Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-THIRD SESSION

53/1. Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987, 47/3 of 10 April 1991 and 51/3 of 1 May 1995 on the conference structure of the Commission,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/11 of 2 November 1995 on multilingualism, in particular paragraphs 1, 5 and 6 thereof,

Further recalling its resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, in particular its decision to review the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic priorities and its subsidiary structure, no later than at the fifty-third session of the Commission,

Cognizant of General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Reaffirming that the complexity of the development problems faced by the countries in the Asian and Pacific region, in particular the developing countries, increasingly demands that these problems be tackled in a comprehensive manner through interdisciplinary and intersectoral action,

Recognizing the increased responsibilities of the Commission, which comprises a geographical area containing 62 per cent of the population of the world and includes many developing members and associate members, among which are least developed, landlocked and island developing economies, and economies in transition with special needs,

Recognizing further that the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary provides a historic opportunity for the Commission to bring about wide participation of its members and associate members and to sharpen the focus of its work to enable it to respond more effectively to the evolving economic and social needs of the members and associate members within a rapidly changing global paradigm, including the changing scope of regional cooperation, by utilizing fully the multidisciplinary advantage of the Commission and its increased capability in technical assistance activities,

Noting the comparative advantage of the Commission as the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region in carrying out its role as the main general economic and social development centre of the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region,

Having considered the recommendations of the Regional Preparatory Meeting on the Review of the Conference Structure of the Commission, held at Bangkok from 24 to 28 February 1997,

1. Decides to revise its conference structure, including its thematic and subsidiary structure, to conform to the following pattern:

(1) The Commission

The Commission shall meet annually, each session comprising a senior officials' segment followed by a ministerial segment, for up to a maximum of seven working days to discuss and decide upon important issues concerning economic and social development in the region, to decide upon the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, to examine and approve the programme of work and priorities and to take any other decisions required, in conformity with its terms of reference.

(2) Subsidiary structure

A. The conference structure of the Commission should consist of the following five committees, which should meet at the intervals and for the maximum duration indicated below:

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<tr>
<th>Committees</th>
<th>Periodicity</th>
<th>Maximum duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional economic cooperation</td>
<td>Biennial</td>
<td>3 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>3 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment and natural resources development</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>3 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>3 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>Biennial</td>
<td>3 days</td>
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The Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries should be retained and reinvigorated. The sessions of the Special Bodies should be held for a maximum of two days biennially, one each in alternate years, back-to-back with the annual sessions of the Commission.

B. In order to facilitate its work, the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation shall have a high-level steering group, which will meet annually for a maximum duration of three days. Such a steering group shall form its own agenda and organize its own procedure of work under the overall direction of the Committee.

C. The revised structure is shown in chart form in annex I to the present resolution.

(3) Ad hoc ministerial conferences

(a) Subject to the approval of the Commission, ad hoc ministerial conferences on specific issues may be organized but, starting in 1998, no more than one such conference should be held per year;

(b) In those years when a ministerial conference is held which is regarded as covering issues normally discussed in a corresponding committee or special body, that committee or special body shall not be convened.

(4) Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings

(a) Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings may be convened with the prior approval of the Commission, to carry out a detailed examination of substantive and priority issues, including relevant cross-sectoral issues;

(b) No more than five such intergovernmental meetings may be held during a calendar year, and the total number of days should not exceed twenty-five.

(5) Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

The functions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall be in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex II to the present resolution. It shall examine ways to enhance and improve its ability to advise and assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the medium-term plan, the programme budget, and the work programme priorities and resource allocation, consistent with the guidelines provided by the Commission, and to monitor and evaluate the implementation, outcome and effectiveness of the Commission’s programme of work in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee, and to report back to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session.

(6) Existing bodies under the auspices of the Commission

The following bodies under the auspices of the Commission shall continue to function as prescribed in their respective statutes and terms of reference:

(i) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

(ii) Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

(iii) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

(7) General provisions

(a) Functions

The functions of the committees and special bodies are specified in their respective terms of reference in annexes III - IX to the present resolution. Committees should select priority issues and focus on well-defined problems in order to show tangible results within specified time-frames.

(b) Rules of procedure

Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, the rules of procedure of the Commission, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, shall apply mutatis mutandis to the committees and special bodies.

