vice-Chair	Mr. Kanchan K. Singh (India)		
II. Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology		Ninth session Bangkok 19 November 2013	E/ESCAP/70/10
Chair	Mr. Indu Bhaskar (India)		
Vice-Chair	Mr. Bambang Subiyanto (Indonesia)		

Subsidiary bodies and officers		Session	Document symbol
III. Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific		Ninth session Chiba, Japan 19-20 November 2013	E/ESCAP/70/18
Chair	Mr. Suryamin (Indonesia)		
Vice-Chair	Mr. Takao Itou (Japan)		
IV. Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development		Eighth session Incheon, Republic of Korea 12 December 2013	E/ESCAP/70/15
Chair	Mr. Rajendra Kumar (India)		
Vice-Chair	Ms. Maria Lourdez Aquilizan (Philippines)		
V. Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture		Tenth session Bangkok 13 December 2013	E/ESCAP/70/8
Chair	Mr. Iftikhar Ahmad (Pakistan)		
Vice-Chair	Mr. Raghunath Dnyanu Ghodake (Papua New Guinea)		
<i>Intergovernmental meetings</i>			
I. Asian and Pacific Energy Forum		Vladivostok, Russian Federation 27-30 May 2013	E/ESCAP/70/28
Senior officials segment			
Chair	Mr. Talyat Aliev (Russian Federation)		
Vice-Chairs	Mr. Sung-hwan Oh (Republic of Korea) Mr. Kanat Imanaliev (Kyrgyzstan) Mr. Peceli Nakavulevu (Fiji) Mr. Prabhat Kumar (India) Mr. Dadan Kusdiana (Indonesia)		
Rapporteur	Honourable Akau'ola (Tonga)		
Ministerial segment			
Chair	Mr. Alexander Novak (Russian Federation)		
Vice-Chairs	Lord Tu'Ivakano (Tonga) Mr. Kausea Natano (Tuvalu) Mr. Timoci Lesikivatukoula Natuva (Fiji) Mr. Majid Namjoo (Islamic Republic of Iran) Mr. Kirabuke Teiaua (Kiribati) Mr. Michael Konelios (Marshall Islands) Mr. Ramon Allan V. Oca (Philippines) Ms. Pavithra Devi Wanniarachchi Wanniarachchige (Sri Lanka) Mr. Sherali Gul (Tajikistan) Mr. Thomas Laken (Vanuatu) Mr. Enamul Muhammad Huq (Bangladesh)		

Subsidiary bodies and officers		Session	Document symbol
Mr. Mohammad Tariq Ismati (Afghanistan) Mr. Dasho Sonam Tshering (Bhutan) Mr. Raimbek Mamyrov (Kyrgyzstan) Mr. Abdullahi Majeed (Maldives) Mr. Batbayar Chadraa (Mongolia) Mr. Chong-ghee Ahn (Republic of Korea) Mr. Duong Quang Le (Viet Nam) Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal (Nepal)			
Rapporteur	Honourable Akau'ola (Tonga)		
II. Asian and Pacific Population Conference		Sixth session	E/ESCAP/70/16
		Bangkok	
		16-20 September 2013	
Senior officials segment			
Chair	Mr. Keshav Desiraju (India)		
Vice-Chair	Ms. Janette Garin (Philippines)		
Rapporteur	Dr. Tenneth Dalipanda (Solomon Islands)		
Ministerial segment			
Chair	Mr. Anote Tong (Kiribati)		
Vice-Chairs	Mr. Ahmad Jan Naeem (Afghanistan) Mr. Hukum Khan Habibi (Afghanistan) Ms. Sayeda Mostafavi (Afghanistan) Ms. Meher Afroze (Bangladesh) Ms. Bin Li (China) Mr. Nandi Tuaine Glassie (Cook Islands) Ms. Jiko Luveni (Fiji) Mr. Kenya Akiba (Japan) Ms. Toshiko Abe (Japan) Mr. Somchit Inthamith (Lao People's Democratic Republic) Datuk Hj. Azizah Datuk Seri Panglima Hj. Mohd. Dun (Malaysia) Mr. Abdulla Jihad (Maldives) Mr. Erdene Sodnomzundui (Mongolia) Mr. Amarsanaa Jazag (Mongolia) Mr. Vidyadhar Mallik (Nepal) Ms. Joan Sisiati Tahafa Viliamu (Niue) Ms. Zakia Shah Nawaz (Pakistan) Mr. Sergio Gama Da Costa Lobo (Timor-Leste) Mr. Rialuth Serge Vohor (Vanuatu) Mr. Tien Nguyen Viet (Viet Nam)		
Rapporteur:	Dr. Fasli Jalal (Indonesia)		

Subsidiary bodies and officers	Session	Document symbol
III. Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport	Second session Bangkok 4-8 November 2013	E/ESCAP/70/12
Senior officials segment		
Chair Mr. Sudarshan Ram Bhandary (Nepal)		
Vice-Chairs Mr. Vasim Sorya (Cambodia) Mr. Erdem Direkler (Turkey)		
Rapporteur Mr. Farid Valiyev (Azerbaijan)		
Ministerial segment		
Chair Mr. Chadchart Sittipunt (Thailand)		
Vice-Chairs Mr. Hrant Beglaryan (Armenia) Mr. D.N. Dungyel (Bhutan) Mr. Tauch Chankosol (Cambodia) Mr. Fukui Ning (China) Mr. Bambang Susantono (Indonesia) Mr. Abbas Ahmad Akhouni (Islamic Republic of Iran) Mr. Yoshitaka Toui (Japan) Mr. Sommad Pholsena (Lao People's Democratic Republic) Mr. Ab. Aziz Kaprawi (Malaysia) Mr. Gansukh Amarjargal (Mongolia) Mr. Myint Thein (Myanmar) Mr. Chhabi Raj Pant (Nepal) Mr. Hyung Koo Yeo (Republic of Korea) Mr. Alexey Tsydenov (Russian Federation) Mr. Nizom Hakimov (Tajikistan) Mr. Nguyen Hong Truong (Viet Nam)		
Rapporteur Mr. Abul Kashem Md. Badrul Majid (Bangladesh)		
IV. Governing Council of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia	Eighth session Almaty, Kazakhstan 19-21 November 2013	E/ESCAP/70/19
Chair Mr. Timur Zhaksylykov (Kazakhstan)		
V. Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific	Bangkok 17-20 December 2013	E/ESCAP/70/7
Senior officials segment		
Chair Mr. Kazi Imtiaz Hossain (Bangladesh)		
Vice-Chairs Mr. Nik Azman Nik Abdul Majid (Malaysia) Ms. Pilimilose Balwyn Fa'otusia (Tonga)		
Ministerial segment		
Chair Mr. Faumuina Tiatia Liuga (Samoa)		
Vice-Chairs Mr. Ly Thuch (Cambodia) Mr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan (India) Mr. Mohamed Saeed (Maldives) Mr. Rabindra Kumar Shakya (Nepal) Ms. Emilia Valerio Pires (Timor-Leste)		

Subsidiary bodies and officers		Session	Document symbol
VI. Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade		Bangkok, 22-24 April 2014	E/ESCAP/70/31
Chair	Mr. Toya Narayan Gyawali (Nepal)		
Vice-Chair	Mr. Khemdeth Sihavong (Lao People's Democratic Republic)		
Rapporteur	Mr. Mahmood Zargar (Islamic Republic of Iran)		
VII. Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development		Pattaya, Thailand 19-21 May 2014	E/ESCAP/70/33
Co-Chairs	Mr. Bektas Mukhametjanov (Kazakhstan) Mr. Kanchana Patarachoke (Thailand)		

Annex III

Publications and documents

A. Publications issued since the sixty-ninth session^{*}

Executive direction and management

ESCAP Meeting Documents, 2012 ** ESCAP/LIB/SER.F/32.

What's Ahead @ ESCAP **

Subprogramme 1

Macroeconomic policy and inclusive development^a

Asia-Pacific Development Journal

Vol. 20, No. 1, June 2013. ST/ESCAP/2663.

Asia-Pacific Regional MDG Report 2012/2013: Asia-Pacific Aspirations: Perspectives for a Post-2015 Development Agenda. ESCAP, ADB and UNDP, August 2013.

CAPSA Fact Sheet **

No. 07/2013. Agricultural research-extension linkages in Asia and the Pacific.

No. 08/2013. Role of policies in agricultural transformation: lessons from Brazil and the Republic of Korea.

CAPSA Working Paper **

No. 106, 2012. The role of policies in agricultural transformation: lessons from Brazil, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea.

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013: Year-end Update. ST/ESCAP/2673.

MPDD Policy Briefs **

No. 11, June 2013. Providing employment for all.

No.12, June 2013. Coping with volatile capital flows in Asia and the Pacific.

No.13, July 2013. Developmental macroeconomics.

No.14, July 2013. Forward-looking macroeconomic policies – re-examining inflation and debt limits.

No.15, July 2013. Facing a sluggish and volatile global economy.

No.16, August 2013. Minimum wage policies to boost inclusive growth.

No.17, September 2013. Making emerging Asia-Pacific less vulnerable to global financial panics.

No.18, December 2013. Providing income security for the elderly.

No.19, January 2014. Governments can use sustainable public procurement to foster inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

MPDD Working Papers **

WP/13/01, April 2013. Policies for structural transformation: an analysis of the Asia-Pacific.

^{*} Where applicable, the ESCAP document symbol and (in parentheses) United Nations publication sales numbers are noted. A double asterisk (**) denotes publications that are available online only.

^a Including the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA).

Palawija News (CAPSA):

Vol. 30, No. 1, August 2013.

- Adoption of new rice varieties in Sri Lanka.
- Indonesia rice check procedure: an approach for accelerating the adoption of ICM.

Vol. 30, No. 2, August 2013.

- Preparing rice farmers for climate change direct seeded rice in India.
- Mitigating climate change and soil salinity impacts in the Indus Basin using skimming wells with pressurized irrigation.

Vol. 30, No. 3, December 2013. Sustainable management of water scarcity in the Asia-Pacific region using virtual water trade through agricultural products.

Subprogramme 2
Trade and investment^b

A Handbook on Negotiating Preferential Trade Agreements: Services Liberalization. July 2013. ST/ESCAP/2657.

APTAD Briefing Note^{**}

No. 6, December 2013. Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement: promoting trade, investment and business linkages.

ARTNet Census Briefing Paper^{**}

No. 1, March 2013. The European Union's new timber regulations and the Asia-Pacific: rationales, due diligence procedures, and green lanes.

ARTNeT Newsletter^{**}

July 2013	August 2013
September 2013	November 2013
December 2013	

ARTNeT Working Papers^{**}

No. 124, February 2013. Intellectual property rights in regional trade agreements of Asia-Pacific economies.

No. 125, June 2013. Inclusive growth experiences – the case of Nepal: a discussion on a paradox from conventional and holistic perspectives.

No. 126, June 2013. Labour productivity and export performance: firm-level evidence from Indian manufacturing industries since 1991.

No. 127, June 2013. Trade costs and impacts of trade facilitation on manufacturing exports by Thailand.

No. 128, August 2013. Papua New Guinea and the natural resource curse.

No. 129, September 2013. Who profits from trade facilitation initiatives?

No. 130, September 2013. Addressing non-tariff measures in ASEAN.

No. 131, September 2013. Trade facilitation and poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific: a case study of a South Asian Economic Corridor.

No. 132, October 2013. Trade facilitation and microfinance for poverty reduction in the Greater Mekong Subregion: a case study of Thailand.

No. 133, October 2013. Ongoing trade facilitation improvement: its impact on export-oriented small and medium-sized enterprises in Indonesia.

No. 134, October 2013. Impact of EPZs on poverty reduction and trade facilitation in Sri Lanka.

^b Including the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM).

No. 135, October 2013. Trade facilitation and poverty reduction: China-ASEAN region case study.

No. 136, November 2013. Prospects of the Bali Ministerial Conference.

No. 137, December 2013. Compulsory licensing: India's maiden experience.

No. 138, December 2013. Developing inland China: do heterogeneous coastal foreign direct investments and exports help?

No. 139, January 2014. Effects of environmental regulations on South Asian food and agricultural exports: a gravity analysis.

Asia-Pacific Tech Monitor (APCTT):

Vol. 29, No. 1, January-March 2012. Enhancing regional economic integration through national innovation systems.

Asia-Pacific Trade Agreements Database **

Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2013: Turning the Tide: Towards Inclusive Trade and Investment. December 2012. ST/ESCAP/2668.
(Sales No. E.14.II.F.2)

CSAM Policy Brief **

No. 1, January 2014. Analysis of the trends of agricultural mechanization development in China (2000-2020).

Designing and Implementing Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific, 2013 Update, 6 September 2013.

Expansion of Global Value Chains in Asian Developing Countries: Automotive Case Study in the Mekong Subregion. ST/ESCAP/2677.

Expert Database (UNNExT) **

Impacts of trade facilitation measures on poverty and inclusive growth: case studies from Asia. A study by the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT). ST/ESCAP/2687.

Studies in Trade and Investment **

No. 78. Enhancing regional connectivity: towards a regional arrangement for the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade, 31 December 2013.
ST/ESCAP/2684.

No. 79. Responsible business and sustainable investment in the natural resources sector in Asia and the Pacific. ST/ESCAP/2680.

Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation (ROC-TF) Newsletter **

No. IV, 31 July 2013.

No. V, 31 January 2014.

Towards a National Integrated and Sustainable Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism: BPA+, 2 January 2014. ST/ESCAP/2683.

Trade and Investment Working Paper Series **

No. 01/14, 27 January 2014. Trade facilitation potential of Asian transit agreements in the context of the WTO negotiations.

No. 02/13, November 2013. What complementary policies may contribute to the inclusiveness of international openness?

No. 03/13, November 2013. Vanuatu Cocoa Growers' Association: inclusive growth in rural smallholders agriculture.

No. 04/13, November 2013. Dealing with challenges for making trade inclusive.

UNNExT Brief**

No. 9, August 2013. Towards an enabling environment for paperless trade - Pan Asian e-commerce Alliance (PAA): service providers join forces to enable cross-border paperless trade.

VATIS Update: Biotechnology (APCTT):**

Vol. 1, No. 118, April-June 2013.

Vol. 1, No. 119, July-September 2013.

Vol. 1, No. 120, October-December 2013.

