

*Recalling also* the deliberations of the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, as reflected in paragraphs 53-63 and 118-125 of its annual report, on its work in response to the crisis and in which the Commission recognized the usefulness of setting up, at the regional level, mechanisms for the exchange of information and an early warning system so as to reduce the possibility of future economic and monetary turmoil and to ensure national and regional economic security and a stable financial environment for sustained development,

*Noting with appreciation* the steps initiated by the Executive Secretary, in close cooperation with other international agencies, to study the origins and effects of the current economic and monetary crisis in the region and to provide recommendations on those issues, including those mentioned in the report on the current economic situation in the region and policy issues presented to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session and in the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1999*, which includes a study on the theme topic, "Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: information technology, globalization, economic security and development",

1. *Reaffirms* the position of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific as the main economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to undertake detailed analyses of the financial and economic crisis, paying particular attention to the role of financial markets, and to present options to members and associate members which they may use, as appropriate, as inputs in the formulation of their relevant national policies, with a view to ensuring the attraction of a steady inflow of private capital;

(b) To continue to study the social and economic consequences of the crisis, paying particular attention to alleviation of the suffering of disadvantaged groups;

(c) To enhance the exchange of information with regard to the policies adopted and measures undertaken by members and associate members to address the impact of the crisis;

(d) To undertake a study on possible regional mechanisms for the exchange of information and early warning systems in relation to the financial and economic situation in the countries of the region, with a focus on crisis prevention and reduction of the vulnerability of countries to economic and financial turmoil, including:

(i) Examination of related mechanisms currently in place or under consideration in various international and regional institutions;

(ii) Analysis of the content, data quality and frequency of information to be provided by member States;

(iii) Recommendations for future activities, including ways and means of making regional contributions to global monitoring and surveillance programmes of the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral entities while complementing, but not duplicating, efforts already taken by multilateral financial institutions;

(c) To pay special attention to the implications of the financial crisis for the developing countries, particularly the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as the economies in transition, by providing them with appropriate advisory services and technical assistance;

(f) To cooperate with the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant international and regional institutions in undertaking the analyses and studies mentioned in the present resolution;

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

*11th meeting  
28 April 1999*

### **55/3. Strengthening the cooperation and support of nations in the Asian and Pacific region in addressing the year 2000 problem<sup>3</sup>**

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

*Recalling* the deliberations of the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, at which it expressed deep concern about the predicted disruptions that the year 2000 (Y2K) problem in computers and embedded chips was likely to cause, urged all governments to make resolution of the problem a high priority, encouraged all members to share their experience in resolving the problem and asked the secretariat to facilitate such regional cooperation,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 52/233 of 26 June 1998 and 53/86 of 7 December 1998 on global implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers and Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/45 of 31 July 1998 on suggested guidelines for addressing the year 2000 problem of computers,

<sup>3</sup> See paragraph 257 above.

*Recognizing* that the effective operation of governments, businesses and organizations is threatened by the Y2K problem which, if not addressed effectively, may adversely affect the delivery of essential services in critical sectors of society, including power, telecommunications, finance, transport and health,

*Noting* that the awareness creation efforts of the secretariat, other United Nations bodies and member governments, while not resolving the problem, have helped to generate strong national Y2K remediation and response efforts,

*Noting with appreciation* the availability of abundant technical material on the Y2K problem, including the papers and proceedings of the workshop held jointly by the Commission and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific in June 1998, and the existence of funding mechanisms such as the year 2000 grants of the World Bank,

*Acknowledging* that the year 2000 coordinators and their representatives from 17 economies in the Asian and Pacific region convened in Manila from 1 to 3 March 1999, at the Second Global Year 2000 Summit, to discuss national Y2K readiness and to plan cooperation on information-sharing, transborder Y2K issues, and continuity planning and response,

*Underlining* the need for further effective action to address the problem, given the inflexible nature of the deadline and the current state of preparedness within the region,

*Emphasizing* that, while coordinated efforts by governments and private, public and international organizations are required to address the Y2K problem, primary responsibility for Y2K compliance and remediation action lies with the top management of each affected organization,

*Noting also* that high-quality public information is a powerful tool for combating the Y2K problem,

*Recognizing* that the increasing interdependence of economies and the interconnected nature of computer systems call for concerted and coordinated action at the regional and global levels,

1. *Expresses appreciation* of the initiative of the Philippines in promoting international cooperation in information technology by sponsoring the Second Global Year 2000 Summit at Manila in March 1999;

2. *Urges* all members and associate members to take early and effective action to bring their countries to the highest possible level of year 2000 (Y2K) readiness, not only for their own benefit but also to minimize adverse Y2K effects on vital sectors of other countries;

