Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 45/206 of 21 December 1990 and 46/156 of 19 December 1991 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, by which the Assembly adopted the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, which stated, inter alia, that it would be essential to stem the increasing marginalization of the least developed countries and to reactivate their growth and development through comprehensive national action and international support measures,

Reaffirming the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/199, in which the States Members of the United Nations stressed, inter alia, the need for full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Noting the establishment, by Commission resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries to help accelerate the pace of development in the least developed and land-locked developing countries within the context of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Emphasizing the broad range of development issues confronting the least developed countries in the ESCAP region,

Recognizing the need for the region's economic dynamism to be more widespread and for the fruits of economic progress to be shared among all countries in the region, especially the least developed countries,

Recognizing also the new opportunities for expanding trade, technology and investment flows among the Asian and Pacific economies in the post-cold war era, particularly to meet the special needs of the least developed countries,

Deeply concerned about the continuing deterioration in the social, economic and ecological situation of the least developed countries in the region,

1. Reaffirms that the least developed countries have the primary responsibility for their development based on appropriate domestic policies;

2. Deeply appreciates the concerns expressed by member countries for the special needs of the least developed countries within the context of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

3. Deeply appreciates also the assistance provided by the developing countries in the region to the least developed countries under their economic and technical cooperation arrangements, and their stated intention to expand such assistance;

4. Calls upon all member Governments and international and multilateral organizations to continue to pay special attention to the special problems of the least developed countries and to render adequate assistance in support of the development efforts of the least developed countries in implementing the Programme of Action for the 1990s;

5. Urges the ESCAP secretariat to strengthen its programmes to focus better on meeting the priority needs and concerns of the least developed countries in the region;

6. Invites all members and associate members to participate actively and to extend generous assistance in the preparations for the mid-term review at the regional level of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the 1990s, to be undertaken by the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries early in 1995;

7. Deeply appreciates the generous offer by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at the first session of the Special Body on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries to explore the possibility of providing the necessary assistance to the Government of Bangladesh in carrying out the feasibility study for the establishment at Dhaka of a centre for research on the least developed countries;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

750th meeting
29 April 1993

49/9. Eradication of preventable diseases in the Asian and Pacific region as a component of social and economic development

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Manila Declaration on a Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, and Commission resolution 48/5 of 23 April 1992, in which the Commission endorsed the Strategy annexed to that Declaration.

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9 See paras. 328-329 above.
Recalling also General Assembly resolution 47/40 of 1 December 1992 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/33 of 30 July 1992 on prevention and control of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS),

Bearing in mind that public health is an essential component of sustainable economic and social development,

Recognizing that investments in preventing disease and illness can yield substantial economic benefits in the form of increased productivity and reduced outlays for treating preventable diseases,

Recalling the success of the international community in eradicating smallpox,

Concerned that poliomyelitis, which is preventable through a relatively inexpensive oral vaccine or inoculation and has been effectively eradicated in the Western hemisphere, is still prevalent in parts of the Asian and Pacific region,

Noting also that the spread of AIDS, which is becoming increasingly prevalent, is largely preventable through changes in behaviour,

Convinced that successful eradication or control of these and other preventable diseases will require commitment and support from all sectors of society, including social, economic, political, health and education officials, and non-governmental organizations,

Endorsing the ongoing efforts of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and other international organizations, as well as national Governments and non-governmental organizations, to eradicate or substantially reduce preventable diseases in the region,

1. Urges members and associate members to take all necessary measures to achieve the goal set by the World Health Organization of eradicating poliomyelitis in the region by the year 2000, or earlier;

2. Also urges members and associate members to take coordinated action to control the spread, taking place through different means, of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases by, inter alia, providing health information and education and promoting responsible behaviour;

3. Encourages members and associate members to take further measures to prevent disease and illness, such as promoting nutrition and hygiene, discouraging unhealthful activities such as tobacco consumption and alcohol abuse, and fighting drug abuse;

4. Calls on members and associate members, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to give high priority to preventive health care in their economic and social development plans, in the context of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond;

5. Urges the World Health Organization to strengthen further its efforts and collaborative activities with the members and associate members of the Commission in the eradication of preventable diseases in the region, and invites the Organization to present a paper on the situation at the 1994 regional ministerial conference in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development to be held early in 1995;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to work in close association with the World Health Organization to facilitate the presentation of such a report.

750th meeting
29 April 1993

49/10. Strengthening the role of ESCAP in the coordination of regional operational activities

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992, in which it was stated that the regional commissions, particularly those located in developing countries, should also be strengthened in terms of their activities and participation in operational activities of the United Nations system,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and section IV of the annex to that resolution, in which the regional commissions were directed to exercise team leadership and responsibility for coordination and cooperation at the regional level,

Taking note of the work being done by the States Members of the United Nations and the Secretary-General on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields,

Taking note also of the ongoing discussions in the General Assembly on reforming the structure of the Economic and Social Council and of the initiatives of the Secretary-General on reorganizing the United Nations Secretariat,

Reaffirming that in the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields it is indispensable to include provisions for strengthening the regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council to meet effectively the needs for development in their respective regions,

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10 See para. 180 above.