VATIS Update: Food Processing (APCTT):**

Vol. 3, No. 114, October-December 2012.

Vol. 3, No. 115, January - March 2013.

Vol. 3, No. 116, April-June 2013.

Vol. 3, No. 117, July-September 2013.

Vol. 3, No. 118, October-December 2013.

VATIS Update: Non-conventional Energy (APCTT):**

Vol. 2, No. 115, October-December 2012.

Vol. 2, No. 116, January - March 2013.

Vol. 2, No. 117, April-June 2013.

Vol. 2, No. 118, July-September 2013.

Vol. 2, No. 119, October-December 2013.

VATIS Update: Ozone Layer Protection (APCTT):**

Vol. 4, No. 115, November-December 2012.

Vol. 4, No. 116, January - February 2013.

Vol. 4, No. 117, March - April 2013.

Vol. 4, No. 118, May - June 2013.

Vol. 4, No. 119, July - August 2013.

Vol. 4, No. 120, September - October 2013.

Vol. 4, No. 121, November-December 2013.

VATIS Update: Waste Management (APCTT):**

Vol. 5, No. 111, October-December 2012.

Vol. 5, No. 112, January - March 2013.

Vol. 5, No. 113, April-June 2013.

Vol. 5, No. 114, July-September 2013.

Vol. 5, No. 115, October-December 2013.

Subprogramme 3

Transport

Guide to Key Issues in Development of Logistics Policy, 17 December 2013.**

Monograph Series on Transport Facilitation of International Railway Transport in Asia and the Pacific, 19 December 2013. ST/ESCAP/2681.**

Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, Phase II (2012-2016), June 2013.

Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport, June 2013.

Review of Developments in Transport in Asia and the Pacific 2013.
ST/ESCAP/2667.

*Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific***

No. 82, 17 December 2013. Combatting congestion. ST/ESCAP/SER.E/82.

No. 83, 20 December 2013. Designing safer roads. ST/ESCAP/SER.E/83.

Subprogramme 4 **Environment and development**

Advancing Sustainable Energy: UN-Energy Asia-Pacific. Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF), Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 27-30 May 2013.

Discussion Paper**

Development financing for tangible results: a paradigm shift to impact investing and outcome models, the case of sanitation in Asia, 1 August 2013.

The status of the water-food-energy nexus in Asia and the Pacific, August 2013.

Green Growth Indicators: A Practical Approach for Asia and the Pacific. Greening of Economic Growth Series, December 2013. ST/ESCAP/2674.

Ministerial Declaration and Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific. Adopted at the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF), Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 27-30 May 2013.

Partnerships for Universal Access to Modern Energy Services: A Global Assessment Report on Public-private Renewable Energy Partnerships, December 2013. ST/ESCAP/2664.

Shifting from Quantity to Quality: Growth with Equality, Efficiency, Sustainability and Dynamism, December 2013. ST/ESCAP/2675.

Statistical Perspective: Focus Areas for Realizing Enhanced Energy Security, May 2013.

Subprogramme 5 **Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction^c**

An in-depth study of broadband infrastructure in the ASEAN region, ICT and Development Section, August 2013.**

APCICT Knowledge Sharing Series, Issue III: GCIO Development in Developing Countries, November 2013.

Discussion paper series on problems and challenges in transit connectivity routes and international gateways in Asia. Discussion Paper Series 2014/1.

ESCAP Technical Paper**

Assessing the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society in Asia and the Pacific: regional survey and review by the ESCAP secretariat.

Improving disaster data and statistics on vulnerable groups: contributing to building a resilient Asia-Pacific region.

Regional issues in disaster risk reduction, including those related to climate change adaptation, and policies related to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into socioeconomic development planning.

The resilience of ICT infrastructure and its role during disasters.

^c Including the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT).

Sound practices in space technology applications for disaster risk reduction and inclusive and sustainable development.

Space applications for improving disaster management.

ICT, Climate Change and Green Growth. Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders, Module 10. (APCICT)

Monitoring & Evaluation Toolkit. Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders. (APCICT)

The Primer Series on ICTD for Youth: (APCICT)

Primer 2: Project management and ICTD.

Primer 3: ICT for disaster risk management.

Primer 4: ICT, climate change and green growth.

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- No. 8, July-August 2013.
- No. 9, September-October 2013.
- No. 10, November-December 2013.

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- No. 2, April 2013.
- No. 3, May 2013.
- No. 4, June 2013.
- No. 5, August 2013.

*South and South-West Asia Development Monitor***

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- No. 16, May 2013.
- No. 17, June-July 2013.
- No. 18, August 2013.
- No. 19, September 2013.
- No. 20, October 2013.
- No. 21, November 2013.
- No. 22, December 2013-January 2014.

*South and South-West Asia Development Papers***

- No. 1304, May 2013. Creating an enabling environment for women's
entrepreneurship in India.
- No. 1305, July 2013. Economic Integration in the "Heart of Asia": South Asia-
Central Asia linkages.
- No. 1306, September 2013. How much do small old age pensions and windows'
pensions help the poor in India? An ex-post evaluation of the National
Social Assistance Programme and implications for its planned reform.
- No. 1307, November 2013. Regional cooperation for strengthening national
food security strategies in South Asia: a policy agenda.

Towards Seamless Connectivity in South and South-West Asia, August 2013.

B. Documents submitted to the Commission at its seventieth session

Document symbol	Document title	Agenda item
<i>Limited documents</i>		
E/ESCAP/70/L.1/Rev.1 and Add.1	Provisional agenda	1(c)
E/ESCAP/70/L.2/Rev.3	Annotated provisional agenda	1(c)
E/ESCAP/70/L.3 and Add.1	Draft report	-
E/ESCAP/70/L.4	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific	3(a)
E/ESCAP/70/L.5	Draft resolution: Disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific	10
E/ESCAP/70/L.6	Draft decisions (Phase I)	-
E/ESCAP/70/L.7	Draft report: Organization of phase II of the seventieth session of the Commission	11
E/ESCAP/70/L.7/Add.1	Draft report: Statement of programme budget implications of actions and proposals of the Commission	11
E/ESCAP/70/L.8	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in Asia and the Pacific	2(c)
E/ESCAP/70/L.9	Draft resolution: Promoting sustainable agricultural development in Asia and the Pacific through technology transfer	3(a) and (b)
E/ESCAP/70/L.10	Draft resolution: Strengthening regional cooperation and capacity for enhanced trade and investment in support of sustainable development	3(b)
E/ESCAP/70/L.11	Draft resolution: Implementation of the decision of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade	3(b)
E/ESCAP/70/L.12	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific	3(c)
E/ESCAP/70/L.13	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport as a Key to Sustainable Development and Regional Integration	3(c)
E/ESCAP/70/L.14	Draft resolution: Implementation of the outcomes of the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum	3(d)
E/ESCAP/70/L.15	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific region on the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015	3(d)
E/ESCAP/70/L.16	Draft resolution: Implementing the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development	3(d)
E/ESCAP/70/L.17	Draft resolution: Strengthening efforts on human settlements and sustainable urban development for the Asia-Pacific region	3(d)
E/ESCAP/70/L.18	Draft resolution: Regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific	3(f)
E/ESCAP/70/L.19	Draft resolution: Enhancing participation of youth in sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	3(g)

Document symbol	Document title	Agenda item
E/ESCAP/70/L.20	Draft decisions	11
<i>Regular documents</i>		
E/ESCAP/70/1	Summary of preparations for the Pacific for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States	2(a)
E/ESCAP/70/2	Sustainable management of oceans and seas for sustainable development and poverty eradication in Pacific small island developing States	2(b)
E/ESCAP/70/3	Summary of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in the Asia-Pacific Region	2(c)
E/ESCAP/70/4 and Corr.1	Summary of the status of implementation of the Vientiane Consensus	2(d)
E/ESCAP/70/5 and Corr.1 and 2	Subprogramme overview: Issues and challenges related to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	3
E/ESCAP/70/6	Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions	3
E/ESCAP/70/7	Report of the Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific	3(a)
E/ESCAP/70/8	Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for the Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its tenth session	3(a)
E/ESCAP/70/9	Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its third session	3(b)
E/ESCAP/70/10	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its ninth session	3(b)
E/ESCAP/70/11/Rev.1	Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its ninth session	3(b)
E/ESCAP/70/12	Report of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport on its second session	3(c)
E/ESCAP/70/13	Report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its third session	3(d)
E/ESCAP/70/14	Report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its third session	3(f)
E/ESCAP/70/15	Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its eighth session	3(f)
E/ESCAP/70/16	Report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference	3(g)
E/ESCAP/70/17	Road map for the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific	3(g)
E/ESCAP/70/18	Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its ninth session	3(h)
E/ESCAP/70/19	Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its eighth session	3(i)

Document symbol	Document title	Agenda item
E/ESCAP/70/20	Report on the evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2012-2013	4(a)
E/ESCAP/70/21 and Add.1	Programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015	4(b)
A/69/6 (Prog. 16)	Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017, part two: biennial programme plan: economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	4(c)
E/ESCAP/70/22/Rev.1	Overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions	4(d)
E/ESCAP/70/23	Evaluation pursuant to resolution 67/4: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management	5
E/ESCAP/70/24	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	6
E/ESCAP/70/25/Rev.1	Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventy-first session of the Commission (2015)	7
E/ESCAP/70/26	Summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2014	8(b)
E/ESCAP/70/27	Regional connectivity for shared prosperity	9
E/ESCAP/70/28	Report of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum	3(d)
E/ESCAP/70/29	Programme performance report for the biennium 2012-2013	4(a)
E/ESCAP/70/30 and Corr.1	The perspectives of Asia-Pacific least developed, landlocked developing and Pacific island developing countries in the context of the development agenda beyond 2015	2(e)
E/ESCAP/70/31	Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade	3(b)
E/ESCAP/70/33	Summary of the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the Asia-Pacific Outreach Meeting on Sustainable Development Financing	8(a)
<i>Information documents</i>		
E/ESCAP/70/INF/3	Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	3(d)
E/ESCAP/70/INF/4	Report of the Mekong River Commission	3(d)
E/ESCAP/70/INF/5	Report of the Typhoon Committee	3(f)
E/ESCAP/70/INF/6	Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones	3(f)
E/ESCAP/70/INF/7	Report of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum on its tenth session	3(b)
E/ESCAP/70/INF/8	Report of the Asia-Pacific Outreach Meeting on Sustainable Development Financing	8(a)

Part II

Introduction

1. As explained in the introduction for Part I of the present report, Part II of the report covers Phase II of the Commission session from 4 to 8 August 2014.

Chapter I

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

2. At its seventieth session (Phase II), the Commission adopted 12 resolutions and 21 decisions, which appear below. The 12 resolutions are brought to the attention of the Council.

A. Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its seventieth session (Phase II)

Resolution 70/3

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 63/227 on the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, in which it was decided, inter alia, to convene at a high level in 2011, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Also recalling its resolution 64/6 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region, in which it, inter alia, requested the Executive Secretary to assist countries in the region in achieving the Goals, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island developing countries,

Further recalling its resolution 68/2 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) in the Asia-Pacific region, in which it, inter alia, requested the Executive Secretary to assist the Asia-Pacific least developed countries in implementing the Regional Road Map for Implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action in the Asian and Pacific Region from 2011 to 2020,

Expressing concern at the slow progress made by the least developed countries in closing development gaps,

Reaffirming that the Istanbul Programme of Action has as an overarching goal to overcome the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Reaffirming also that the Istanbul Programme of Action invited the United Nations General Assembly to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action,

Noting the need to further intensify the engagement of the international community in the attainment of the goals and targets agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action, including the mobilization of additional international support measures and action in favour of the least developed countries and the formation of a renewed partnership between those countries and their development partners,

Reaffirming that the ownership of and the leadership and primary responsibility for their own development lie with the least developed countries,

Noting with appreciation the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, which was held in Bangkok from 14 to 16 December 2011, and the Regional Road Map, which was adopted at that meeting and contains a set of capacity development activities and identifies the key agencies and entities that could be involved in delivering those activities,

Also noting with appreciation the kind gesture of the Government of Cambodia, which offered to host an Asia-Pacific regional high-level policy dialogue on the Istanbul Programme of Action for the least developed countries in early 2015,

1. *Urges* the countries in the region and international and regional organizations to accelerate the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Regional Road Map in particular, and to participate actively in the Asia-Pacific regional high-level policy dialogue on the Istanbul Programme of Action for the least developed countries;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To organize the Asia-Pacific regional high-level policy dialogue on the Istanbul Programme of Action for the least developed countries in early 2015;

(b) To assist the Asia-Pacific least developed countries in implementing the Regional Road Map for Implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action in the Asian and Pacific Region from 2011 to 2020;

(c) To continue to assist Asia-Pacific least developed countries in achieving other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(d) To submit to the Commission at its seventy-first session a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

*Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014*

Resolution 70/4

Promoting sustainable agricultural development in Asia and the Pacific through technology transfer

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 62/190 and 64/197 on agricultural technology for development, and 63/235 on agriculture development and food security,

Also recalling the World Summit on Food Security convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009, and stressing the vital role of international cooperation in advancing and implementing agricultural technologies,

Considering the pressing need to innovate in agriculture and food production in order to address the challenges posed by, inter alia, population growth, urbanization, depletion and scarcity of natural resources, land degradation and desertification, and climate change, and recognizing that sustainable agricultural technologies can greatly contribute to improving food security and rural livelihoods for the current and future generations, achieving conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and helping to adapt agriculture to, and mitigate the negative impact of, climate change,

Recognizing that adaptable, accessible and sustainable agricultural technologies can play an important role in helping member States to alleviate poverty and eradicate hunger, and that there is a need to intensify the efforts of the international community in

its attempt to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging the effective and practical approaches taken by some member States to address the issues of agricultural productivity and sustainability through the adoption of appropriate technologies, including agricultural mechanization, and their achievements in meeting most of the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming the support provided by the secretariat of the Commission and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in facilitating technology transfer in sustainable agricultural development through their relevant divisions, subregional offices and regional institutions,

1. *Calls upon* members and associate members:

(a) To make greater efforts to introduce, adapt, develop and disseminate appropriate and cost-effective sustainable agricultural technologies to enable poor rural women, men and youth to increase sustainable agricultural productivity and improve rural livelihoods;

(b) To include sustainable agricultural development as an integral part of their national policies and strategies and to formulate and implement national sustainable agricultural development strategies and/or plans, as appropriate;