(c) Informal session

An informal session among the heads of delegations during the ministerial segment of each Commission session should be organized on a year-by-year basis and should not be institutionalized. The agenda for the informal session should be decided by consensus and the annotated agenda should reach members at least thirty days before the opening of the session, to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the session. Simultaneous interpretation should also be provided;

2. Invites the Executive Secretary, under the direction of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and in conformity with the goal of maximizing the impact of the United Nations in the field of economic and social development, to reorganize the secretariat so as to enhance its capability to service the subsidiary structure of the Commission and implement its revised programme of work under the framework of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary to inform the governments of members and associate members about his preliminary assessment of the organizational, staffing and financial implications of the revision of the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission within the next six months;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at subsequent sessions on (a) the implementation of the present resolution; and (b) the impact and effectiveness of the revised conference structure, including its thematic priorities and its subsidiary structure;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary to inform members and associate members, through the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, of ESCAP progress towards the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996;

6. Commends the secretariat on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions establishing language arrangements for the official working languages of the Commission and urges the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts to monitor closely the strict implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/11 of 2 November 1995;

7. Decides to review the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic priorities and its subsidiary structure, no later than at its fifty-eighth session.

11th meeting
30 April 1997

ANNEXES

Annex I

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

SUBSIDIARY STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION

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Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation
Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development
Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development
Committee on Statistics

Special Bodies

(a) Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries
(b) Pacific Island Developing Countries

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Annex II

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES DESIGNATED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall have the following functions:

1. To maintain close cooperation and consultation between the members and the secretariat of the Commission.

2. To advise and assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the medium-term plan, programme budget and priorities, consistent with the guidelines provided by the Commission.

3. To receive on a regular basis information on the administrative and financial functioning of ESCAP, and to assist and advise the Executive Secretary in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the ESCAP programme of work.

4. To review the draft calendar of meetings prior to its submission to the Commission session.

5. To exchange views with the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for each session of the Commission, bearing in mind chapter II of its rules of procedure.

6. To assist the secretariat in the formulation of the annotated provisional agenda for each session of the Commission before it is finalized.

7. To monitor the functioning of the thematic approach and the implementation of activities under it, in order to provide an assessment of the thematic approach and to suggest to the Commission at the appropriate time potential modifications to or changes of the themes.

8. To carry out any other tasks to be entrusted to it by the Commission.

Annex III

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

A. The economic growth process in the Asian and Pacific region is characterized by increasing interdependence of its economies leading to a growing trend towards regional economic cooperation. The potential for enhanced cooperation will be realized more fully through the promotion and expansion of intraregional and inter-subregional trade and investment flows, technology development and transfer, and industrial production linkages, all of which are strongly encouraged by the diversity and increasing complementarity of the region's economies. There is, in addition, the imperative of such enhanced regional economic cooperation for spreading the growth impulse more widely across the region and mainstreaming the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries as well as economies in transition.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Committee would:

1. Review and analyse global and regional trends and developments that have an impact on areas such as intraregional trade, investment, technology and financial flows, enterprise development, trade efficiency, information technology, industrial restructuring and relocation, and technological development and transfer.

2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action to promote regional economic cooperation by identifying and addressing major development issues and regional concerns and priorities in trade, investment, financial, information technology, industrial and technological areas, and recommending policy options and measures to achieve tangible results and to enhance national capacities to meet new challenges.

3. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work of the secretariat and make recommendations to the Commission about future programmes of work, and in this process ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as special concerns of the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, and economies in transition, the environment, human resources development, and women in development, are adequately addressed.
4. Strengthen the cooperative relationship with relevant subregional organizations to promote intra-subregional and inter-subregional cooperation and linkages through the interchange of information and experiences and, in response to articulated needs, through the promotion of growth triangles and quadrangles or other special mechanisms and arrangements.

5. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences relevant to the work of the Committee, at the national, subregional and regional levels; and evaluate progress and provide guidance on the implementation of regional action programmes.

6. Promote liaison with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, and donor countries, within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities to promote regional economic cooperation.

7. Promote liaison with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlapping and duplication, and strengthening cooperation with other organizations and other bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the Commission’s activities.

8. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate its activities with them.

9. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to regional economic cooperation.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee should identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee should indicate the outcomes expected from each task, set a time-frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall be composed of all members and associate members of the Commission.

The Committee shall meet biennially and its report will be submitted as a background document to facilitate discussion on regional economic cooperation at the Commission sessions.

The Committee shall have a high-level Steering Group to develop innovative approaches and facilitate exchange of views on pre-selected issues of current interest, among a cross-section of representatives of government, academia and the private sector, in order to have in-depth discussion on a range of options on regional economic cooperation and make specific recommendations. Its membership shall be drawn from members and associate members on a voluntary basis. Subject to the approval of members and associate members by consensus, representatives of development agencies, financial institutions, private sector organizations and non-governmental organizations may be invited to meetings of the Steering Group to fulfil its role as a "think tank".

