(c) To submit the documents referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above to the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development at its fifth session, to be held in 1998;

(d) To continue to provide advice to improve the operational modalities for the effective transfer of environmentally sound technology to the developing countries of the Asian and Pacific region;

(e) To promote the development of endogenous technological capacities and requisite technology in the developing countries of the Asian and Pacific region relevant to the objectives of chapter 34 of Agenda 21;

2. Invites contributions of financial and technical resources from donor countries, relevant agencies and other possible sources to support the activities in subparagraphs 1 (a) and (b);

3. Requests the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development to review, on a regular basis, the implementation of the present resolution, together with its consideration of the subject of the transfer of environmentally sound technology.

13th meeting
24 April 1996

52/8. Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific*

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 49/7 of 29 April 1993, in which it requested the Executive Secretary to convene a ministerial-level conference on environment and development in 1995 to discuss the state of environment and development, the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, as well as Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and to provide further guidance on the measures for their implementation,

Noting with satisfaction the successful organization of the third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok in November 1995, which adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000,

Convinced that economic development, environmental protection and social development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing elements of sustainable development, which must serve as a framework for improving the quality of life of the people in the Asian and Pacific region,

Recognizing the need for an integrated, multisectoral approach through comprehensive policies and programmes and adequate resources to address the environment and development issues confronting the policy planners and decision makers in the Asian and Pacific region,

Recognizing also the strong interest of members and associate members in the regional and subregional cooperation activities that will follow up the third Ministerial Conference,

1. Endorses the recommendations of the third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000, and calls for their early implementation, including the decision to make efforts for establishing a regional funding mechanism, when necessary;

2. Requests all members and associate members to participate actively in the implementation of the recommendations of the third Ministerial Conference;

3. Urges all United Nations bodies and agencies concerned, multilateral financial institutions, donor countries and agencies to contribute technical and financial resources to implement the recommendations of the third Ministerial Conference;

4. Calls upon the members of the Inter-agency Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific to play an effective role in the implementation of the Regional Action Programme as coordinators of areas identified by the Subcommittee;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To mobilize both human and financial resources for the implementation of the recommendations of the third Ministerial Conference;

(b) To ensure effective coordination and joint pursuit of the activities of all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, in facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the third Ministerial Conference;

(c) To include in the agenda of the fourth session of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, to be held in 1997, a mid-
term review and assessment of the progress achieved in
the implementation of the recommendations of the third
Ministerial Conference and to report thereon to the
Commission at its fifty-fourth session.

13th meeting
24 April 1996

52/9. Intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia
and the Pacific,

Recognizing the critical role played by transport
and communications in the economic and social
development of the region, and the emphasis
increasingly being placed by members and associate
members on developing and strengthening intraregional
and interregional land transport linkages as part of an
integrated regional transport system to sustain growth in
international trade and tourism, and for the further
promotion of regional economic cooperation,

Recalling its resolutions 48/1 of 23 April 1992
on the Beijing Declaration on Regional Economic
Cooperation and 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and
rail transport modes in relation to facilitation
measures,

Recalling also its resolutions 50/1 of 13 April
1994 on the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening
Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific
towards the Twenty-first Century and 51/8 of 1 May
1995 on the implementation of the New Delhi Action
Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the
Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/97 of
20 December 1995 on specific actions related to the
particular needs and problems of landlocked developing
countries, in which the Assembly requested the regional
commissions, among others, to identify priority areas
for action at the national and subregional levels and to
draw up action programmes,

Taking into account the recommendations of the
Committee on Transport and Communications at its
second session in November 1995, and of the
Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation at its
fifth session in April 1996, that the Asian land transport
infrastructure development (ALTID) project comprising
the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway projects,
as well as land transport facilitation, should constitute a
priority activity in the New Delhi Action Plan and in the
secretariat’s programme of work,

Recognizing that the return of peace in the region
and increased rates of growth both in intraregional and
interregional trade and in tourism have created an
unprecedented opportunity, as well as a demand for
reliable and efficient land transport facilities,

Being aware of the strong interest and support
for land transport infrastructure development expressed
by national leaders gathered at the first Asia-Europe
Meeting, held at Bangkok in March 1996,

Recalling specifically the ALTID criteria of
developing capital-to-capital links, as well as the
principle of "unhindered access" for all participating
countries, as agreed upon at the seventh meeting of the
Steering Group of the Committee for Regional
Economic Cooperation, held at Ulaanbaatar in
September 1995,

Noting with appreciation the significant progress
made by the secretariat over the biennium 1994-1995 in
implementing activities under the ALTID project and the
active participation of members and associate members,
the close cooperation with the Economic Commission
for Europe and the European Community, as well as
interested agencies and subregional organizations, and
the generous financial support provided by donor
countries to develop and strengthen intra-Asia and Asia-
Europe land bridges to facilitate international trade and
tourism,

1. Urges members and associate members:

(a) To lend full support and cooperation to
the Executive Secretary in implementing activities under
the ALTID project;

(b) To seek ways and means of
constructing the missing highway and railway links, and
of upgrading and/or extending existing links, as well as
constructing new links which have been identified as
part of the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway
networks;

(c) To consider the possibility of acceding,
if they have not already done so, to the international
covenants referred to in Commission resolution 48/11
of 23 April 1992, as well as related international transit
conventions;

2. Requests bilateral and multilateral donors
and funding agencies, as well as international and
intergovernmental organizations, to support ALTID
activities and initiatives at the regional and national
levels to create intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To provide full support for the
implementation of activities enumerated in the New
Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in
Asia and the Pacific to achieve the completion and
bringing into operation of both the Asian Highway and
the Trans-Asian Railway networks, including Asia-


* See para. 218 above.