2. *Encourages* member States, civil society and public and private institutions to develop partnerships to promote the accessibility of sustainable agricultural technologies to farmers;

3. *Invites* member States to ensure that issues pertinent to sustainable agricultural and rural development are given appropriate consideration in the elaboration of the development agenda beyond 2015;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international financial institutions, development banks and donor countries:

(a) To continue to support knowledge- and information-sharing and capacity development for member States to pursue sustainable agricultural development;

(b) To continue to assist members and associate members in undertaking North-South cooperation, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation to facilitate and expedite technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and the uptake of socially, economically and environmentally sustainable technologies;

(c) To continue to support and facilitate, for example through the substantive divisions, subregional offices and regional institutions of ESCAP, regional cooperation in the innovation, development and application of sustainable agricultural technologies, including technologies for agricultural mechanization, and the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in order to achieve intensification of sustainable food and agricultural production and to reduce rural poverty;

(d) To continue to encourage public-private partnerships and devise creative approaches, such as the organization of dialogue and advocacy activities together or in conjunction with exhibitions and fairs, for the promotion of knowledge- and information-sharing, policy dialogue, joint and collaborative research and development, technology transfer on mutually agreed upon terms, as well as business development;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014*

Resolution 70/5

Strengthening regional cooperation and capacity for enhanced trade and investment in support of sustainable development

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹ and the United Nations Millennium Declaration² as well as other relevant declarations adopted at international summits and conferences, and relevant General Assembly resolutions³ emphasizing the role and importance of trade and investment as engines for economic growth and development and the role and importance of the private sector, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, in this regard,

Recalling in particular General Assembly resolution 66/288 adopting the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,⁴ which distinguishes the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainability and their interlinkages, recognizes the regional dimension and role of the regional commissions in promoting sustainable development and acknowledges that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, including through the important tool of public-private partnerships,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration and 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 Countries⁵ adopted by the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 28 to 29 August 2003, and taking note of the Vientiane Consensus⁶ adopted by the Asian European Final Regional Review of the Almaty Programme of Action on 7 March 2013, all of which emphasize the importance of trade, trade facilitation and investment for the development of landlocked developing countries and the need for technical assistance in these areas,

Recalling also the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020⁷ adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, which recognizes the important role of partnerships with the private sector for promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment and investment, increasing revenue potential, developing new technologies and enabling high, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in least developed countries, and the key role of good governance at all levels and an enabling business environment in this respect,

Recalling further its resolution 69/3 and the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration on the United Nations Development Agenda for Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries,

¹ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

² General Assembly resolution 55/2.

³ See, for instance, General Assembly resolutions 64/192, 64/223, 65/142, 65/175, 66/185, 67/202 and 67/225.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

⁵ See *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), annexes I and II.

⁶ See E/ESCAP/69/1, annex.

⁷ See *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7) (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, which recognizes the regional dimensions of development and the need for strong and additional commitments and actions with regard to official development assistance, debt, trade and technology transfer on mutually agreed upon terms,

Recalling the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Regional Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific,⁸ held in Bangkok from 17 to 20 December 2013, which resolved to work together to pursue enhanced regional economic cooperation and integration in Asia and the Pacific, including in the area of moving towards the formation of an integrated market,

Recalling also its resolution 62/6 on managing globalization through strengthened regional cooperation in trade and investment,

Recognizing that trade and investment continue to be major driving forces for economic growth, poverty eradication, disaster risk reduction and achievement of internationally agreed development goals,

Recognizing also the need for developing countries to balance sources of economic growth to enhance resilience and, in this regard, the need for them to diversify markets and tradable products and services, with due regard to enhancing trade and investment among themselves,

Noting that businesses, including private sector businesses, are principal agents for conducting trade and investment,

Recognizing with appreciation the increased engagement of the private sector in promoting sustainable development through the ESCAP Business Advisory Council and its Sustainable Business Network,

Recognizing the need for improved market access and reducing at- and behind-the-border barriers to trade and investment and, generally, barriers encountered by businesses, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, in the overall conduct of their commercial activities, including trade and investment,

Recalling its resolution 68/3 on enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable intraregional trade facilitation,

Emphasizing that knowledge and innovation are important determinants of increased productivity and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, and that there is a need for the development of science-based knowledge and technology, particularly agricultural technology, including through the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms,

Emphasizing also the need for trade and investment to be sustainable, including the need to encourage businesses to adopt and practise internationally recognized principles of responsible business practices, including those of the United Nations Global Compact, in order for trade and investment to contribute to sustainable development,

Recognizing the need for enhanced capacity of Governments and businesses to expand trade and investment in support of sustainable development,

Recognizing also that regional cooperation is essential in enhancing trade and investment, in particular among developing countries,

⁸ See E/ESCAP/70/7.

Reaffirming the importance of a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system for enhanced trade and investment flows,

Recognizing the progress made in the multilateral trade negotiations under the Doha Round with the adoption of the Bali Ministerial Declaration and decisions by the Ninth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, on 7 December 2013,

Also recognizing the potential contribution of regional trade and investment agreements to enhanced trade and investment flows and that such agreements are important modalities for regional cooperation and can be building blocks of the multilateral trading system, without prejudice to member States' commitment to, implementation of and participation in past, present and planned international agreements and negotiations in trade and investment within the context of the World Trade Organization and the multilateral trading system,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its third session,⁹

1. *Encourages* member States:

(a) To strengthen national and regional initiatives, programmes, projects and other efforts to promote sustainable development of the Asia-Pacific region through enhanced trade and investment, and to, wherever appropriate, endeavour to strengthen regional cooperation among member States, the United Nations development system and other development partners in promoting sustainable development through enhanced trade and investment;

(b) To allocate the required financial resources for the purpose outlined in paragraph 1(a) above and the paragraph below;

2. *Designates*, without prejudice to the outcome of the ongoing reforms of the conference structure of ESCAP and within the framework of the overall terms of reference of the Committee on Trade and Investment, as contained in Commission resolution 69/1, the Committee on Trade and Investment as the appropriate body to closely monitor and guide the directions and requests contained in paragraphs 1 above and 4 below and draft regional action plans on specific trade and investment issues for implementation by national Governments and the secretariat alike, subject to a periodic review by a conference at the ministerial level;

3. *Notes* the support of the Committee on Trade and Investment¹⁰ on the establishment of a permanent bureau and its request to the secretariat to undertake a feasibility study on such a bureau and to prepare draft terms of reference of the bureau for review by member States;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To study the feasibility of convening every four years, starting in 2016, a conference at the ministerial level to review recent developments and adopt regional action plans in the area of trade and investment and other related areas¹¹ for implementation by Governments of ESCAP members and associate members and by the secretariat of ESCAP, and to submit to the Committee on Trade and Investment at its next session a report with recommendations on the convening of a ministerial-level conference;

⁹ E/ESCAP/70/9.

¹⁰ Ibid., para. 12.

¹¹ These other related areas are covered by the subprogramme on trade and investment and comprise: business and development, including responsible business practices; technology transfer; and sustainable agricultural mechanization.

(b) To expand policy-oriented and evidence-based analytical work in the area of trade and investment for sustainable development in the ESCAP region, including in order to support the normative work of ESCAP;

(c) To effectively disseminate the findings of its research and analysis through appropriate websites and publications, in particular through the annual *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report*;

(d) To continue analysis of preferential trade agreements, including through the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Agreements Database;

(e) To expand technical assistance and to encourage ESCAP regional members, and where appropriate, regional associate members, in building their human and institutional capacity, in particular in the following areas:

(i) Undertaking evidence-based policy-oriented research and analysis in the area of trade and investment, including research with a view towards identifying modalities for the consolidation of regional trade agreements as building blocks of the multilateral trading system;

(ii) Negotiating, concluding and implementing trade and investment agreements, including accession to the World Trade Organization of those countries not yet members of that organization, upon request of the member countries;

(iii) Formulating and implementing policies in support of trade, investment and business development within the context of overall national sustainable development goals;

(iv) Formulating and implementing policies in support of trade facilitation, promotion and facilitation of foreign direct investment, strengthening national capacities in science, technology and innovation; strengthening the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, with special focus on such enterprises in rural areas and those owned or managed by women or youth; and the adoption of responsible business practices by businesses in accordance with the principles of the Global Compact and other internationally recognized principles of responsible business practices;

(f) To continue the promotion of regional cooperation with a view to achieve higher levels of regional economic integration through enhanced intraregional trade, investment and technology flows for sustainable development, including through the following modalities:

(i) Expanding membership and deepening and broadening commitments within the framework of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement while studying the feasibility of strengthening the linkages of that Agreement with other regional trade agreements;

(ii) Strengthening the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade and its activities;

(iii) Strengthening the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific and its activities;

(iv) Strengthening the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, with focus on its capacity to promote the development of national and subnational innovation systems and the transfer of technology, inter alia, environmentally sustainable and renewable energy technologies on mutually agreed upon terms, including with a view to supporting the existing regional technology bank;¹²

(v) Strengthening the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, including its capacity to establish and service the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery and promote the adoption and

¹² General Assembly resolution 67/220, para. 21.

implementation at the national level of sustainable agricultural mechanization strategies;

(g) To encourage public-private partnerships and dialogue on issues related to trade and investment for sustainable development through such modalities as the Asia-Pacific Business Forum, the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum, and the ESCAP Business Advisory Council and its Sustainable Business Network;

(h) In undertaking trade and investment capacity-building assistance, to accord priority to the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States;

(i) To take all necessary measures to mobilize the funds required for the implementation of the above-mentioned requests from within existing resources, supplemented as necessary by voluntary contributions and through partnerships with entities, including from the Asian Development Bank and the private sector;

(j) To strengthen cooperation with relevant regional and global partner organizations, to the extent possible, in the implementation of the above-mentioned requests with a view to utilizing resources efficiently, achieving synergies in outputs and impacts and avoiding unnecessary duplication of work;

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

*Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014*

Resolution 70/6

Implementation of the decision of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade was held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 April 2014, in accordance with the mandates contained in Commission resolution 68/3 and in the report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its third session,

Welcoming the successful outcome of the Meeting,¹³

Noting that the work of the interim steering group on cross-border paperless trade facilitation would not duplicate but complement the work being done in relation to the implementation of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement,

1. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Meeting to establish an interim intergovernmental steering group on cross-border paperless trade facilitation;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to support and facilitate the establishment and operation of the interim intergovernmental steering group on cross-border paperless trade facilitation in accordance with the terms of reference contained in section I.B of the report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade;¹⁴

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission annually on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution until the work of the steering group has been completed.

*Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014*

¹³ E/ESCAP/70/31.

¹⁴ Ibid.

Resolution 70/7

Implementation of the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming the successful outcome of the High-level Meeting on Strengthening Inter-island Shipping and Logistics in the Pacific Island Countries, held in Suva from 23 to 25 July 2013,

Recognizing that regional connectivity plays an important role in promoting inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,

1. *Endorses* the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific, as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific;

(b) To report to the Commission at its seventy-third and seventy-fifth sessions on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014*

Annex

Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific

We, the representatives of Governments assembled at the High-level Meeting on Strengthening Inter-island Shipping and Logistics in the Pacific Island Countries, held in Suva from 23 to 25 July 2013,

Concerned that Pacific island countries and territories have high levels of economic, social and environmental vulnerability arising from a number of intrinsic characteristics, including small land area and population, long distances between islands, large exclusive economic zones, remoteness, exposure to external demand and supply shocks, high dependency on fossil fuels, narrow resource base and exposure to global environmental challenges,

Also concerned that these characteristics create a number of constraints and challenges in the provision of inter-island shipping services (domestic and international), maritime infrastructure, hydrographical services, maritime safety and security services and environmental protection from activities related to shipping,

Recalling the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States^a and its follow-up conference^b which, among other things, noted that transport and communications remain important lifelines linking small island developing States with the outside world and remain important challenges in the promotion and implementation of sustainable development nationally and in their regions,

^a *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

^b *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).

Also recalling the Forum Principles on Regional Transport Services,^c the Framework for Action on Transport Services,^d the Communiqué of the Second Regional Meeting of Ministers for Maritime Transport^e and the Communiqué of the Inaugural Joint Regional Meeting for Energy, Information and Communication Technology and Transport,^f

Recognizing the adverse impacts of infrequent, costly and unreliable international and domestic shipping services, especially to outer islands, and the constraints they place on the social and economic development of peoples on the islands,

Also recognizing the importance of maritime transport in poverty alleviation as it provides opportunities for trade and access to health services, education, employment, markets and other social and economic opportunities,

Convinced that maritime transport will play an important role in supporting the development agenda beyond 2015,^g

Recognizing the need to improve inter-island shipping services and to create an enabling environment for services for shipping, including port infrastructure, border control, maritime-related facilities, ship finance, shipbuilding, slipway and repair facilities,

Also recognizing that, in many places in the Pacific, aids to navigation are often limited or lack effective all-weather operations and that the accuracy of navigational charts is poor, which increases risk to vessels, cargo, passengers and the environment, as well as reduces vessel efficiency,^h

Further recognizing the need to improve maritime safety and security, prevent and minimize pollution from ships, and develop and implement search and rescue and marine spill response plans,

Recognizing the need to improve the sustainability of inter-island shipping in the Pacific and to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels,

1. *Agree* that maritime transport and related services in the Pacific are public policy issues of major concern that require strong political commitment and effective interventions in order to significantly improve the lives of our peoples;

^c Forum Principles on Regional Transport Services was adopted by Heads of State and Governments attending the Thirty-Fifth Pacific Islands Forum, which was held in Apia from 5 to 7 August 2004. Available from www.sids2014.org/index.php?page=view&type=13&nr=43&menu=1509.

^d The Framework for Action on Transport Services was endorsed by the inaugural Joint Regional Meeting for Energy, Information and Communication Technology and Transport, which was held in Noumea from 4 to 8 April 2011.

^e Available from www.spc.int/maritime/images/Reports/Comunique/maritime%20ministerial%20comunique%202009.pdf.

^f The inaugural Joint Regional Meeting for Energy, Information and Communication Technology and Transport was held in Noumea from 4 to 8 April 2011.

^g See the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Small Island Developing States and the Post-2015 Agenda, New York, 23-24 April 2013. Available from www.sids2014.org/index.php?page=view&type=13&nr=43&menu=1509.