The Steering Group shall meet annually and its report shall be submitted to the Committee. In the years the Committee does not meet, issues discussed and recommendations made by the Steering Group could also be submitted directly to the Commission for its consideration.

Annex IV

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

A. Poverty remains a most important issue in developing countries of the ESCAP region, which must be addressed in a holistic and integrated manner. Hence, poverty alleviation is a major focus of assistance to countries in their attempts to achieve economic growth and improve the quality of life in the context of sustainable development and the emerging global economy. The Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas would therefore serve as a regional forum for (a) the identification of social and economic development issues directly related to the alleviation of poverty, and (b) the development of appropriate strategies and policies to improve the quality of life of the poor.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Committee would:

1. Review and analyse the global and regional trends and developments that have an impact on the poverty situation in the region, with focus on their correlates in both the rural and urban contexts, and recommend development policy options and programme strategies.
2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action in undertaking measures aimed at alleviating poverty in both rural and urban areas through the promotion of people's participation, including that of women and socially and economically disadvantaged groups, and capacity-building of national and local institutions and communities as well as human resources, and other means. Specifically, the Committee will recommend policy options and identify programmes that would address population issues and concerns; social development issues and concerns; human resources development; women in development; increased access to employment, education, health, shelter and credit; agricultural growth, especially through environmentally-friendly inputs; the use of appropriate technologies; devolution of authority and participatory urban management and governance.

3. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences at the national, subregional and regional levels; monitor and evaluate progress in their implementation and provide guidance on the implementation of the regional action programmes relevant to the work of the Committee, inter alia, on population, social development, human resources development, rural development, women and urbanization.

4. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work of the secretariat and make recommendations to the Commission about future programmes of work, and in this process ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as special concerns of the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries and economies in transition, the environment, human resources development, and women in development, are adequately addressed.

5. Promote liaison with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, and donor countries, within and outside the region, in its efforts and initiatives to deal with the issues of poverty alleviation in both the rural and urban areas.

6. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate its activities with them.

7. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to poverty alleviation.

8. Promote liaison with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlapping and duplication, and strengthening cooperation with other organizations and other bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's activities.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee should identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee should indicate the outcomes expected from each task, set a time-frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall meet annually, focusing on a limited number of pre-selected issues, and shall report to the Commission.

Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

A. The main objectives of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development will be to promote regional and subregional cooperation for sustainable development and to strengthen national capacities in the field of the environment, including integration of environmental concerns into development strategies, in line with the provisions of Agenda 21 and other subsequent decisions; development and management of natural resources, including water, mineral and energy resources (excluding infrastructural aspects of electric power); diffusion and management of environmentally sound technologies; space technology applications; and natural disaster reduction.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Committee shall perform the following specific functions:

1. Review and assess the state of the environment in the region and, where a regional perspective on the issues provides a clear advantage, highlight the major environmental concerns with a view to encouraging the integration of environmental concerns into development policies, strategies, plans and programmes of members and associate members, at both the macroeconomic and sectoral levels.
2. Review and identify priority issues, assess progress, and promote regional and subregional cooperation in the development and management of water, mineral and energy resources, and in the application of space technologies, keeping in view the need for ensuring sustainable development; and make recommendations on policies, strategies, methods and techniques for the proper investigation, development, utilization and management of those resources.

3. Promote regional and subregional cooperation in environmental protection and natural disaster reduction, and encourage members and associate members to undertake their assessment of risks from natural hazards and to integrate the outcomes of such assessments into their development plans.

4. Promote opportunities for and provide guidance on the transfer and adoption of environmentally sound technologies, their diffusion, as well as management and operational practices to contribute to the strengthening of national capacities in achieving sustainable development.

5. Encourage the setting of standards and the strengthening of legal frameworks for the development and management of natural resources, and promote the application of environmental safeguards in manufacturing and product development.

6. Review the salient issues in the regional strategies and action programmes emerging from recent global conferences, international conventions and agreements; monitor the implementation of Agenda 21 at the regional level; and articulate the region’s response to relevant global initiatives, ensuring that such initiatives support the development of the region.

7. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work of the secretariat and make recommendations to the Commission about future programmes of work, and in this process ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as special concerns of the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, and economies in transition, human resources development, and women in development, are adequately addressed.

8. Promote liaison with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlapping and duplication, and strengthening cooperation with other organizations and other bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the Commission’s activities.

9. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate its activities with them.

10. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to the environment and natural resources development.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee should identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee should indicate the outcomes expected from each task, set a time-frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall meet annually, focusing on a limited number of pre-selected areas on a rotating basis, and shall report to the Commission.

Annex VI

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, TOURISM AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

A. The rapid growth in regional economies, trade and tourism is placing considerable strain on infrastructure facilities and services. It is also highlighting the importance of intraregional and interregional transport linkages as well as appropriate facilitation measures to ensure efficient utilization of regional linkages.

In the context of these developments, the Committee will address the following areas: roads, railways, urban transport, ports, shipping, inland waterways, dredging, multimodal transport, including freight forwarding, tourism, and the infrastructural aspects of electric power.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Committee would:

1. Review and analyse global and regional trends and developments that have an impact on transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development in the ESCAP region.
2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action in the transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development sectors; recommend policy options to achieve tangible results in improving the efficient provision, management, operation, maintenance and pricing of transport, tourism facilities, infrastructure and services, taking into account equity, safety and environmental considerations; promote intraregional and interregional transport linkages, and in particular the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway, services, facilitation measures and tourism; and enhance national capacities.

3. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences at the national, subregional and regional levels; evaluate progress and provide guidance on the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific being coordinated by ESCAP. In this connection, aspects of work on civil aviation, telecommunications and postal services carried out by the specialized agencies in relation to the implementation of the Action Plan would also be addressed by the Committee.

4. Promote liaison with international financing institutions, concerned private sector organizations and non-governmental organizations, to assist in the development of transport, communications, tourism and electric power infrastructure and services.

5. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work of the secretariat, and make recommendations to the Commission about future programmes of work, and in this process ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the special concerns of the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries and economies in transition, the environment, human resources development, socially and economically disadvantaged groups, and women in development, are adequately addressed.

6. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate its activities with them.

7. Promote liaison with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlapping and duplication, and strengthening cooperation with other organizations and other bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the Commission’s activities.

8. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee should identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee should indicate the outcomes expected from each task, set a time-frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall meet annually and focus on specific pre-selected sectors, and present its report to the Commission as a background document to facilitate discussion.

Annex VII

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS

A. The Committee on Statistics, in acting as the focus of regional statistical development, shall perform the following functions:

1. Review and analyse progress in the development of statistics in the region.

2. Assist in the strengthening of the statistical infrastructure in the countries of the region, promote the improvement of the quality of statistics, the international comparability of data and the appropriate application of new techniques, provide guidance in meeting emerging data requirements, and arrange for the exchange of information on and experiences in statistical work and methods among the countries.


4. Participate actively in the initiation, development, revision, testing and implementation of international statistical standards, promote and monitor their application, and promote their adaptation, as appropriate, to the conditions and needs of the countries of the region.
5. Play the focal role in promoting close coordination of all aspects of the statistical activities of specialized agencies, relevant United Nations bodies and other international organizations in regard to their work in the Asian and Pacific region, inter alia so as to achieve greater uniformity in concepts and definitions, reduce to a minimum the response burden on national statistical offices, and maximize the effectiveness of technical cooperation activities.

6. Promote the generation and analysis of statistical data and encourage, with due regard to relevant international work, efforts to develop a set of standardized statistical indicators for the region relevant to the programme of work of the Commission.

7. Recommend programmes of technical assistance, training, education and research in the various fields of statistics and their application.

8. Review and analyse progress in the development of information technology applications and information resource management in the region, especially in the public sector, and make recommendations on issues concerning policies and strategies, as well as on programmes of technical assistance, training and research in this field.

9. Review and evaluate the activities of the secretariat and the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work in the areas of statistics and computerized information processing, provide guidance on the work of the secretariat, and make recommendations to the Commission about the future programme of work, paying due regard to the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission and other relevant bodies.

10. Make recommendations to the Governing Board of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on the nature of and priorities in statistical training for the countries of the region.

11. Inform the United Nations Statistical Commission and, where appropriate, the statistical authorities of the specialized agencies and other relevant bodies, of its work, so that due attention may be given to the wider aspects of the issues considered by the Committee.

12. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, coordinate activities with them, and ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the special concerns of the least developed, landlocked, Pacific island developing countries and economies in transition, the environment, human resources development, and women in development are adequately addressed.

13. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to statistics.

Within the context of the above terms of reference, the Committee shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee should indicate the outcomes expected from each task, set a time-frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall meet once every two years and shall report to the Commission.

