everywhere, boys and girls alike, would be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys would have equal access to all levels of education,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/116 of 19 December 2001, by which it proclaimed the ten-year period beginning from 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade: Education for All,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 57/166 of 18 December 2002, in which it welcomed the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, in which the Assembly emphasized the critical role of both formal and informal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration,

Noting the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of literacy and education around the world,

Reaffirming that creating literate environments and societies is essential for achieving the goals of eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy,

Noting with concern that over sixty per cent of the world’s illiterates are in Asia and the Pacific,

Noting that the mid-term review of the United Nations Literacy Project is to take place in 2007,

Believing that achieving the goal of universal primary education requires a renewed commitment to promote literacy for all,

Welcoming the efforts made by Member States to implement the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade,

1. Notes with satisfaction that a number of ESCAP members have already achieved the goal of universal primary education and that many others are on track to do so;

2. Encourages those members that have not yet achieved the goal of universal primary education to devise necessary strategies for reaching the poorest and most marginalized groups and to seek, where appropriate, alternative formal and non-formal approaches to learning, with a view to achieving the goals of the United Nations Literacy Decade;

3. Invites ESCAP members and, as appropriate, associate members, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts to implement the International Plan of Action as a central focus of Education for All, taking into account internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

4. Also invites the international community and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to lend their financial and material support to the efforts of the ESCAP members in the achievement of the goals of the Decade;

5. Encourages ESCAP members to strengthen their national and professional educational institutions with a view to expanding their capacity, developing valid and reliable literacy data and promoting the provision of good quality education;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to assess, within existing regular budget resources or through voluntary contributions as available and within the monitoring of the progress attained in the regional implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade and report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session.

Sth meeting 12 April 2006

62/9. Regional follow-up to the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port Lewis from 10 to 14 January 2005, taking into account new and emerging issues,

Also recalling its resolution 61/9 of 18 May 2005, in which it called upon the members of the Thematic Working Group on Environment and Development under the Regional Coordination Mechanism to play an effective role in the implementation of the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific 2006-2010 adopted by the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Seoul from 24 to 29 March 2005, as well as its regional initiatives, including the Seoul Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Economic Growth (Green Growth),

10 See paragraphs 248 to 265 above.
Further recalling its resolution 60/1 of 28 April 2004 on the Shanghai Declaration, in which the special needs of small island developing States were recognized, as was the need to enhance subregional and regional integration and cooperation to support their development,

Recognizing that the United Nations Millennium Declaration articulated important goals and specific, measurable and time-bound targets related to poverty reduction, education, health and safe drinking water, and recognizing further their relevance to small island developing States,

Recognizing also that the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States set forth specific actions and measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States, in such areas as biodiversity, climate change, and coastal and marine resource management,

Reaffirming the desire of small island developing States to participate effectively in and benefit from the Commission’s activities as a whole,

Bearing in mind that assistance to small island developing States will need to take into account their unique economic and social situations resulting from their isolation, small size and vulnerability to environmental hazards,

Welcoming the strengthening of the Least Developed Countries Coordinating Unit at ESCAP,

1. Reaffirms its support for the issues identified by the Mauritius Strategy for follow-up action in order to further implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

2. Stresses that the successful implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States depends on shared responsibility and strengthened partnerships, including with civil society and the private sector, and invites all members and, as appropriate, associate members and subregional, regional and international organizations to support the efforts of small island developing States to address issues of national and regional sustainable development, which includes economic, social and environmental aspects;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary, within existing regular budget resources, or through voluntary contributions, as available:

(a) To ensure that the activities of ESCAP, consistent with its programme of work, take into account the special needs of the small island developing States, as contained in the Mauritius Strategy;

(b) To review, analyse and disseminate information, as appropriate, on economic and social development in small island developing States, in line with the Mauritius Strategy;

(c) To provide regional inputs, as appropriate, into the final review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy;

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

5th meeting
12 April 2006

62/10. Strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000 on the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which strongly reiterated the determination of Member States to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit that are described as the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling further the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, as adopted in 1994 by the United Nations Statistical Commission,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/13 of 22 July 2005 on the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme, in which the Council recognized the increasing importance of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses for meeting data needs for the follow-up activities to the Millennium Summit,

Recognizing the need to strengthen the capacity of many of the developing countries of the region to produce on a regular basis a minimum set of statistical data needed for monitoring social, economic and environmental conditions and designing and evaluating evidence-based policies,

Recognizing the difficulties that many developing countries face in implementing some of the major long-standing international statistical standards,

Encouraged by the capacity-building and other initiatives that are taking place at the national and international levels, in response to relevant international plans and programmes,

1. Invites members and, as appropriate, associate members to give priority to the strengthening of their official statistical systems;

11 See paragraphs 164 to 168 above.