^h Due to diversions to avoid hazards and daytime-only operations in favourable weather.

2. *Encourage* Pacific island countries and territories:
 - (a) To formulate or strengthen shipping programmes that:
 - (i) Develop and regularly update inventories of ships;ⁱ
 - (ii) Develop and regularly update inventories of maritime infrastructure and facilities (ports, wharves, jetties, dredged channels and navigational aids);
 - (iii) Review the adequacy of inter-island shipping services;
 - (iv) Enable the provision of ship-repair facilities;
 - (v) Explore options for ship finance;
 - (vi) Strengthen the capacity of maritime administrations to address the whole scope of maritime policies, encourage the use and adoption of safe ship management systems and enforce the implementation of safety and security regulations;
 - (vii) Strengthen the capacity of maritime training institutions in implementing the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers,^j as amended;
 - (viii) Explore possibilities of supporting shipping services of an adequate quality that, for commercial reasons, would not otherwise be provided;^k
 - (ix) Develop and regularly update plans for funding, developing, rehabilitating and maintaining maritime infrastructure which take into account risk management strategies;
 - (x) Explore various funding models, such as blended finance and public-private partnerships, for infrastructure projects, in particular to support and improve the ability of the private sector to develop, evaluate, execute and monitor projects;
 - (xi) Strengthen data and information collection, including the monitoring of the adequacy of port and shipping services, as a basis for effective planning, decision-making and benchmarking;
 - (xii) To develop regional reception facilities as a solution to enable Pacific island countries and territories to meet the obligations under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and encourage Pacific island countries, which have not done so, to consider becoming a party to the Convention;
 - (xiii) Explore opportunities to increase the sustainability of shipping and reduce reliance on fossil fuel use in the shipping sector;
 - (xiv) Monitor the adequacy of shipping services in the Pacific, particularly regional shipping arrangements;
 - (xv) Explore policy options that ensure adequate shipping services, especially to smaller island States;^l

ⁱ Framework for Action on Transport Services, Theme 3 - Transport safety and security: "In order to address the problems currently facing the Pacific domestic shipping sector, more detailed information is required on individual vessels such as type of vessel, year built, previous and current owners, engine power, length, tonnage, etc. This information will be useful in providing technical advice based on realistic analyses".

^j United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1361, No. 23001.

^k Transport Services Implementation Plan, Theme 4 - Improved Access: Activities include "Maintenance fund for promotion of sustainable subsidies" and "Examine franchise or subsidy schemes for uneconomical routes".

^l Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau and Tuvalu.

- (xvi) Promote border control agreements and cooperation among Pacific island countries and territories;
 - (xvii) Enable the provision of border control facilities and infrastructure;
 - (xviii) Develop benchmarks on port and shipping performance, and monitor and improve port performance;
 - (xix) Benchmark, monitor and improve the efficiency of trade and transport, including border control;
 - (xx) Seek to implement transport sector commitments under the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement Trade in Services Protocol and encourage trade under the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement by Parties to the Agreement;
 - (xxi) Encourage the effective implementation of measures to reduce biosecurity risks, including the risk of invasive marine pests, and encourage Pacific island countries that have not yet done so to consider becoming a party to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments;
 - (xxii) Review and harmonize selected maritime legislation, as necessary, using the Pacific Islands Maritime Laws as a guideline;
- (b) To formulate or strengthen programmes that:
- (i) Incorporate risk assessments of safety of navigation;
 - (ii) Ensure the adequacy and reliability of navigational aids, including, when appropriate, the establishment of community lighthouse committees to monitor lights, provide security and conduct basic maintenance;
 - (iii) Improve the accuracy and coverage of navigational charts (in cooperation with the International Hydrographic Organization, the South-West Pacific Hydrographic Commission and other regional organizations and countries);
 - (iv) Support the development of effective search and rescue capabilities in the subregion;
 - (v) Support the development of capabilities to respond to oil and chemical spills;
 - (vi) Support improved planning to respond to climate change and enable effective disaster risk management;
- (c) Evaluate the need to create national facilitation committees with a view to improving coordination between the administrations that have responsibilities for clearance of ships, cargoes and passengers in ports;
- (d) Support research and development on renewable sources of energy, such as solar and wind, as well as their deployment, to foster sustainable maritime transport;
3. *Also encourage* Pacific island countries which have not already done so to consider acceding to the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic;
4. *Request* international and regional organizations, specialized agencies and institutions, as well as development partners, to support, in a coordinated manner, the implementation of the present Declaration.

Resolution 70/8

Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport as a Key to Sustainable Development and Regional Integration

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming the successful outcome of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport, held in Bangkok from 4 to 8 November 2013,¹⁵

1. *Endorses* the Ministerial Declaration on Transport as a Key to Sustainable Development and Regional Integration,¹⁶ as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist members and associate members in the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration, in collaboration with other United Nations and specialized multilateral agencies, relevant subregional organizations, international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors and the private sector;

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

*Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014*

Annex

Ministerial Declaration on Transport as a Key to Sustainable Development and Regional Integration

We, the Ministers of Transport and representatives of the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific attending the second session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport, held in Bangkok from 4 to 8 November 2013,

Recognizing the important role of safe, efficient, clean, reliable and affordable transport systems in supporting sustainable economic growth, improving social welfare of people and enhancing regional integration in Asia and the Pacific,

Reaffirming our commitment to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016) and the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport,^a

Recalling the outcome document, entitled “The future we want”,^b of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, in which the Conference noted that transport and mobility are central to sustainable development,

Convinced of the importance of efficient movement of people and goods, and access to environmentally sound, safe and affordable transportation as a means to improve social equity, health, the resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and the productivity of rural areas,

¹⁵ See E/ESCAP/70/12.

¹⁶ Ibid., chap. I.

^a See E/ESCAP/68/9, chap. I.

^b General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Emphasizing the importance of addressing physical and non-physical barriers to using and developing the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks in respective member countries,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 64/255 of 2 March 2010 on improving global road safety, in which the Assembly proclaimed the period 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety, and resolution 66/260 of 19 April 2012 on improving road safety, in which it encouraged Member States that had not yet done so to develop national plans in line with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020,

Welcoming the adoption of the Joint Statement on Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific at the Expert Group Meeting on Progress in Road Safety Improvement in Asia and the Pacific, held in Seoul from 8 to 10 May 2013, which recognized the importance of road safety as a sustainable development issue,^c

Recalling Commission resolution 68/10 of 23 May 2012 on enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific, in which the Commission emphasized that regional economic integration could play a critical role in driving the Asian and Pacific region's march to an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future,

Stressing that the special development needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States need to be taken into account while establishing sustainable transport systems,

Recalling Commission resolution 69/6 of 1 May 2013 on the implementation of the Tehran Declaration to promote public-private partnerships in infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development, in which the Commission welcomed the Tehran Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific as the successful outcome of the Third Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development,

Welcoming the adoption of the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific at the High-level Meeting on Strengthening Inter-island Shipping and Logistics in the Pacific Countries, held in Suva from 23 to 25 July 2013,^d

Encouraged by the successful regional cooperation that led to the formalization of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports,^e which will facilitate the development of more sustainable and inclusive transport systems by integrating modes of transport, facilitating border-crossing and transit transport, promoting the use of energy-efficient and lower-emission means of transport and creating new development opportunities in inland areas,

1. *Resolve* to develop and implement transport policies and strategies at the national and regional levels that will support sustainable development and regional integration by:

(a) Promoting an integrated approach to transport planning and policymaking, taking into account economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development;

(b) Strengthening regional cooperation to develop and operationalize regional and interregional transport infrastructure;

(c) Enhancing transport access to inland rural and remote areas, particularly those in landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(d) Continuing to place road safety high on the sustainable development agenda;

^c See E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/5, annex.

^d See E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/6.

^e Commission resolution 69/7, annex.

2. *Invite* member States to take into account sustainable transport in the discussion of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

3. *Encourage* member States that have not yet done so to consider signing the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports^e and thereafter accede to, ratify, accept or approve the Agreement with a view to ensuring its early entry into force;

4. *Request* the Executive Secretary to continue to accord priority to the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016),^f especially to assist regional members and associate members in their efforts:

(a) To develop and operationalize the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks and dry ports of international importance;

(b) To take measures to facilitate cross-border and transit transport along regional and interregional transport networks;

(c) To strengthen inter-island shipping in archipelagic and island countries through the implementation of the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific;^d

(d) To develop and implement sustainable transport policies and strategies, in particular to promote energy efficient multi-modal transport, to develop integrated urban public transport systems, including promotion of non-motorized mobility, and to improve transport access to rural and remote areas;

(e) To continue to improve road safety, including through the implementation of the Joint Statement on Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific,^e in which the needs of vulnerable road users were highlighted in particular;

5. *Also request* the Executive Secretary to continue:

(a) To ensure effective coordination with other United Nations and specialized multilateral agencies as well as relevant subregional organizations;

(b) To collaborate with international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors, the private sector, and international organizations to mobilize financial and technical support for sustainable and inclusive transport development in Asia and the Pacific.

Resolution 70/9

Implementation of the outcomes of the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/215, in which it was decided to declare the decade 2014-2024 as the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All,

Also recalling Commission resolution 67/2 on promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming the successful outcomes of the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum,¹⁷ which was hosted by the Government of the Russian Federation in Vladivostok from 27 to 30 May 2013,

Noting with satisfaction the high-level participation of member States in the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum and the contribution of key stakeholders and regional and subregional organizations to the preparatory process for the Forum,

^f Commission resolution 68/4, appendix I.

¹⁷ See E/ESCAP/70/28.

Noting with appreciation the offer from the Government of Tonga to host the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum,

1. *Endorses* the outcomes of the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, namely the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific: Shaping the Future of Sustainable Energy in Asia and the Pacific, and the Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific, 2014-2018, as contained in the annexes to the present resolution;

2. *Invites* members to make every effort, including through provision of means of implementation, for the follow-up and implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the regional Plan of Action;

3. *Decides* to convene the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum at the ministerial level in 2018;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Plan of Action;

(b) To undertake a periodic review of the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action based on information provided on a voluntary basis by members and associate members, as well as by collaborating international organizations;

(c) To begin the necessary preparatory work for the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, in a timely manner, including consultations with the Government of Tonga regarding the hosting of the meeting;

(d) To report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on the progress in implementation of the present resolution.

*Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014*

Annex I

Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific: Shaping the Future of Sustainable Energy in Asia and the Pacific

We, the ministers of energy and heads of delegations of the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific attending the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, from 27 to 30 May 2013,

Reaffirming the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development^a and of Agenda 21,^b and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),^c

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 65/151 on the International Year for Sustainable Energy for All, 66/206 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of

^a *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

^b *Ibid.*, annex II.

^c *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.

energy, and 67/215, in which the Assembly decided to declare the decade 2014-2024 as the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All,

Also recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,^d in particular paragraphs 125 to 129, which concern energy,

Further recalling Commission 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, 64/3 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, 67/2 on promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific, and 68/11 on connectivity for energy security,

Recalling that the Commission, in its resolution 67/2, requested the Executive Secretary 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,

Recognizing the contributions and recommendations of the subregional preparatory meetings for the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum convened in 2012 in all the subregions,^e

Expressing our gratitude to the Russian Federation, the host country, for its active support of the preparatory process,

Expressing our appreciation to the United Nations bodies and agencies and the other regional and international organizations that contributed to the preparatory process and are present during the Forum,

1. *Recognize* that energy security is a key development issue and poses serious challenges to all countries in the Asia-Pacific region particularly to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;
2. *Also recognize* that the activities of countries in broader energy-related matters are prioritized according to their specific national challenges, capacities and circumstances, including their energy mix;
3. *Further recognize* the priority needs of developing countries for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty;
4. *Note with concern* that 1.7 billion people in the Asia-Pacific region rely mainly on traditional biomass for cooking and heating, that about 700 million people in the region are without electricity and that, even when energy services are available, millions of poor people are unable to afford them;
5. *Recognize* that, although the Asia-Pacific region combines both the largest producers and consumers of energy and the importance of intraregional trade is constantly growing, the potential for full-fledged energy cooperation is far from being adequately exploited;
6. *Also recognize* that energy demand in the Asia-Pacific region is rising more rapidly than in other regions and is projected to almost double by the year 2030

^d General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

^e See E/ESCAP/APEF/1, para.11.

and that fossil fuels remain the main source of energy for meeting that demand, and that an inevitable increase in production and use of energy in the region will enhance the role of the region in the world economy and the global energy sector;

7. *Note* that rapid population growth and high rates of urbanization in the region and consequent changes in energy consumption patterns are driving the increase in energy demand in all countries in the region;

8. *Resolve*, therefore, to enhance regional and subregional cooperation and coordination, to have a greater regional voice in energy-related international forums and participate actively in regional and global decision-making processes aimed at addressing the global challenges facing our region in particular and mankind in general;

9. *Acknowledge* the crucial importance of energy as a prerequisite to poverty eradication, ensuring sustained economic growth, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

10. *Recognize* that the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 will not be advanced and sustainable development goals will not be achieved without affordable, accessible and sustainable energy services;

11. *Also recognize*, in this regard, the interdependence between energy and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, and call on all relevant stakeholders to participate actively in the post-2015 thematic consultations on energy initiated by the United Nations;

12. *Resolve* to make every effort to improve the transparency, predictability and stability of energy markets in Asia and the Pacific, particularly in the light of global financial challenges, political and economic instability in many parts of the world and growing environmental concerns;

13. *Also resolve* to work towards enhancing and balancing the share of cleaner fossil fuels, such as natural gas, in the energy mix, to develop new and renewable energy sources, to ensure the safe and secure use of nuclear energy in interested economies and to boost end-use energy efficiency, steps which will serve to enhance our energy security, contribute to our economic development and reduce negative environmental impacts;

14. *Further resolve* to increase the share of natural gas in the energy mix to reduce the burden on the environment by working together on the conversion of natural gas to power (so-called "gas-to-power") and on extending the interconnection of the existing power grids in the region in order to boost trade in electricity, eradicate poverty, increase access to electricity and facilitate the development of the developing economies of the region;

15. *Support* the establishment of regional and subregional energy or electricity bourses and markets to make the energy or electricity cost reasonable for all producers and consumers;

