(d) To continue to promote technical cooperation among developing countries by urging developing countries in Asia and the Pacific to contribute resources to accelerate the implementation of the Platform for Action;

4. Also requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

11th meeting
30 April 1997

53/3. Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 50/8 of 13 April 1994 on the strengthening of subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia, including environmental cooperation for sustainable development,

Recalling also its resolution 52/8 of 24 April 1996 on the third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, in which it endorsed the recommendations of the Conference, 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,

Recognizing the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, as adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, which continue to provide general policy guidance on subregional environmental cooperation in North-East Asia,

Noting with satisfaction the Third Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, held at Ulaanbaatar in September 1996, in which the six countries of the subregion, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, for the first time came to a consensus and adopted the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation,

Welcoming decision 19/19 of 7 February 1997 on the Framework, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its nineteenth session, held at Nairobi in January-February 1997,

1. Welcomes the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation, as adopted by the Third Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, held at Ulaanbaatar in September 1996;

2. Calls upon the participating parties to the Programme, through the existing Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, to work towards practical institutional and financial arrangements for the Programme, as appropriate, including striving to reach a consensus on establishing a trust fund to be funded by donors, collaborating agencies and participating parties on a voluntary basis;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue ESCAP efforts, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, to promote subregional environmental cooperation in North-East Asia, inter alia, by providing technical and financial support for the implementation of the Framework and approved priority projects;

4. Also requests the Executive Secretary to continue to provide secretariat support to the Meeting of Senior Officials, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other relevant institutions, in the interim period pending the final decision on the future institutional arrangements of the Programme;

5. Decides that the present resolution should be transmitted to the General Assembly at its special session on overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21, to be held in New York from 23 to 27 June 1997, as a substantive input outlining subregional cooperation on the environment in North-East Asia.

11th meeting
30 April 1997

53/4. Elimination of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, in which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which called upon governments to cooperate at the international level and take effective steps, including specific preventive measures to protect children, adolescents and youth from all types of exploitation and abuse,

2 See para. 156 above.

4 See para. 176 above.
**Bearing in mind** that States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child agreed to take action to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse,

**Taking note** of the recommendation of the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth, convened by ESCAP in cooperation with the Government of China, in Beijing in October 1996, which called upon the secretariat to promote regional cooperation in eliminating the sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of youth in the Asian and Pacific region,

**Recalling** that the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Stockholm in August 1996, gave its commitment to mobilize national and international communities, including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to assist countries in eliminating the commercial sexual exploitation of children,

**Considering** the high priority accorded to action against the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth in the Declaration and Agenda for Action of the World Congress,

**Noting with concern** that while prostitution and trafficking in children and youth are illegal and deemed immoral in many countries, the practice continues unabated,

**Recognizing** that prostitution and trafficking in children and youth have taken a transnational dimension, including promotion via new technologies such as the Internet, necessitating international and regional action to address this phenomenon effectively,

**Taking note** of the findings from the preparatory work for the World Congress that sexual exploitation of children and youth by tourists and others can in some cases be highly organized and extremely profitable while carrying only low risks of prosecution and punishment,

**Acknowledging** the relevant activities being undertaken by other forums to address various aspects of the sexual exploitation of children and youth, including in the context of efforts to combat exploitative forms of child labour and the drafting of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sexual exploitation of children,

**Also acknowledging** the difficulty in obtaining accurate data on the extent and nature of the practice, given its illegal and socially unacceptable nature,

**Underscoring** the indubitably harmful effects of prostitution on every aspect of the development of children and youth, as well as family values and cultural mores,

**Recognizing** the risk to young commercial sex workers of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS,

1. **Encourages** member and associate member Governments:

   (a) To mobilize their agencies and members of civil society in combating the sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and youth in their respective countries and in tourist destinations;

   (b) To suggest areas for technical cooperation programme development and implementation, including enforcement practices in relation to combating prostitution and trafficking in children and youth;

   (c) To encourage the tourism industry in their respective countries to adopt the necessary mechanisms to prevent sex tourism involving children and youth;

   (d) To pay great attention to the deterrence and punishment of sexual exploiters of children and youth; under the principle that a crime against a child anywhere should be a crime everywhere, as recommended by the Amsterdam Child Labour Conference, held in February 1997, all member States should ensure that sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth are never tolerated and should take action to prosecute sexual exploiters of children and youth where the crime is committed;

   (e) To implement programmes and projects that take into account the best interests of children and youth and promote the protection of their rights, in accordance with international standards and agreements;

2. **Encourages** donor governments and agencies to fund projects that seek to prevent the sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and youth, and assist young victims of such exploitation and abuse in reintegrating into communities and families, obtaining access to relevant education, health and social services, and developing skills for alternative means of livelihood;

3. **Requests** the Executive Secretary:

   (a) To consider making an inventory of data on the commercial sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and youth in the region, the extent and measures taken to stop the practice, and the range of health and social services available to them, with the aim of identifying gaps in research and practice, and thereby facilitating regional and intercountry cooperation;
(b) To sensitize and promote awareness among government personnel and other members of civil society, including youth non-governmental organizations and the private sector, about the situation of sexually exploited and sexually abused children and youth, with a view to supporting human resources development policies and programmes to improve access to relevant health and social services, education and training, and employment;

(c) To enhance the capabilities of social service and health personnel, through relevant gender-sensitive training, in assisting young victims and potential victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in being reintegrated into society;

(d) To coordinate its activities in this field closely with other United Nations bodies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the working group of the Commission on Human Rights on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sexual exploitation of children, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Labour Organization, in order to avoid duplication;

(e) To report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

11th meeting
30 April 1997