3. *Calls upon* members and associate members to practise open disclosure policies and enhance the sharing of information across borders with regard to Y2K readiness, best practices, lessons learned, embedded systems, and Y2K failures and successes;

4. *Appeals* to all members and associate members to forge regional and global cooperation to ensure a timely and effective response to the Y2K challenge and to work together to address the threats that the problem poses globally;

5. *Urges* all member States to expedite the remediation of their systems to guarantee the continued availability of basic infrastructure services, to use public information channels to urge the private sector to become Y2K-compliant and to disclose its readiness status, and to develop contingency plans to address the possibility of large-scale failures in the public and private sectors;

6. *Calls upon* all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society to enhance and combine their efforts to support regional and national Y2K initiatives;

7. *Calls upon* the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other multilateral organizations to review and increase their level of combined support for national and regional Y2K efforts;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission annually until the fifty-seventh session on the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered by members and associate members in addressing the Y2K problem;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to seek extrabudgetary resources:

(a) To monitor closely actual and potential sources of funding to support the efforts of the developing countries, in particular the least developed and landlocked countries, and the economies in transition, to address the Y2K problem and to facilitate the dissemination of relevant information on those funding possibilities to members and associate members;

(b) To continue to facilitate the exchange of national experience on the Y2K problem, and the sharing of information and expertise available with various members and associate members, including through the use of the Internet, before, on and beyond 1 January 2000;

(c) To collaborate fully with all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in facilitating the provision of support and technical assistance for members and associate members that find difficulty in addressing the Y2K problem;

(d) To ascertain from United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, by 30 September 1999, the state of Y2K readiness in the region in their respective areas of competence.

*11th meeting  
28 April 1999*

**55/4. Towards a society for all ages: Macau Declaration and Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific<sup>4</sup>**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 47/5 of 16 October 1992, the annex to which contained the Proclamation on Ageing, in which the Assembly decided to observe the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 50/141 of 21 December 1995 on the International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages, in which the Assembly invited the regional commissions, within the existing mandates, to bear in mind the goals of the Year when convening regional meetings in 1998 and 1999 at which to mark the Year and formulate action plans on ageing for the twenty-first century,

*Mindful of* General Assembly resolution 53/109 of 9 December 1998, in which the Assembly urged that the issue of older persons be mainstreamed into the work of the United Nations and national socio-economic programmes and plans, as appropriate,

*Recalling* Commission resolution 54/5 of 22 April 1998, in which the Executive Secretary of ESCAP was requested to convene a regional meeting to formulate a plan of action on ageing for Asia and the Pacific, to report to the Commission in 2000 on progress in the implementation of the plan of action and to recommend further action and initiatives to achieve the goals and targets contained therein,

*Bearing in mind* the relevant provisions of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region,

*Recognizing* the need to enhance awareness of the complexity and the serious challenge that the rapid ageing of populations is posing to all societies in the region, to have a policy framework for the protection of older persons, to promote the contribution that they can make to society, and to integrate them into mainstream development,

*Noting with appreciation* the successful launching of the International Year of Older Persons in various countries in the region, the activities being undertaken to promote the theme of the Year, namely, "Towards a society for all ages", and efforts towards the establishment or strengthening of national policies for older persons,

*Mindful of* the necessity to integrate older women into development, to include a gender dimension in the preparations for the Year, and to strengthen the role of the family as the traditional provider of support to older persons,

1. *Endorses* the Macau Declaration and Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific, adopted on 1 October 1998 by the Regional Meeting on a Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific;

2. *Urges* all members and associate members to take early and effective action to implement the Plan of Action and to continue to give full support to the implementation of relevant regional mandates and resolutions of the General Assembly concerning older persons;

3. *Calls upon* members and associate members that have not yet done so to set up and strengthen national mechanisms on ageing, *inter alia*, to enable them to coordinate the observance of the International Year of Older Persons and to set specific time-bound targets on ageing and related issues, in the light of the needs and aspirations of older persons, in keeping with indigenous traditions and their milieu;

4. *Urges* members and associate members to pay attention to older persons in severe poverty and enable them to have access to basic health services in accordance with national priorities;

5. *Calls upon* all sectors of civil society, non-governmental organizations and private organizations to assist in the effective implementation of the Macau Declaration and Plan of Action and their respective national plans of action on older persons;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the valuable role of the media in the preparations for the Year and in raising awareness of it, and encourages the media, consistent with freedom of expression, to present non-stereotyped images of older persons;

<sup>4</sup> See paragraph 191 above.