16. *Realize* that the consumption of coal and oil in Asia and the Pacific continues to rise, reflecting the growing demand in rapidly growing economies in the region and, in this regard, stress the importance of developing and disseminating low-emission and cleaner coal and oil technologies;

17. *Note with appreciation* the meaningful progress in improving energy efficiency in the Asia-Pacific region during the last decade, a welcome development given the fact that energy remains the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, which tend to increase with the region's continued economic growth;

18. *Resolve* to make every effort to participate actively in global, regional and subregional efforts aimed at improving energy efficiency in order to maintain the positive trend;

19. *Recognize* the need to increase the share of new and renewable sources of energy in the regional energy mix as an important contribution to meeting the challenges presented by growing energy demand and to achieving universal access to sustainable modern energy services;

20. *Resolve* to promote the use of new and renewable sources of energy in the region, including hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal, biofuels and ocean waves;

21. *Recognize* that sustainable development requires: (a) poverty eradication; (b) the promotion of sustainable patterns of energy consumption and production; and (c) the changing of unsustainable practices;

22. *Encourage*, in this regard, the enhancement of the role of ESCAP and its subregional offices, within their established mandates to support members and associate members, in addressing energy issues in the context of sustainable development and the enhancement of access to the appropriate and advanced technologies, in particular for the most vulnerable countries;

23. *Note* the launching of the initiative of the Secretary-General, “Sustainable Energy for All”, which focuses on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energies, as well as the decision of the General Assembly to declare the decade 2014-2024 the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All;^f

24. *Acknowledge* the pivotal role of Governments and national, regional and international policies in promoting enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy, improving energy efficiency and providing wider access to modern energy services in Asia and the Pacific;

25. *Emphasize* the critical role of the private sector in implementing projects, including those within public-private partnerships, in the areas of sustainable use of energy, energy efficiency, renewable energy and access to modern energy services;

26. *Underscore* the significant role of international financial institutions, in particular the Asian Development Bank, the Eurasian Development Bank, the Global Environment Facility, the Islamic Development Bank, the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and the World Bank as well as international organizations and donor countries, in achieving progress towards the sustainable use of energy, energy efficiency, renewable energy and wider access to modern energy services;

27. *Acknowledge* that enhanced energy trade is a powerful catalyst for strengthening intraregional cooperation in energy security and sustainable use of energy among all stakeholders, including energy-producing, -transit and -consuming countries;

28. *Attach* great importance to the establishment of a conducive environment for investment in production, transit and delivery infrastructure, and to trade facilitation policies, in both primary energy resources and electricity;

29. *Recognize* the large potential and need for energy connectivity and energy markets in the region through cross-border infrastructure and energy trade, including oil and gas pipelines and electricity grids as well as hydropower infrastructure, and highlight this as a crucial area for regional and subregional cooperation to ensure reliable, efficient and safe transportation of energy resources, thus contributing to increased energy security;

^f See General Assembly resolution 67/215.

30. *Express* our deep concern over extraregional influences and barriers which hamper the collective efforts of the countries of Asia and the Pacific to enhance energy access and energy security in the region, and emphasize the need to promote the connectivity of physical infrastructure for cross-border energy trade, which could ensure reliable, efficient and safe transportation of energy resources, thus contributing to increased energy security;

31. *Underline* the importance of ensuring an appropriate energy mix in Asia and the Pacific through such measures as the increased use of renewable energy and efficient consumption of fossil fuels and the use of cleaner fossil fuel technologies, among others, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating negative environmental impacts;

32. *Acknowledge* the significance of further improving the investment climate in Asia and the Pacific, which may be accomplished through, among other things, the development of public and private financial mechanisms to stimulate the implementation of projects related to cross-border energy infrastructure, energy efficiency, renewable energy and wider access to modern energy services;

33. *Stress* that meeting future energy demand in Asia and the Pacific requires adequate investment resources in both producing and consuming countries with the recognition that: (a) investments should also be aimed at making energy services more affordable and accessible to the poor; and (b) the availability of capital is a necessary but insufficient condition to deliver access to modern energy services;

34. *Also stress* that an enabling environment and appropriate investment mechanisms are crucial to delivering adequate financing;

35. *Highly appreciate* the efforts to enhance regional energy cooperation through such regional and subregional organizations as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and invite these organizations, in the light of the profound and complex energy security challenges prevailing in Asia and the Pacific, to come together and work collectively to meet these challenges in order to promote sustainable development and economic prosperity for all countries in the region;

36. *Recognize* the need to enhance energy security, within the context of sustainable development, by widening access to energy services, which could play a critical role in supporting the development process in developing countries of the region, particularly the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

37. *Also recognize* that least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States often lack the capacity to develop baselines from which to formulate effective energy policies and to monitor the implementation of those policies;

38. *Attach* great importance to technological cooperation capable of creating an enormous synergistic effect in the region, and proclaim our commitment to engage in active technological cooperation in the areas of production, transportation, processing and consumption of energy, including the promotion of advanced technologies related to fossil fuel exploration, production, transportation, renewable energy exploitation and enhancement of energy efficiency;

39. *Welcome* the St. Petersburg Declaration — Energy Security: Challenges and Strategic Choices,^g adopted at the 2012 APEC Energy Ministerial Meeting, and, in this regard, note with appreciation the decision by APEC Leaders at the Vladivostok Summit, held in September 2012, to develop an action plan in order to achieve the aspirational goal of reducing aggregate energy intensity by 45 per cent by 2035 while noting that the rates of improvement of individual economies may differ due to varying domestic circumstances;^h

40. *Also welcome* the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the 22nd World Energy Congress, to be organized by the World Energy Council and held in Daegu, Republic of Korea, from 13 to 17 October 2013, which will provide a platform for all stakeholders in the energy sector to meet and exchange views on regional and global energy issues;

41. *Recognize* the crucial importance of regional and international cooperation in promoting enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in order to create conditions in which the energy sectors of Asia-Pacific economies can make the fullest possible contribution to sustainable development and to the well-being of their people and of the environment;

42. *Intend* to strengthen regional and international cooperation on enhanced energy security and sustainable use of energy, taking into account the diversity of economic, social and environmental conditions in our countries and, in this regard, adopt the Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific, 2014-2018, which will be subject to periodic review, as decided by the members of the Commission;

43. *Commit* to cooperate proactively on energy security challenges in the main areas elaborated in the Plan of Action;

44. *Request* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To further raise the profile of energy and mainstream it in the programmatic activities of the secretariat;

(b) To accord priority to mobilizing financial resources from all sources for the implementation of the present Declaration and the Plan of Action;

(c) To facilitate the dissemination of information, the exchange of best practices and the development and implementation of all energy-related initiatives and projects aimed at enhancing energy access and energy security, diversifying energy sources and promoting the sustainable use of energy in the region;

(d) To work closely with UN-Energy, the other regional commissions and other relevant international and multilateral organizations in implementing the present Declaration and Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation, and to continue to promote cooperation and partnerships in a synergistic manner with the various intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as private-sector and subregional organizations, funds and programmes that are playing an increasingly important role in enhancing energy security;

(e) To promote networking and information-sharing among national and subregional organizations in order to implement the present Declaration and the Plan of Action;

(f) To advance and periodically review, in close consultation with members and associate members, the progress made in the implementation of the present

^g www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Energy/2012_energy.aspx.

^h See the 2012 Vladivostok Declaration – Integrate to Grow, Innovate to Prosper, Annex B – Strengthening APEC Energy Security (available at www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Leaders-Declarations/2012/2012_aelm/2012_aelm_annexB.aspx).

Declaration and the Plan of Action and to report thereon to the Commission on a regular basis;

(g) To convene the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum at the ministerial level not later than 2018.

Annex II

Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific, 2014-2018

I. Introduction

The Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, from 27 to 30 May 2013, adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific. The present plan of action is guided by General Assembly resolution 67/215 on promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, in which the Assembly declared 2014-2024 as the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, and the principles contained in the Ministerial Declaration. The plan of action presents the regional vision for cooperation on enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy, and contains initiatives that address the more specific needs of the diverse Asia-Pacific region and its subregions.

A. Objectives of the plan of action

The main objectives of the plan of action are: (a) to support the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration; (b) to enable States members of ESCAP to address energy security challenges at the regional, subregional, national and household levels through regional cooperation; and (c) to facilitate continuous dialogue and cooperation among member States with a view to enhancing energy security and working towards the realization of sustainable development.

The plan of action does not constitute a mandatory action framework; rather, it provides a list of voluntary actions that member States may carry out through regional cooperation to formulate and implement coherent energy policies based on individual national circumstances and development aspirations.

B. Vision

An Asia and the Pacific where:

- Sustainable energy for all is a reality
- Enhanced energy security is present from regional to household levels
- An energy future of equity, diversification and access to all is secured
- The share of cleaner energies in the overall energy mix is increased

II. Areas for action

A. Establishment of a platform for facilitating continuous dialogue and cooperation among ESCAP member States on enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy

1. Mainstreaming enhanced energy security strategies and actions into national development plans.
2. Increasing coherence and availability of energy statistics, and policy-related information on energy security to enable analysis and identify focus areas for continuous dialogue and cooperation and possible joint actions of mutual benefit.

3. Promoting existing regional, subregional and national initiatives that align with the objectives of Sustainable Energy for All, as well as initiatives that arise from individual and joint efforts taken by member States on enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy.
4. Facilitating regional dialogue on energy in order to enhance cooperation among energy-producing, -transit and energy-consuming countries.
5. Encouraging bilateral and multilateral arrangements towards enhanced energy security.

B. Work towards universal access to modern energy services

1. Developing regional programmes to accelerate the expansion of access to modern energy services through innovative policies and financing schemes, with the participation of various stakeholders.
2. Improving access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound modern energy services, particularly for the populations of energy-poor developing countries, by enhancing bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms.
3. Establishing and replicating more innovative financing schemes at the micro- and macro-levels for improving access to modern energy services.
4. Accelerating the provision of electricity for lighting, communication and modern appliances and for productive use.
5. Promoting micro-, mini- and off-grid energy options, where appropriate, in particular for rural areas.

C. Advance the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy

1. Mainstreaming strategies and actions on deployment and dissemination of new and renewable energy into national energy development plans.
2. Sharing experiences and practices in establishing renewable energy targets and action plans established on a voluntary basis.
3. Strengthening policy framework to promote renewable energy technologies, including small hydro, solar, wind, geothermal, ocean energies and various forms of bio-energy, which are ideally suited to mini-grid and off-grid applications, especially in remote and dispersed rural areas.
4. Enhancing the enabling environment for the promotion and development of large-scale renewable technologies, including onshore and off-shore wind, photovoltaic, solar thermal, concentrating solar power, geothermal, hydro and biomass.
5. Promoting policies and business models to support renewable energy research and innovation, feed-in tariffs, renewable portfolio standards (RPS) and public auctions needed to reduce the cost of renewable energy technologies.
6. Promoting the sustainable use of biomass and other renewable energies through the improvement of current patterns of use, such as management of resources, more efficient use of fuel wood and new or improved products and technologies.

D. Improve energy efficiency and conservation and observe sustainability in the supply, distribution and consumption of energy

1. Mainstreaming energy efficiency strategies and actions into national energy development plans.
2. Strengthening energy efficiency targets and action plans.
3. Promoting cleaner and efficient use of fossil fuels in power generation, distribution and final consumption.
4. Increasing energy efficiency in mechanical systems, appliances and lighting.
5. Reducing energy intensity in the economic sectors, such as industry, agriculture, transport and buildings.
6. Promoting harmonized energy efficiency and conservation policies and regulations, codes and standards.
7. Launching public awareness campaigns that address the wide range of issues related to sustainable use of energy, energy efficiency and promotion of sustainable patterns of production and consumption and encouraging energy conservation.
8. Developing innovative mechanisms to provide access to finance, investment and services for energy efficiency, such as energy service companies (ESCOs).

E. Diversify the energy mix and enhance energy security

1. Promoting the diversification of economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy resources with due respect to the management of energy demand.
2. Facilitating the development of indigenous energy resources in order to contribute to poverty reduction and long-term energy sustainability in developing countries.
3. Increasing the share of cleaner energies.

F. Improve energy trade and investment opportunities to optimize the development and utilization of current and emerging energy resources

1. Improving the sustainability, efficiency, predictability and transparency of energy markets.
2. Promoting integrated energy markets in subregions as well as in the region.
3. Promoting transparent, equitable, stable and effective legal and regulatory frameworks to encourage international upstream and downstream investments.
4. Increasing efforts towards mobilizing financial resources, including through public-private partnerships, foreign direct investment and multilateral financial institutions, for implementation of joint energy infrastructure projects, and creating more favourable business environments with new or renewed policies, regulations and energy plans to incentivize commercial investments and develop markets (for example, tariff reforms and regulatory frameworks to promote transparency and efficiency).
5. Encouraging investment in developing and implementing projects for transportation of energy resources in the subregions, including for power grids and oil and gas pipelines.

6. Increasing efforts towards enhanced market mechanisms for trade in oil and oil products.

7. Enhancing energy emergency preparedness, including coordinated management of strategic energy stockpiles and actions in case of emergency situations that involve energy infrastructure.

G. Improve fiscal policy and financing mechanisms to incentivize and strengthen markets for sustainable energy

1. Creating stable policy environments, sound institutional frameworks and governance, and policies that support private investment in sustainable energy resources and technologies.

2. Promoting instruments to reduce risk and increase private investment in sustainable energy through the targeted use of public and philanthropic capital.

H. Improve energy statistics and facilitate data and information sharing

1. Improving the availability, reliability and comparability of statistical data, including baseline, and policy information on production and consumption of energy resources in order to facilitate evidence-based decision-making and policy development that is more compatible with sustainable development.

2. Supporting adequate resources allocation in order to maintain, develop and harmonize statistics services at the subregional and regional levels, considering it as productive investment rather than additional expenses.

3. Assessing and quantifying the socioeconomic benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy potential, including evaluation and reporting, at the regional and national levels.

4. Establishing the regular exchange of information and data on the formulation and implementation of legal and regulatory frameworks in the energy sector.

5. Strengthening collaboration for, among other things, information exchange and co-financing experiments, research and development and demonstration programmes.

6. Developing and maintaining open and free information sources on energy data, policies and best practices, when appropriate.

I. Minimize the environmental impact of the energy sector

1. Promoting the development and use of environmentally friendly energy resources as well as the deployment and transfer of clean energy technologies.

