7. Further requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-ninth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution and to examine the possibility of holding a meeting at the ministerial level in 1994 on the question of poverty alleviation in the ESCAP region with particular reference to least developed countries.

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47/6. Assistance to the countries in the Asian and Pacific region affected by the Persian Gulf crisis

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming the end of the hostilities in the Persian Gulf and hoping that lasting peace and security will be achieved in the region,

Noting that the Persian Gulf conflict and the subsequent imposition of economic sanctions pursuant to Security Council resolution 661 (1990) would have severe repercussions on the immediate and long-term economic outlook of many countries, particularly as regards their foreign exchange earnings and the supply of energy,

Noting also that the Persian Gulf conflict has had an adverse impact on the environment of that region,

Noting further that despite the measures already taken by the affected countries themselves to alleviate the adverse effects of the crisis there is continuing need for external assistance,

Noting the Security Council's recognition of the need to provide immediate technical, financial and material assistance on an urgent basis to States whose economies have suffered from the Persian Gulf crisis and the application of economic sanctions,

Recalling the letter of 23 January 1991 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to States Members of the United Nations and multilateral financing institutions expressing the strongest possible support to the above recommendations of the Security Council,

Noting with appreciation the generous assistance already received in response to the Secretary-General's appeal,

Stressing the urgent need for greater and continuing response to that appeal,

Aware that some of the States which have been seriously affected by the Persian Gulf crisis are in the Asian and Pacific region,

1. Invites member States and specialized agencies of the United Nations, multilateral financing institutions and donor countries to take the necessary and appropriate steps to assist effectively those developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region adversely affected by the Persian Gulf crisis, including assistance to allow those countries to give serious consideration to steps that might be taken to assist effectively in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Persian Gulf region;

2. Urges multilateral institutions to respond promptly and in an appropriate manner, to the extent possible, to the needs of those developing countries and to play a catalytic role in mobilizing additional assistance;

3. Also urges multilateral institutions to respond promptly and in an appropriate manner to the needs of refugees and others dislocated by the crisis and to play a catalytic role in mobilizing additional assistance for them;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and affected countries, to correlate information on the possible impact on the ESCAP region of the environmental degradation that has taken place and to inform the Commission with a view to considering possible measures;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to use his good offices with the Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council in order to obtain the assistance requested under this resolution;

6. Further requests the Executive Secretary to keep the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission informed of progress in implementation of the present resolution.

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47/7. Integration of environment and development in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Concerned at the serious threat to environmentally sound and sustainable development posed by environmental degradation and the depletion of natural resources in the ESCAP region,

Emphasizing therefore the urgent need for all countries to intensify their efforts to protect and improve the quality of the environment at the national, subregional, regional and global levels,

Recalling Commission resolution 267 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988, in which it decided to convene a ministerial-level conference on the environment in 1990,
Recalling also General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992, and the importance accorded to regional inputs to that Conference,

Welcoming the increased joint efforts by countries in the region towards developing policies and programmes that maintain a better balance between economic and social development and the rational use of natural resources and environmental protection, and welcoming in particular the outcome of the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok on 15 and 16 October 1990.

Realizing that lack of the necessary financial and other resources and technologies is a major factor inhibiting the ability of the developing countries of the region to participate effectively in global and regional efforts towards environmental protection,

Reaffirming the objectives in section I, subparagraphs 15 (j) and (m) of United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the need for financial resources and access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular to developing countries, for achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development,

1. Endorses the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development agreed upon by the Meeting of Senior Officials on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok from 13 to 19 February 1991;

2. Emphasizes the need for all members and associate members of the Commission to develop or strengthen their national strategies and action plans for environmentally sound and sustainable development;

3. Endorses the Asian and Pacific input to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development agreed upon by the Meeting of Senior Officials, for submission to the Preparatory Committee of the Conference as soon as possible;

4. Supports the establishment of an inter-agency committee on environment and development, as recommended by the Meeting of Senior Officials, with the purpose of enhancing coordination and strengthening regional cooperation in formulating, implementing, reviewing, monitoring and reporting on activities and initiatives in the Asian and Pacific region for the promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development;

5. Invites all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned, as well as regional and subregional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, multilateral funding agencies and bilateral aid agencies, to participate actively in the establishment and future work of the inter-agency committee;

6. Calls for the early implementation of the various recommendations of the Ministerial-level Conference, in particular the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the Regional Strategy, and for the support of donor Governments and United Nations bodies and agencies in this task;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to keep the progress of implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Strategy under review and report on this to the Commission at its annual sessions, and to develop appropriate monitoring and evaluation methods and mechanisms for this purpose;

8. Also requests the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the United Nations bodies and agencies concerned and donor Governments, to explore the feasibility of a regional funding mechanism being established for the implementation of national, regional and subregional programmes and projects for environmentally sound and sustainable development, and to report on progress in this matter to the Commission at its forty-eighth session.

47/8. Regional cooperation and coordination in remote sensing and geographic information systems

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Noting that for sustainable natural resources development and environmental management, baseline data on existing natural resources and the environment, and sequential information on the changing status of natural resources and the environment are essential,

Noting also that remote sensing and the allied geographic information systems technology are essential tools for providing the basic as well as dynamic change detection information for environmental impact analysis necessary for any natural resources management and environment monitoring activities,

Realizing that a number of members and associate members of the Commission have already become involved in the application of remote sensing and geographic information systems technology for their natural resources surveys, environment monitoring and development planning, and many of them have invested an appreciable amount of resources to acquire the technology,

Recalling that regional cooperation and collaboration in remote sensing applications and development through technical cooperation among developing countries have already been initiated by the Commission through its United Nations Development Programme-funded Regional Remote Sensing Programme and that an effective network of regional cooperation mechanisms for technology transfer and information exchange within this region has been established,

1. Decides to continue to promote and strengthen regional cooperation and collaboration in the area of satellite technology applications for sustainable natural resources and environment management;

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8 See para. 513 above.