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.

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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,

10 See para. 180 above.
Recalling its resolutions 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and 48/12 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: role and functions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Referring to the Commission's response to General Assembly resolution 46/235, which was prepared by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, as requested by the Commission in its resolution 48/12, and in which it was recommended that the Assembly should consider the desirability of, inter alia, the following:

"Improved coordination and Secretariat-wide coherence by reinforcing the activities of the regional commissions aimed at mutually supporting the activities of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system in their respective regions through, inter alia, intensifying joint activities, programming exercises and coordinating meetings;

"...

"Mandating ESCAP as the primary executing agency for regional and subregional programmes, within the United Nations system, so as to centralize coordination tasks and reduce costs. Regional commissions have been designated as the lead coordinators of inter-agency functions and regional activities, and as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions for coordination at the regional and subregional levels. This mandate should not prevent the regional commissions from inviting other United Nations funding agencies to function as team leaders for specific programmes, when appropriate;".

Stressing the accumulated experience of ESCAP in the development of policy formulation and its associated technical cooperation programmes as well as regional operational activities as a means of providing further impetus to the development of members and associate members of the Commission,

Stressing also that there is an urgent need for coordination of the regional and subregional operational activities of the United Nations organizations, programmes and funds as well as those of the specialized agencies at the regional level,

1. Calls upon all parties involved in the Economic and Social Council reform process to take appropriate measures to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations system at the regional level, through a fully coordinated approach to fulfilling the needs of the members and associate members of the Commission;

2. Urges that in the coordination of operational activities among the United Nations organizations, programmes and funds as well as those of the specialized agencies, the role of ESCAP should be strengthened at the regional level, taking into account the comparative advantages that the regional commissions enjoy in such areas as information-gathering, monitoring economic developments and promoting cooperation with and among their member Governments, including the provision of technical cooperation;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the United Nations organizations, programmes and funds, as well as those agencies engaged in operational activities in the ESCAP region, to continue to follow closely the ongoing reforms in the United Nations and to submit to the Commission at its fiftieth session a report on the ways and means of implementation at the regional level of the relevant decisions that will have been taken by the General Assembly or the developments in that regard;

4. Decides to include the question of strengthening the coordination of the regional operational activities on the agenda for its fiftieth and subsequent sessions at periodic intervals.

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