2. Promoting research and development in the area of “end-of-pipe” pollution abatement technologies, such as carbon capture and storage.

3. Accelerating efforts for the utilization of innovative technologies that advance more efficient use of fossil fuel and considering the perspectives and interests of all stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society organizations and vulnerable populations, in the development and implementation of energy sector policies.

4. Supporting the transition to the cleaner use of liquid and gaseous fossil fuels, when considered more environmentally sound, socially acceptable and cost-effective.

J. Promote more efficient and cleaner use of oil

1. Promoting the efficient and clean use of petroleum through advanced and appropriate technologies.
2. Expanding regional and international cooperation to reduce and cut gas flaring in oil facilities, such as refineries and petrochemical industries, in order to reduce pollution, combat climate change and increase efficiency.
3. Promoting clean oil technology transfer to foster technology diffusion.
4. Stimulating the use of advanced technologies for increasing oil recovery, which would enable member States to maximize the resource potential.
5. Widening cooperation at the regional level on creating economic conditions for commercial production of “difficult” oil by utilizing advanced technologies, modernizing oil refining capacities and ensuring investment in oil and gas infrastructure.

K. Promote the efficient and clean use of coal

1. Promoting the efficient and clean use of coal through advanced technologies for coal combustion, such as supercritical coal plants, more efficient industrial boilers, fluidized bed combustion, coal liquefaction technology and coal gasification.
2. Promoting clean coal technology transfer to foster technology diffusion.

L. Promote expanded production, trade and use of natural gas as a low-emission fuel

1. Increasing the share of natural gas, which is one of the least carbon-emitting fossil fuels in the energy mix, including for gas-to-power projects, in order to facilitate the transition to a lower carbon economy.
2. Developing a regional market for compressed and liquefied natural gas, where appropriate.
3. Promoting steady investment in natural gas infrastructure, including compression and liquefaction facilities.
4. Exploring the possibilities for exploiting unconventional natural gas resources, such as shale gas, while evaluating their trade potential and their environmental impacts.
5. Developing technologies and market conditions for the increased and more efficient use of gas for transportation.

M. Promote the development of advanced energy technologies

1. Developing regional and national technology road maps that facilitate regional cooperation and address opportunities and barriers related to emerging energy technologies, including renewable energy and energy efficiency applications in end-use sectors.
2. Transferring advanced and cleaner energy technologies on preferential and concessional terms, as mutually agreed, particularly to developing countries.
3. Encouraging research and development through international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, focusing on appropriate energy technologies and promoting joint demonstration projects in key areas.

4. Promoting public and private investment in research and development regarding environmentally sound and energy-efficient technologies.

5. Promoting cooperation on innovative development of the energy sectors in the region.

N. Develop common infrastructure and harmonized energy policies with a view to increasing regional economic integration

1. Implementing transparent transmission and distribution costing mechanisms that drive energy efficiency and offer equal opportunities to connect energy sources to the grid.

2. Promoting initiatives for regional energy connectivity, including those focused on cross-border energy infrastructure development, such as oil and gas pipelines and electricity grids, including hydropower infrastructure, through the identification of possible options for an integrated regional power network, which could contribute to the development of an “Asian energy highway”.

3. Extending cross-border power grids and increasing the efficiency of energy generation, transmission and distribution. Coordinating grid-connected infrastructure strategies.

4. Facilitating international energy trade and developing regional and subregional power markets.

5. Developing common and transparent standards for independent power producers and power purchase agreements, while respecting national rules and procedures.

O. Promote capacity-building, education and knowledge-sharing in the field of energy

1. Organizing meetings and regional networking events and ensuring the participation of key stakeholders and representatives of relevant agencies of ESCAP member States in order to coordinate joint efforts and exchange information on current and planned energy policies and to promote institutional linkages.

2. Issuing periodic joint reports on the progress made by ESCAP member States as well as best practices in overcoming energy poverty, enhancing energy security and advancing the sustainable use of energy.

3. Exchanging best practices in the areas of sustainable energy management, energy efficiency and conservation by fostering networks of experts from the public and private sectors.

4. Conducting research and analysis to support the development of objectives and actions, including those mentioned in the present Plan of Action.

5. Promoting education and training activities in order to improve the capacity of developing countries to address energy security challenges and improve resilience.

III. Areas of action for subregions

A. East and North-East Asia

1. Strengthening cooperation through networking, including by organizing events, meetings and other appropriate joint activities with the participation of energy experts to facilitate the exchange of information and views on national, subregional, regional and global issues related to energy security and to provide for intellectual support in this regard.

2. Committing to cooperate in order to fully exploit the potential of intra-subregional energy trade given the fact that the subregion comprises both large energy producers and consumers.
3. Working on establishing continuous dialogue on developing relevant bilateral and multilateral mechanisms to enhance energy trade and investment in the subregion.
4. Promoting initiatives for and encouraging investment in subregional energy connectivity, including those focused on cross-border infrastructure development, and considering possible ways to develop a subregional power network and supply system to strengthen subregional cooperation and interdependence.

B. North and Central Asia

1. Working together to create joint information resources and knowledge sharing systems on legal and regulatory frameworks, public participation, financial mechanisms, public-private partnerships and successful projects aimed at promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy development in the subregion.
2. Strengthening existing cooperation mechanisms on energy among member States in North and Central Asia in order to better coordinate national energy policies and realize the full potential of subregional cooperation in the area of energy security and sustainable use of energy for the benefit of all participating member States, and, in this context, inviting the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and other relevant United Nations bodies, other international organizations and financial institutions to increase their capacity-building efforts with regard to regional, subregional and cross-regional initiatives, such as the Green Bridge Partnership Programme and the International Forum: Energy for Sustainable Development.
3. Encouraging the development and implementation of joint hydropower projects for electricity generation to facilitate grid connectivity and trade in energy.
4. Strengthening subregional and inter-subregional cooperation towards developing harmonized cross-border energy infrastructure, for example within the Electric Power Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the CASA1000 project, and supporting the continuation of bilateral and regional consultations on this matter.

C. The Pacific

1. Establishing a framework for acquiring energy data and information, such as national energy plans, road maps, key baseline data, statistics and project documents, at the Pacific subregional and national levels in order to bridge the knowledge gap and apply lessons learned with a view to improving coordination and implementation among all partners and better measuring achievement through appropriate monitoring and evaluation.
2. Undertaking capacity-building and training to improve the accessibility, affordability and sustainability of energy used for transport and electricity, drawing on lessons learned regarding improved pricing, energy efficiency and renewable resources.
3. Promoting the integration of national energy markets to help connect communities, to build economies of scale, to leverage finance and to strengthen the sharing of technology and capacity in Pacific island countries and territories.

D. South and South-West Asia

1. Accelerating the development of subregional connectivity infrastructure, such as gas pipelines and power interconnections, and facilitating the establishment of an

integrated subregional market to expand energy trade with a view to enhancing energy security at the subregional, national and household levels.

2. Promoting renewable energy for decentralized applications and grid-connected electricity generation.
3. Improving energy policies to enhance energy efficiency and conservation.
4. Encouraging the development and implementation of power projects, including gas-to-power and hydropower projects, to facilitate power interconnections and energy-related trade in the subregion.
5. Strengthening subregional multi-stakeholder institutional frameworks to accelerate the expansion of access to modern energy services, with due attention to affordability for the poor through a combination of innovative policies, business models and financing schemes as well as effective knowledge management.
6. Strengthening subregional financing mechanisms to support the implementation of the present Plan of Action.
7. Expanding cooperation among the countries of the subregion to facilitate the transfer of energy-related technologies and expertise, especially environmentally sound and energy-efficient technologies, sharing of information and experiences, enhancement of capacity building, joint ventures for research and development and diffusion of such technologies.
8. Expanding cooperation and synergy among the relevant subregional organizations and mechanisms including the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), to implement their energy-related decisions in order to enhance subregional energy security.

E. South-East Asia

1. Promoting energy trade and connectivity:
 - (a) Accelerating subregional connectivity, such as pipelines, cross-border power grids and access to land- or sea-based tankers, in order to promote energy exchange and the economical utilization of energy resources;
 - (b) Promoting harmonization of rules and regulations and technical standardization within the energy sector;
2. Improving energy efficiency and conservation:
 - (a) Exploring various economic instruments that encourage the development of a market for energy efficiency and conservation technology;
 - (b) Identifying major areas of wasteful energy consumption and offering best-practice guidelines for improving efficiency through education, awareness and application;
 - (c) Promoting energy-efficient technologies and appliances through the implementation and harmonization of energy efficiency standards and labelling programmes;
 - (d) Promoting energy management best practices;
 - (e) Promoting efficient power generation, transmission and distribution;

3. Promoting clean, new and renewable energy, as well as environmentally friendly technology:
 - (a) Increasing the share of clean energy within the energy mix of South-East Asia in order to benefit from the subregion's vast renewable energy potential;
 - (b) Utilizing regional experience to initiate partnership programmes for new and renewable energy research, development and implementation;
4. Promoting sustainable energy policies:
 - (a) Strengthening energy policies to improve efficiency and conservation in the use of energy resources with a view to enhancing energy sustainability;
 - (b) Rationalizing energy pricing mechanisms so that energy pricing becomes cost-reflective;
5. Capacity-building and networking:
 - (a) Implementing capacity-building programmes across the subregion;
 - (b) Strengthening cooperation through networking among energy experts and organizations;
 - (c) Facilitating exchange of information and views on subregional issues.

IV. Review and assessment mechanism

ESCAP will undertake a periodic review of the progress made in the implementation of the plan of action based on information provided by members and associate members on a voluntary basis, as well as by collaborating international organizations. The review report will be submitted to the second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, to be held not later than 2018.

Resolution 70/10

Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific region on the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 69/4, in which all members and associate members welcomed the proposal of the Government of Thailand to hold, in collaboration with the ESCAP secretariat, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015, which was held in Bangkok from 26 to 28 August 2013,

Noting the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",¹⁸ in particular the decisions related to the importance of the regional dimensions of sustainable development,

Taking note of the inaugural session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development,¹⁹ held in Pattaya, Thailand, from 19 to 21 May 2014, during which participants discussed Asia-Pacific perspectives on sustainable development, including regional priorities and challenges,

1. *Recognizes* the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific region on the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015 at the Asia-Pacific

¹⁸ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

¹⁹ E/ESCAP/70/33.

Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015, as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to promote balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

(b) To support the work of member States, upon request, on all dimensions of sustainable development, including through greater exchange of information, knowledge and experience, best practices and lessons learned.

*Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014*

Annex

Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific region on the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015*

We, the ministers and the high-level representatives of the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, participating in the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015, convened in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, from 26 to 28 August 2013,

Recalling Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 69/4, in which all members and associate members welcomed the proposal of the Government of Thailand to hold, in collaboration with the ESCAP secretariat, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015,

Recalling also the outcome document of the high level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs in 2010, entitled “*Keeping the Promise: United to Achieve the MDGs*”,

Welcoming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, entitled “*The Future We Want*”^a, and the high level political commitment of the member States in that document to sustainable development and the reaffirmation of the Rio Principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities,

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, called for, *inter alia*, the development of sustainable development goals (SDGs), which should be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015,^b

Acknowledging the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development,^c

Taking note of the High Level Political Forum at the United Nations on sustainable development, in accordance with the modalities spelled out in the UN General Assembly resolution 67/290,

Recognizing that more than sixty percent of the world’s population live in the Asia and the Pacific region,

* This Declaration is reproduced as submitted, without formal editing.

^a General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

^b General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, paragraphs. 245 – 251.

^c Ibid., paragraph. 97.

Deeply concerned about the number of people living in extreme poverty and with hunger in Asia and the Pacific,^d

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,^e

Recognizing that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development,^f

Recognizing that middle income countries still face significant challenges in efforts to achieve the internationally agreed upon development goals, including the MDGs,^g

Recognizing also the need to collectively explore and identify the challenges in the Asia-Pacific region that should be taken into account in the elaboration of the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015,

Welcoming the establishment of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG),^h the intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing, and the high level political forum; and expressing our support for the work of these three processes,

Welcoming also significant progress made in meeting many of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular to halve the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than 1.25 dollars a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, and to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water,ⁱ

Recognizing that, while there has been progress in reducing poverty after the MDGs were launched thirteen years ago, this progress has been uneven, and it is likely that many of the targets under the MDGs will not be achieved by 2015, and emphasizing that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in developing countries is a key requirement for eradicating poverty and hunger and achieving the MDGs,^j

Noting with concern that, despite many of the successes of the MDGs, inequality continues to persist at global, regional, national and sub-national levels, as well as between men and women,

Reiterating our commitment to reinvigorating and strengthening the global partnership for sustainable development that we launched in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and to working together with major groups and other stakeholders in addressing implementation gaps,^k

Reaffirming our determination to collectively advance and strengthen the global partnership for development as the center piece of our cooperation in the years ahead,

Emphasizing that the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015 is a

^d The Asia and Pacific region still has the largest number of people living in extreme poverty (792 million, 2010), Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 2013, ESCAP.

^e General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, paragraph. 2.

^f Ibid., paragraph. 4.

^g General Assembly resolution 63/223.

^h General Assembly decision 67/555.

ⁱ General Assembly resolution 55/2, paragraph. 19.

^j General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, paragraphs. 105 and 106.

^k Ibid., paragraph. 55.

universal agenda, should be people-centered, should promote happiness, and should not leave anyone behind – regardless of gender, geography, disability, race or other status,

Stressing that means of implementation, especially provision of financial resources, and development and transfer of know-how and technology are vital for international and regional processes to achieve the MDGs and consider the Development Agenda beyond 2015,

Reiterating that the advancement of the rule of law at national and international levels is essential for sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, and the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms,¹

Recognizing the need for an open, inclusive and transparent inter-governmental process to delineate the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015,

Underscoring the need to address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, economic, social and environmental, and their inter-linkages in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015,^m

Taking note of the contributions of relevant UN system processes as inputs to the intergovernmental process on the Development Agenda beyond 2015 under the United Nations, including the report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda,

Also taking note of the report of the Secretary General entitled “A life with dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015”,

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to make every effort to accelerate the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs by 2015;

2. *Recommend* that the General Assembly consider timely launching of intergovernmental negotiations under the United Nations General Assembly to arrive at the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015;

3. *Emphasize* that the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015, should continue the momentum started out by the MDGs and should be holistic, inclusive, equitable, people-centered and universal;

4. *Recommend* that the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015 should carry forward the spirit of the Millennium Declaration with:

(a) a determination to build upon and further carry on the MDGs, particularly with an aim to eradicate poverty;

(b) a balanced integration of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

(c) an emphasis on inclusive, equitable and sustainable development and economic growth aiming to effectively address all forms of inequalities and the factors underpinning them;

¹ Op. 7 A/Res/67/1 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) resolution approved at ECOSOC 2013 session (E/CN.15/2013/27) “The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”, paragraph. 6, to be recommended to UNGA 68.

