Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION
AT ITS FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION

54/1. Strengthening regional support for persons with disabilities into the twenty-first century

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,


Noting the implementation efforts made in the first half of the Decade by many countries and areas in the Asian and Pacific region, including progress in the adoption of equalization legislation, as well as intercountry meetings hosted by the Governments of India, Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines on critical issues in implementation of the Agenda for Action related to assistive devices, non-handicapping environments, multisectoral collaboration and national coordination,

Welcoming the Seoul proposals adopted by the Meeting of Senior Officials to Mark the Mid-point of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea in September 1997,

Recognizing with appreciation the Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns of the Regional Intergovernmental Committee for Asia and the Pacific for pioneering collaborative inter-organizational Decade action,

Noting the need for a stronger regional impetus to support national and local endeavours in the second half of the Decade,

1. Requests the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to endorse the present resolution and to encourage intergovernmental organizations to support its implementation in order to assist in addressing equalization issues faced by the majority of the world’s disabled persons, including disabled women and disabled children, who live in the Asian and Pacific region;

2. Urges all members and associate members:

(a) To intensify multisectoral collaborative action towards the fulfilment of the targets for the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-second session in April 1996;

(b) To contribute to the ESCAP technical cooperation trust fund for the Decade to meet capacity-building needs for information and technical assistance in multisectoral collaboration among diverse sectors, in support of the fulfilment of the Decade targets;

3. Further urges all governments which have not yet joined as signatories to the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region to do so before the next regional meeting to review the progress of the Decade, to be held in 1999;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to strengthen secretariat assistance to members and associate members through the following action:

(a) Harnessing the multidisciplinary potential of the secretariat to enhance sensitivity to disabilities, that is, the inclusion of persons with disabilities and/or the consideration of the impact on disability-related concerns, as a performance criterion in the secretariat’s overall technical assistance, on a par with other criteria, such as gender sensitivity and relevance to development needs in the countries and areas of the region;

(b) Examining resource allocations within the secretariat, with a view to undertaking the adjustments required to enhance secretariat support for disability-related action;

(c) Mobilizing resources to replenish the Decade fund continually, for documentation, exchanges and field visits, and to disseminate good practices in the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Decade, giving special attention to the enhancement of knowledge and skills among persons with disabilities and the equal participation of disabled women and girls;

(d) Generating practical guidelines for advancing equal access by disabled persons to mainstream development opportunities, by organizing and following up on two regional meetings in 1999, in close collaboration with other members of the Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns, on the following topics:

1 See para. 213 above.
(i) Education and technology for the specific needs of disabled children and youth;


(e) Exploring the means of organizing, by the end of 2002, a high-level regional meeting to consider the lessons learned from national and area efforts towards the fulfilment of the Decade targets, so as to lay a solid foundation for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in mainstream society into the twenty-first century;

5. **Further requests** the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission biennially on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, with emphasis on follow-up action to reinforce the impact of the above-mentioned regional meetings, and to submit recommendations to the Commission, as required, concerning continuous secretariat action to improve the opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in the development process, until 2003, when the overall endeavours of the Decade will be reviewed as a full item in the agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, to serve as a basis for further action in the new millennium.

10th meeting
22 April 1998

54/2. **Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region**

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

*Recalling* its resolution 51/4 of 1 May 1995 on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (hereinafter referred to as the regional Social Development Agenda), by which it decided to convene a regional ministerial conference on social development in 1997 and, thereafter, to convene further such meetings at a high political level on a biennial basis, as called for in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development,

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2 See para. 216 above.