Annex VIII

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SPECIAL BODY ON LEAST DEVELOPED AND LANDlocked DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A. The special problems and constraints on the economic and social development of the least developed and landlocked developing countries have been recognized by the international community, and also within the context of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, the International Development Strategy and other international declarations. These constraints require focused priority attention in the Asian and Pacific region in order to mainstream them into the ongoing regional integration process and to associate them with the economic and social dynamism of the region. The Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries provides a focused forum for addressing the special issues and problems facing these groups of countries in the spirit of regional cooperation.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Special Body will:

1. Review and analyse the economic and social progress in the least developed and landlocked developing countries and undertake in-depth reviews of economic, social and environmental constraints on the development of least developed and landlocked developing countries.
2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action to identify and promote new policy options at the national, subregional and regional levels for the removal of constraints on the economic and social development efforts of these countries, with emphasis on the adoption of measures for increased mobilization of domestic and foreign resources, trade and private sector development, public sector reform, and provision of economic advice, on request, to governments with limited internal capacity.

3. Assist in enhancing national capacities in least developed and landlocked developing countries, including in relation to the formulation of development strategies at the national and sectoral levels.

4. Foster and strengthen intercountry cooperation arrangements for exchanges of experience and technical cooperation between and among the least developed and landlocked countries and with other developing and developed countries in the region.

5. Without duplicating work done elsewhere, review and analyse the special transit trade and transport problems of Asian landlocked developing countries, recommend suitable measures for solving these problems in accordance with international legal instruments, in particular article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and encourage the Asian landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours to deal with problems within the context of bilateral cooperation.

6. Promote liaison with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor countries within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities for the benefit of the least developed and landlocked developing countries.

7. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work of the secretariat and make recommendations to the Commission about future programmes of work, and in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the environment, human resources development and women in development are adequately addressed.

8. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences on least developed countries at the national, subregional and regional levels, in particular the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and any successor programme.

9. Promote liaison with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlapping and duplication, and strengthening cooperation with other organizations and other bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the Commission’s activities.

10. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate its activities with them.

11. Carry out such other functions as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to least developed and landlocked developing countries.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Special Body should identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Special Body should indicate the outcomes expected from each task, set a time-frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Special Body shall meet biennially for two days, back-to-back with the Commission sessions, in alternate years with the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

Annex IX

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SPECIAL BODY ON PACIFIC ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A. The special problems and constraints on the economic and social development of the Pacific island developing countries related to their isolation, small size and vulnerability to environmental hazards have been recognized by the international community, and also within the context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and other international declarations. These constraints require focused priority attention in order to mainstream them into the ongoing regional integration process and to associate them with the economic and social dynamism of the region. The Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries provides a focused forum for addressing the special issues and problems facing this group of countries in the spirit of regional cooperation.
B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Special Body will:

1. Review and analyse the economic and social progress in the Pacific island developing countries and undertake in-depth reviews of economic, social and environmental constraints on their development.

2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action to identify and promote new policy options at the national, subregional and regional levels for the removal of constraints on the economic and social development efforts of these countries.

3. Assist in enhancing national capacities of Pacific island developing countries, including in relation to the formulation of development strategies at the national and sectoral levels.

4. Foster and strengthen intercountry and inter-subregional cooperation arrangements for exchanges of experience and technical cooperation between and among the Pacific island developing countries and with other developing and developed countries in the region.

5. Promote liaison, particularly through the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, with development agencies and financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and donor countries within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities for the benefit of the Pacific island developing countries.

6. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work of the secretariat and make recommendations to the Commission about future programmes of work, and in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the environment, human resources development and women in development are adequately addressed.

7. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences on small island developing countries at the national, subregional and regional levels, in particular the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

8. Promote liaison with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlapping and duplication, and strengthening cooperation with other organizations and bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's activities.

9. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate its activities with them.

10. Carry out such other functions as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to Pacific island developing countries.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Special Body should identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Special Body should indicate the outcomes expected from each task, set a time-frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Special Body shall meet for two days biennially, back-to-back with the annual sessions of the Commission, in alternate years with the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries.

53/2. Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the advancement of women

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/203 of 22 December 1995 and 51/69 of 12 December 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Bearing in mind its resolution 52/3 of 24 April 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, in which it urged all members and associate members to ensure full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in coordination with the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, by strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women to enhance their effectiveness in promoting mainstreaming of gender concerns into policy formulation and planning for national development,

Noting that the Platform for Action recommends that regional commissions should promote and assist the pertinent national institutions in monitoring and implementing the global Platform for Action within their mandates and that this should be done in coordination with the implementation of the respective regional platforms or plans of action,

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See para. 201 above.