^m General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, paragraph. 246.

(d) a focus on the global, regional and national dimensions of sustainable development in addressing the special needs and particular challenges of the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, in the context of their respective plans and programmes of action;

(e) a strengthened global partnership for the enhanced implementation of internationally agreed development goals and objectives;

5. *Reiterate* our commitment to address remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, to address new and emerging challenges and to seize new opportunities to the actions enumerated in the framework for action and follow-up of “*The Future We Want*” supported as appropriate through provision of means of implementation;ⁿ

6. *Encourage* the United Nations system, including its regional commissions, and regional and sub-regional organizations, to continue promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and in their respective capacities supporting the member States in implementing sustainable development;

7. *Reaffirm* that the meaningful involvement and active participation of all major groups^o, as well as other stakeholders at all levels are important for effective action on all aspects of sustainable development, in accordance with established rules and procedures, as appropriate;

8. *Reaffirm* the need to strengthen the multi-lateral trading regime that is fair, just and open, advance trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, remove trade and investment barriers and oppose and resist all forms of protectionism;

9. *Recognize* the need for the international community to provide continued support including *development* assistance and technical cooperation to developing countries, in particular, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development;

10. *Reaffirm* that the means of implementation identified in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development are indispensable for achieving the full and effective translation of sustainable development commitments into tangible sustainable development outcomes; reiterate that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies cannot be over emphasized; and reaffirm that developing countries need additional resources for sustainable development. We recognize the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing, in order to promote sustainable development;

11. *Emphasize* the importance of technology transfer to developing countries and recall the provisions on technology transfer, finance, access to information and intellectual property rights as agreed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in particular its call to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and

ⁿ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, paragraph. 104.

^o Ibid., paragraph 43. Major groups: Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Non Governmental Organizations, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technology Community, and Farmers.

corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries on favorable terms including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed;^p

12. *Recognize* the importance of the improvement of the quality of statistics and information and make those available to people and governments, taking into account new technology and improved connectivity to provide people with information on progress towards achieving sustainable development to enable them to take planned and effective decisions;

13. *Reiterate* our support to the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which is at present the only intergovernmental process within the United Nations to submit a report on SDGs to the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly;

14. *Call upon* the international community to increase efforts for the successful outcome of the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals to be held on 25 September 2013;

15. *Look forward* to an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process for the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015;

16. *Underscore and reiterate* our support to South-South cooperation and Triangular Cooperation (TrC), and recognize that South-South Cooperation complements rather than substitutes North-South cooperation;

17. *Reiterate* the importance of urgent fulfillment of the aid commitments by developed countries, and noting with concern that the gap between the actual aid disbursements and commitments has widened and aid flows to developing countries have also declined in real terms;

18. *Request* the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to support the work of member States, upon request, on the three pillars of sustainable development, including through greater exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned;

19. *Extend* our deep appreciation to the Royal Government of Thailand for the excellent arrangements made for the Ministerial Dialogue and hospitality, as well as our thanks to the ESCAP secretariat for its support to the Ministerial Dialogue.

Resolution 70/11

Implementing the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,²⁰

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, which, inter alia, invited the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including through annual regional meetings,²¹

Also recalling Commission resolution 69/1 on a conference structure of the Commission for the inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming the inaugural session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Pattaya, Thailand, from 19 to 21 May 2014,

^p General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, paragraph. 269.

²⁰ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

²¹ See General Assembly resolution 67/290, para. 13.

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To launch an intergovernmental consultative process, within the broad framework of General Assembly resolution 67/290, to determine the future architecture of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, including its mandate, scope of work and other procedural aspects, and to submit a report on those matters to the Commission at its seventy-first session;

(b) To convene, without prejudice to the outcome of the intergovernmental consultative process, the second session of the Forum back-to-back with the seventy-first session of the Commission;

(c) To conduct a study on and analysis of the programmatic, organizational and budgetary implications of constituting a new committee on science, technology and innovation and a new committee on financing for development, bearing in mind the process for implementation of Commission resolution 69/1, and to submit a report on the findings to the Commission at its seventy-first session.

*Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014*

Resolution 70/12

Strengthening efforts on human settlements and sustainable urban development for the Asia-Pacific region

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,²² the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which adopted the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda,²³ and the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the special session of the General Assembly, which met in 2001 to review and appraise the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,²⁴

Reaffirming the critical importance of the decision to hold in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III)²⁵ in order to secure renewed commitment for housing and sustainable urban development, to assess accomplishments to date, enhance poverty eradication, identify and address emerging challenges, and to agree on a focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document calling for a “new urban agenda”,²⁶

Recalling outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, and noting that the outcome document “The future we want”²⁷ contained a call for the international community to support actions for the realization of sustainable cities and human settlements as integral to commitments to sustainable development,

Recognizing the role of ESCAP in contributing to the regional preparations for Habitat III pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 66/207 and 67/216, Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/27 on human settlements and resolution 24/14 of the

²² See *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum).

²³ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (A/CONF.165/14), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

²⁴ A/S-25/7/Rev.1.

²⁵ A/66/281 and A/66/282.

²⁶ General Assembly resolutions 66/207 and 67/216.

²⁷ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and encouraging the use of regional commissions and regular sessions of regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development, and also the relevant regional intergovernmental meetings, to provide inputs to the preparatory process for Habitat III, taking into account that the process should be carried out in the most inclusive, efficient and effective manner,

Welcoming with appreciation the offer by the Government of Indonesia to host a high-level regional preparatory meeting in 2015, as an intergovernmental process which will be utilized to provide inputs to Habitat III,

Taking note of the recommendation by the Committee on Environment and Development, contained in the report on its third session,²⁸ that the sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, scheduled to be held in 2015 by ESCAP as part of its regular programme of work, be used as a regional preparatory meeting for Habitat III through the introduction of an intergovernmental segment,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/239 through which it was decided to designate 31 October of every year, beginning in 2014, as World Cities Day, to promote cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and challenges in urbanization and contribute to sustainable urban development around the world,

Acknowledging the important contribution of ESCAP in promoting regional cooperation on inclusive and sustainable urbanization and urban poverty reduction in the Asia-Pacific region through its normative and analytical work, in providing a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogues and in facilitating South-South cooperation, North-South cooperation and triangular cooperation on housing and urban issues,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and other concerned bodies and agencies:

(a) To continue to analyse conditions and trends regarding human settlements and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific across all three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as identify strategies to address persistent and emerging challenges;

(b) To continue facilitating regional understanding and action on issues critical to housing and sustainable urban development through, among other modalities, sharing of good practices and lessons learned, and the convening of expert group meetings and regional multi-stakeholder dialogues, including the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and other concerned bodies and agencies, to organize the sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum back-to-back with the high-level regional preparatory meeting in Indonesia in 2015 in order to provide substantive input to its deliberations, and to support the Government of Indonesia in the regional preparations for Habitat III, in particular through organizing the high-level regional preparatory meeting in 2015 with the participation of member States as an intergovernmental process and the involvement of other stakeholders;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate substantive inputs inclusive of the diverse urban experiences and needs of the Asia-Pacific region, as well as encourage broad, high-level participation from across the region in Habitat III and its preparatory processes;

4. *Invites* members States, international organizations, civil society and the private sector, and other multi-stakeholders, as appropriate, to participate actively in

²⁸ E/ESCAP/70/13.

both the sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum and the high-level regional preparatory meeting to be held in Indonesia in 2015;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014*

Resolution 70/13

Regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 67/209 and 68/211 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, through which it was decided to convene the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, to review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters²⁹ and to adopt a framework for disaster risk reduction beyond 2015, and General Assembly resolution 66/290 on follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and Commission on the Status of Women resolution 56/2 on gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,³⁰ in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction and the role of regional commissions in supporting member States and the development agenda,

Recalling its resolutions 69/12 on enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific, and 69/11 on implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017,

Recognizing that the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries has significantly contributed to regional multi-hazard risk reduction and early warning and the need to further strengthen the regional and subregional mechanisms to support the efforts of member States,

Also recognizing the adverse impact of drought on socioeconomic development in the Asia-Pacific region and unmet needs in capacity development for using space-based data/products in drought-prone countries for effective drought monitoring and early warning,

Expressing appreciation for the progress made by members and associate members in the implementation of its resolution 69/11, the development and operationalization of the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning in the pilot countries³¹ and the timely provision by the Regional Service Nodes in China and India of space-based data/products and capacity development through the existing Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP) and its education and training networks³² and partnerships with global and regional partners to help disaster-affected countries in Asia and the Pacific,

²⁹ A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolutions 1 and 2.

³⁰ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

³¹ Afghanistan, Cambodia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

³² The National Remote Sensing Center of China, the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific in India and the National Coordinating Agency for Surveys and Mapping in Indonesia.

Recognizing the important contribution of disaster information management in disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific,

Affirming that the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction policy contributes to enhancing inclusive growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing the importance of empowering and actively engaging women and other at-risk groups in decision-making on disaster risk reduction at all levels,

Reaffirming the commitment made by members and associate members to encourage disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and management, including, inter alia, through goal 7 of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific,³³

Taking note of the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: Changing Mindsets through Knowledge, which was organized by ESCAP in Sendai, Japan, on 22 and 23 April 2014,

Welcoming greater collaboration between the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones in order to reduce disaster risk, particularly for countries with special needs,

Commending the One United Nations initiative and the efforts of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on the Environment and Disaster Risk Management to support the ASEAN-United Nations Strategic Plan of Cooperation on Disaster Management (2011-2015),

Noting the importance of disaster-risk-sensitive investments in development plans which include disaster risk management to protect and sustain development gains across all sectors,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, which will review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and adopt a global framework for disaster risk reduction beyond 2015;

2. *Reiterates* the importance of the Sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was held in Bangkok from 22 to 26 June 2014, and of the Bangkok Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific 2014, and encourages regional cooperation to implement its outcomes;

3. *Invites* members and associate members, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, the private sector and civil society, as appropriate:

(a) To enhance their efforts to build resilience to natural disasters by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into domestic policies, plans and programmes, with necessary budgets within appropriate means, and by promoting institutional development at the national and local levels;

(b) To take a strategic approach towards “build back better”, namely reconstruction, including through international cooperation and appropriate means of implementation, to realize a more resilient community based on the experience of disaster, as the reconstruction phase is an opportunity to strengthen resilience by building local capacities in preparedness, mitigation and response to disasters;

(c) To take strategic approaches towards evidence-based resilience through improved disaster data;

³³ Commission resolution 69/13.

(d) To ensure all vulnerable people are included in disaster risk reduction planning, based on the concept of human security in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/290;

(e) To consider contributing to the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries;

(f) To give disaster risk reduction due consideration in the development agenda beyond 2015;

(g) To consider contributing to regional cooperation in space technology applications for disaster risk reduction, such as regional disaster management support systems, including Sentinel Asia, and RESAP;

(h) To make concerted efforts to improve the capacity of drought-prone countries on the use of space technology, including through the strengthening of the operationalization of the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning under RESAP and other similar initiatives, and hence to reduce the negative impact of drought on sustainable development;

4. *Welcomes* the holding of a joint session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones in 2015 and encourages the implementation of joint projects for the sharing of knowledge, technology and skills between members of the organizations;

5. *Welcomes also* the holding of expert meetings, training programmes and related activities in the region to develop and strengthen disaster information management in Asia and the Pacific, which will contribute to building resilience to disasters and promoting sustainable development in the region;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international and regional financing institutions, development partners and international organizations, as appropriate:

(a) To further strengthen regional space cooperation on disaster risk reduction, including the applications of space technology and geographic information systems, by enhancing the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and its education and training networks;

(b) To facilitate the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development planning, as appropriate, including through information-sharing and building the capacity of member States;

(c) To promote the sharing of knowledge, technology and skills in disaster risk reduction among member States through South-South cooperation, North-South cooperation and triangular cooperation;

(d) To continue analytical work as well as sharing of best practices on building the resilience of member States to disasters in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and other organizations involved in disaster risk reduction, including through the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report*;

(e) To support and facilitate the extension and operationalization of the Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning in drought-prone countries in the region;

(f) To promote private sector engagement in disaster risk reduction, such as through public-private partnerships and the sharing of experiences in the region in engaging the private sector more effectively in disaster risk reduction, including through the ESCAP Business Advisory Council;

(g) To further enhance partnerships and collaboration in disaster risk reduction with regional organizations in Asia and the Pacific, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, building on the efforts of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and its Thematic

Working Group on the Environment and Disaster Risk Management to implement the One United Nations initiative;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014*

Resolution 70/14

Enhancing participation of youth in sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 62/126 on policies and programmes involving youth: youth in the global economy — promoting youth participation in social and economic development,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 68/130, in which Member States recognized that youth participation is important for development, and urged Member States and entities of the United Nations system, in consultation with youth-led organizations, to explore new avenues to promote full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes, including in the design and implementation of policies, programmes and initiatives and in the elaboration of the development agenda beyond 2015,

Mindful of the socioeconomic challenges facing young people in Asia and the Pacific, and recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,³⁴ in which it was stated that the contribution of children and youth is vital to the achievement of sustainable development, while acknowledging the need to promote intergenerational dialogue and solidarity by recognizing their views,

Noting the report³⁵ of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, convened in Bangkok from 16 to 20 September 2013, which the Conference adopted by consensus, in which priority was directed to, among other things, promoting and enabling the social, economic and political participation of young people,

Recalling the Chair’s summary³⁶ of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, convened in Pattaya, Thailand, from 19 to 21 May 2014, which identified as a priority integrating youth into the labour market,

Welcoming the Five-Year Action Agenda of the Secretary-General, which identifies working with and for women and young people as one of five generational imperatives and opportunities, and addresses the development of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth,

Taking note of the outcome document³⁷ of the World Conference on Youth 2014, hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka in Colombo from 6 to 10 May 2014, to, among other things, explore ways and means of mainstreaming youth into the

³⁴ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

³⁵ See E/ESCAP/70/16.

