48/5. Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,


Recalling Commission resolution 45/1 of 5 April 1989 on a regional social development strategy towards the year 2000 and beyond, in which it decided to convene the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development at Manila in 1991 to consider and adopt a regional social development strategy towards the year 2000 and beyond,

Recalling also its resolution 47/5 of 10 April 1991 on regional support for the alleviation of poverty,

Noting with concern that, during the last three decades, poverty has persisted and in some cases has become more entrenched among large segments of society, and that the quality of life of the majority of the people in the region, particularly the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, including women, children and youth, disabled persons and the elderly, continues to be marked by deprivation of the basic needs of food, shelter, clothing and essential services such as clean water, sanitation, health care and education,

Reaffirming its commitment to the promotion of social development in the ESCAP region, with a focus on the eradication of absolute poverty, pursuit of distributive justice, and enhancement of popular participation,

Mindful of the improved international political climate, which has increased opportunities for enhanced social development in Asia and the Pacific,

1. Welcomes the adoption by the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held at Manila from 7 to 11 October 1991, of the Manila Declaration on a Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, and endorses the Strategy annexed to that Declaration;

2. Urges all members and associate members to take early and effective action to implement the Social Development Strategy;

3. Calls upon all concerned donor countries and funding agencies, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide substantive and financial support for the implementation of the Strategy;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To examine modalities for the implementation of the Strategy and, in that connection, convene a meeting of experts in 1992 to obtain advice on that matter;

(b) To establish an inter-agency task force to promote intersectoral participation and ensure effective coordination of the activities of all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the implementation of the Strategy;

(c) To establish a forum of non-governmental organizations concerned with social development issues in the region to promote their active and constructive participation and ensure their effective coordination in the implementation of the Strategy;

(d) To convene in 1994 a regional conference of senior government officials, concerned United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations to review and assess the progress achieved towards attaining the aims and objectives of the Strategy, consider the means of enhancing regional cooperation in support of the Strategy, and revise it as may be called for in the light of experience and changing regional social conditions;

5. Also requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the Strategy for submission to the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development to be held in 1996.

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48/6. Regional cooperation in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 274 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region,

Noting the importance that has been accorded to the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action by Governments throughout the region, as reflected, inter alia, in the establishment of the ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development,

Noting also the useful work undertaken by the secretariat in association with the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in support of the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action,

5 See paras. 204 above.

6 See paras. 343 above.
Expressing appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme for its financial and substantive support of the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action,

1. Calls upon all members and associate members of the Commission to intensify their efforts to promote human resources development through the active implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action;

2. Invites all development partners, both bilateral and multilateral, to support and participate actively in the regional initiative to promote human resources development through the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action;

3. Urges the United Nations Development Programme to provide adequate funding under its fifth intercountry programme to support the further implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to provide, subject to available financial resources, upon request, support to the activities of the ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development, particularly in the following areas:

(a) Strengthening linkages among government agencies and between them and non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

(b) Adopting an integrated approach to human resources development;

(c) Building a human resources development information base;

(d) Promoting the training of public sector and non-governmental organization personnel in human resources development-related skills;

(e) Enhancing public awareness of the concept and practice of human resources development as elaborated in the Jakarta Plan of Action;

(f) Establishing, in each participating country and area, a national advisory mechanism to provide conceptual guidance to human resources development initiatives at the national level;

(g) Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To prepare standardized procedures for use by Governments in the systematic monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action;

(b) To conduct a review of the status of implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action by members and associate members of the Commission;

(c) To convene an expert group meeting to re-examine the Jakarta Plan of Action with a view to refining it to ensure its continued relevance to changing conditions in the region;

(d) To refine the Jakarta Plan of Action in conformity with the findings of the above expert group meeting for submission to the Commission at its fiftieth session.

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48/7. Guidelines for consumer protection

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/248 of 9 April 1985, in which the Assembly adopted guidelines for consumer protection,

Noting with satisfaction the recommendations of the United Nations Regional Seminar on Consumer Protection for Asia and the Pacific, held at ESCAP from 19 to 22 June 1990,

Noting also Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/85 of 27 July 1990 on consumer protection, in which the Secretary-General was requested in cooperation with, inter alia, the regional commissions of the United Nations to continue to provide assistance to Governments, in particular to those of developing countries and other interested countries, in implementing the guidelines for consumer protection, and to develop a programme of action for the next five years on the implementation of the guidelines,

1. Comments the Executive Secretary on the efforts currently being undertaken by ESCAP to promote the implementation of the guidelines for consumer protection;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and development funds and programmes of the United Nations, and other relevant bodies and agencies in the United Nations system, to promote the implementation of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection, initiate specific activities to follow up the recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Consumer Protection for Asia and the Pacific and to seek such extrabudgetary contributions as may be necessary for that purpose.

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7 See paras. 539 above.