(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,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 50/161 of 22 December 1995, 51/202 of 17 December 1996 and 52/25 of 26 November 1997 on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, and noting in particular the decision contained therein to hold a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and to consider further actions and initiatives, and the invitation to the regional commissions to convene biennial meetings at a high political level to review the progress made in implementing the outcome of the Summit,

Noting with appreciation the convening of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development in Manila from 5 to 11 November 1997, and the full participation of members and associate members in reviewing and assessing the progress achieved towards attaining the goals and targets of the regional Social Development Agenda and considering the means of enhancing regional cooperation in support of the Agenda and in implementing the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,

Expressing deep gratitude to the Government and people of the Philippines for hosting the Ministerial Conference, and noting that they had also hosted the last two ministerial conferences on social development in 1991 and 1994,

Noting also with appreciation the participation of concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda, in particular the focal role of the Executive Secretary, the generous funding by the Asian Development Bank, and the contribution of the International Labour Organization and the non-governmental organizations to the preparatory process for the Ministerial Conference,

Acknowledging with appreciation the progress and continuing efforts made by members and associate members, with the support of the concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in taking the necessary action to address the region's critical social issues towards attaining the specific time-bound goals and targets for poverty alleviation, the generation of productive employment and the enhancement of social integration,

Stressing with concern the social challenges that remain to be addressed arising from the current economic crisis, intercountry labour mobility, demographic processes, urbanization, changing family relations, changing gender relations, changing consumption patterns, advances in technology, environmental change and HIV/AIDS,

---

2 See para. 216 above.
Reaffirming its commitment to the social development goals and targets contained in the regional Social Development Agenda, and to accord priority to measures to enhance the prospects for social development in Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century, consistent with its deliberations on the theme topic at the present session,

1. Endorses the findings, conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development;

2. Also endorses the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (hereinafter referred to as the Manila Declaration 1997) adopted by the Conference on 11 November 1997;

3. Urges all members and associate members to accelerate the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda in accordance with the decisions of the Conference and the recommendations contained in the Manila Declaration 1997, taking into account specific country conditions;

4. Also urges donor governments and agencies, as well as multilateral financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to support more explicitly the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda, as well as other United Nations programmes of action and agendas related to social development concerns, in their loans, funding and general development assistance operation;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, donor governments and multilateral funding agencies, including the Asian Development Bank, as appropriate:

   (a) To take immediate action to harness the multidisciplinary potential of the secretariat to ensure full support for the effective implementation of the Manila Declaration 1997;

   (b) To establish a Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific subcommittee on the regional Social Development Agenda with a view to strengthening collaboration and coordination among United Nations and other regional development actors in the planning and programming for regional social development in implementation of the Manila Declaration 1997;

   (c) To consider, with the United Nations Development Programme, suitable mechanisms to facilitate coordination of assistance for social development in the Asian and Pacific region, including the convening of multi-donor consultations on support to the region in the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda;

   (d) To provide technical assistance to strengthen national capabilities for multisectoral and integrated social development planning and programming aimed at:

      (i) Minimizing any adverse social repercussions of development trends and programmes;

      (ii) Clarifying national priority targets and improving planning, information and evaluation to enhance macroeconomic and sectoral policies and programmes for poverty alleviation, employment generation and social integration through expert group meetings, studies, seminars, information dissemination and regional advisory services;

   (e) To convene in 1999 a regional meeting of senior officials to review the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda in preparation for the global review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development by the General Assembly at its special session in 2000;

   (f) To report to the Commission in 2001 on the implementation of the present resolution.

54/3. Bangkok Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Industrial and Technological Development in the Asian and Pacific Region and the Regional Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific (1992), the Tehran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific (1993), the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer (1994), the Delhi Declaration on Strengthening Regional Economic Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific towards the Twenty-first Century (1994), the Final Act of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, adopted by the member countries of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (1994), General Assembly resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference

---

3 See para. 148 above.