³⁶ See E/ESCAP/FSD/2.

³⁷ Colombo Declaration on Youth: Mainstreaming Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Available from www.wcy2014.com/pdf/colombo-declaration-on-youth-final.pdf.

development agenda beyond 2015 within the agreed framework of the World Programme of Action for Youth,

Recognizing that the current generation of youth is the largest in history, with the majority of almost 60 per cent, or 717 million young persons aged 15 to 24 years, living in the Asia-Pacific region,

Noting with concern the relatively high levels of youth unemployment and underemployment, as well as the limited access of youth to social protection and good-quality education, especially with regard to youth with disabilities,

Cognizant that addressing the specific needs of young people can increase intergenerational solidarity and reduce the risk of social unrest,

Noting the progress made by several member States to better integrate young people into their policy agenda, yet acknowledging that, for lasting change, greater effort is required,

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

(a) To accord higher priority to investing in youth so that the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth could be accelerated;

(b) To promote meaningful participation of youth and the realization of their right to enhance their capacity in order to more effectively achieve inclusive and sustainable development;

(c) To ensure young people's access to a comprehensive range of affordable, effective, safe and sustainable health services;

(d) To ensure access to good-quality formal and non-formal education in order to enable young people to acquire relevant skills and build their employment and entrepreneurial capacities;

(e) To enhance school-to-work transitions and increase decent work opportunities for youth through vocational training and other policies and programmes to integrate youth into sustainable labour markets;

(f) To eliminate all forms of gender-based discrimination against young people;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To undertake a comprehensive analytical study on the need for youth inclusion and its relationship to sustainable development as a basis for evidence-based policies;

(b) To enhance the role of ESCAP as a regional platform for sharing experiences and good practices on youth policies and participation;

(c) To encourage the participation of key stakeholders, including youth-led organizations, other civil society organizations and the private sector, in supporting national and regional efforts to address challenges impeding youth development, including the convening of an intergovernmental meeting to bring such stakeholders together to assess progress made in meeting international commitments and enhancing youth development;

(d) To support members and associate members, upon request, by providing technical assistance to strengthen their capacity for effective implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

(e) To coordinate, with other United Nations bodies, including through the Regional Coordination Mechanism, to ensure synergies and enhance the impact of the work of the United Nations system on youth development in Asia and the Pacific;

(f) To report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on the progress made in implementation of the present resolution.

*Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014*

B. Decisions adopted by the Commission at its seventieth session (Phase II)

Decision 70/8

Summary of discussions by the Chair of the Preparatory Meeting of the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission took note of the summary of discussions by the Chair of the Preparatory Meeting of the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries.

Decision 70/9

Summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission took note of the summary of progress in the implementation of Commission resolutions (E/ESCAP/70/6).

Decision 70/10

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its tenth session

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission endorsed the report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its tenth session (E/ESCAP/70/8).

Decision 70/11

Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its third session

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on its third session (E/ESCAP/70/9).

Decision 70/12

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its ninth session

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission endorsed the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/70/10).

Decision 70/13

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its ninth session

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission endorsed the report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/70/11/Rev.1).

Decision 70/14

Report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its third session

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Environment and Development on its third session (E/ESCAP/70/13).

Decision 70/15

The seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission decided to postpone to 2016 the seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific.

Decision 70/16

Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission took note of the report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia.

Decision 70/17

Report of the Mekong River Commission

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission took note of the report of the Mekong River Commission.

Decision 70/18

Report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its third session

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission endorsed the report of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on its third session (E/ESCAP/70/14).

Decision 70/19

Report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its eighth session

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission endorsed the report of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/70/15).

Decision 70/20

Report of the Typhoon Committee

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission took note of the report of the Typhoon Committee.

Decision 70/21

Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission took note of the report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

Decision 70/22

Report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission noted the report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (E/ESCAP/70/16), which was adopted by consensus.

Decision 70/23

Road Map for the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission endorsed the Road Map for the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/70/17).

Decision 70/24

Proposed regional process to review and appraise the regional implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission endorsed the proposed regional process to review and appraise the regional implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as contained in paragraph 162(a) of document E/ESCAP/70/5 and Corr.1 and 2.

Decision 70/25

Report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its ninth session

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission endorsed the report of the Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on its ninth session (E/ESCAP/70/18).

Decision 70/26

Report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its eighth session

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission took note of the report of the Governing Council of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia on its eighth session (E/ESCAP/70/19).

Decision 70/27

Report on programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission endorsed the addendum to the report on the programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015 (E/ESCAP/70/21/Add.1).

Decision 70/28

Overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions

At its seventh plenary meeting, on 8 August 2014, the Commission took note of the overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions (E/ESCAP/70/22/Rev.1) and expressed its appreciation for the following contributions pledged by members and associate members of ESCAP for 2014:

1. *Cambodia*. The secretariat received written notification that the Government of Cambodia would make the following contributions:

ESCAP programme of work	\$2 000
APCICT	\$2 000
CAPSA	\$2 000
CSAM	\$2 000
SIAP	\$2 000

2. *China.* The delegation of China announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme	\$200 000 and RMB 1 500 000
CSAM	\$20 000
SIAP	\$60 000

In addition, the delegation of China informed the Commission that a contribution by the Government to APCTT was under consideration.

3. *India.* The delegation of India announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

APCICT	\$20 000
APCTT	\$200 000
CSAM	\$15 000
SIAP	\$25 000
ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia	\$79 000

4. *Indonesia.* The delegation of Indonesia announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

APCTT	\$10 000
CAPSA	IDR 700 670 000
CSAM	\$30 000
SIAP	\$30 000

In addition, the delegation of Indonesia informed the Commission that its Government intended to make an in-kind contribution to APCICT equivalent to \$500,000 for 2014 for conducting academy and training workshops for 500 participants in eight provinces and for providing scholarships for 40 students at the University of Indonesia.

5. *Iran (Islamic Republic of).* The secretariat received written notification that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran would make the following contributions:

ESCAP programme of work	\$40 000
APCTT	\$10 000
CSAM	\$15 000
SIAP	\$15 000

6. *Japan.* The delegation of Japan announced that its Government would make the following contributions for the period April 2014 to March 2015:

Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$30 783
SIAP	\$1 655 200

In addition, the delegation of Japan announced that its Government intended to make an in-kind contribution to SIAP equivalent to \$1,156,464 for the period from April 2014 to March 2015. In addition, as part of its technical cooperation programme through the Japan International Cooperation Agency and in cooperation with SIAP, the delegation announced its Government's intention to provide fellowships for 86 participants in specific training courses on official statistics.

7. *Macao, China.* The secretariat 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

8. *Malaysia.* The secretariat received written notification that the Government of Malaysia would make the following contributions:

APCTT	\$15 000
CAPSA	\$10 000
SIAP	\$20 000

9. *Myanmar.* The secretariat received written notification that the Government of Myanmar would make the following contributions:

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

10. *Republic of Korea.* The secretariat received written notification that the Republic of Korea would make the following contributions:

ESCAP programme of work	\$1 000 000
Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	\$300 000
NEASPEC	\$25 000
CAPSA	\$20 000
CSAM	\$10 000
SIAP	\$50 000

The delegation announced that it would make in-cash and in-kind contributions to APCICT equivalent to \$2,250,000.

The delegation also notified the secretariat that in-cash and in-kind contributions equivalent to \$1,400,000 would be made available for the ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia.

11. *Russian Federation.* The secretariat received written notification that the Government of the Russian Federation would make the following contribution:

ESCAP Technical Cooperation Programme	\$1 200 000
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12. *Thailand.* The delegation of Thailand announced that its Government would make contributions as follows:

APCTT	\$15 000
CAPSA	\$10 000
CSAM	\$15 000

The delegation also noted that its Government might provide CAPSA with in-kind support through the sharing of best practices and by sending experts to assist in the fields of production and production control.

Chapter II

Organization of the seventieth session (Phase II) of the Commission

A. Attendance and organization of work

3. Owing to special circumstances in Bangkok, the seventieth session was held in two phases. Phase I was held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok on 23 May 2014. Phase II was also held at UNCC from 4 to 8 August 2014.

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

Members

Armenia
Australia
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
China
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Fiji
France
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Marshall Islands
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nauru
Nepal
New Zealand
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Samoa
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
United States of America
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Viet Nam

Associate members

Cook Islands
Hong Kong, China
Macao, China

5. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic and Hungary attended. Representatives of the Holy See also attended.

6. The session was attended by representatives of the following offices of the United Nations Secretariat: Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; and Regional Commissions New York Office.

7. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; and United Nations Environment Programme.

8. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Civil Aviation Organization; International Labour Organization; International Maritime Organization; International Telecommunication Union; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; World Health Organization; World Meteorological Organization; and World Trade Organization.

9. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian and Pacific Coconut Community; Asian Development Bank; International Pepper Community; International Organization for Migration; Panel on Tropical Cyclones; and ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee.

10. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations: Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development; Associated Country Women of the World; International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations; Baha'i International Community; Organization of the Families of Asia and the Pacific; LDC Watch; Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements; Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association; and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises.

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

12. The list of participants is available from www.unescap.org/commission/list-of-participants.

13. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected Mr. Tshering Tobgay (Bhutan) as Chair of the seventieth session.

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

Mr. M.A. Mannan (Bangladesh)
Mr. Rinzin Dorji (Bhutan)
Mr. Ly Thuch (Cambodia)
Mr. Li Baodong (China)
Mr. Seiji Kihara (Japan)
Mr. Bektas Mukhamejanov (Kazakhstan)
Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
Mr. Luvsanvandan Bold (Mongolia)
Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren (Mongolia)

Mr. Zin Yaw (Myanmar)
Mr. Govind Raj Pokharel (Nepal)
Mr. Cho Tae-yul (Republic of Korea)
Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi (Pakistan)
Mr. Gil S. Belran (Philippines)
Mr. Louis Napoleon Casambre (Philippines)
Mr. Cho Tae-yul (Republic of Korea)
Mr. Vasily Nebenzia (Russian Federation)
Mr. Connelly Sadakabatu (Solomon Islands)
Mr. Sarath Amunugama (Sri Lanka)
Mr. 'Aisake Valu Eke (Tonga)
Mr. Maatia Toafa (Tuvalu)
Mr. Sato Kilman (Vanuatu)
Mr. Ha Kim Ngoc (Viet Nam)

15. 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: Ms. Noumea Simi (Samoa)
Vice-Chairs: Mr. Suwanda Hennadige Shantha Kottegoda (Sri Lanka)
Mr. Hossein Kamalian (Islamic Republic of Iran)

(b) *Committee of the Whole II:*

Chair: Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla (India)
Vice-Chairs: Ms. Jocelyn Batoon-Garcia (Philippines)
Mr. Jeremiah Manele (Solomon Islands)

16. The Commission also constituted the Working Group on Draft Resolutions, under the chairmanship of Mr. Kesang Wangdi (Bhutan), to consider draft resolutions submitted during the session. Mr. Jonathan Kenna (Australia) was elected Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

B. Agenda

17. During Phase I 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, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries:
 - (a) Preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, Samoa, 2014;
 - (b) Sustainable management of oceans for sustainable development and poverty eradication;
 - (c) Development issues relevant to least developed countries;
 - (d) Development issues relevant to landlocked developing countries;

- (e) The perspectives of Asia-Pacific least developed, landlocked developing and Pacific island developing countries in the context of the development agenda beyond 2015;
 - (f) Other matters.
3. Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the 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) Report on the evaluation activities of ESCAP during the biennium 2012-2013;
 - (b) Programme changes for the biennium 2014-2015;
 - (c) Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017;
 - (d) Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions.
5. Evaluation pursuant to resolution 67/4: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for the development of disaster information management.
6. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.
7. Dates, venue and theme topic for the seventy-first session of the Commission (2015).

Ministerial segment

8. 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 2014.
9. Theme topic for the seventieth session of the Commission: "Regional connectivity for shared prosperity".
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the Commission.
18. The following agenda items were considered during Phase II: items (1), (2), (3), (4b), (4d), (8), (9), (10) and (11).

C. Opening of the session

Senior officials segment

19. The senior officials segment was opened by the Executive Secretary on 4 August 2014. The Executive Secretary delivered a welcoming statement.

Ministerial segment

20. The Chair of the sixty-ninth session, Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão (Timor-Leste), presided over the opening session of the ministerial segment of the seventieth session on 7 August 2014. The Executive Secretary delivered the message of the Secretary-General as well as her welcoming and policy statements. Mr. Manasvi Srisodapol, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address on behalf of the Government of Thailand.

21. Keynote addresses were made by Mr. Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan; Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste; and Lord Tuʻivakano, Prime Minister of Tonga.

D. Adoption of the report of the Commission

22. The report of the Commission on Phase II of its seventieth session was adopted at its seventh plenary meeting on 8 August 2014.

Annex

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 2014-2015:^a

(a) Resolution 70/3: Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Resolution 70/4: Promoting sustainable agricultural development in Asia and the Pacific through technology transfer;

(c) Resolution 70/5: Strengthening regional cooperation and capacity for enhanced trade and investment in support of sustainable development;

(d) Resolution 70/6: Implementation of the decision of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Meeting on a Regional Arrangement for the Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade;

(e) Resolution 70/7: Implementation of the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific;

(f) Resolution 70/8: Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport as a Key to Sustainable Development and Regional Integration;

(g) Resolution 70/9: Implementation of the outcomes of the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum;

(h) Resolution 70/10: Implementation of the Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific region on the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015;

(i) Resolution 70/11: Implementing the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;

(j) Resolution 70/12: Strengthening efforts on human settlements and sustainable urban development for the Asia-Pacific region;

(k) Resolution 70/13: Regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific;

(l) Resolution 70/14: Enhancing participation of youth in sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

2. Extrabudgetary resources, where appropriate, will be sought for the implementation of the activities required under the above-mentioned draft resolutions.

3. With respect to resolution 70/12, one output would be added to the approved programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015, namely the high-level regional preparatory meeting for Habitat III (third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development) in 2015. Extrabudgetary resources, estimated at US\$ 200,000, will be sought to support the organization of the meeting.

^a See General Assembly resolution 68/248 A-C.

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