Chapter IV
RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

A. Resolutions

Resolution 63/1
Almaty Declaration: commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Adopts the following declaration:

Almaty Declaration

1. We, the members and associate members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, have gathered in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 17 to 23 May 2007 for the sixty-third session of the Commission.

2. We recognize the historic significance of the present session of the Commission, held for the first time in Central Asia, in the year that marks the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Commission.

3. We celebrate a period spanning six decades in which membership in the Commission has grown from ten in 1947 to sixty-two today, encompassing a region that is home to two thirds of humankind and is characterized by a rich diversity of cultures and economic and social systems.

4. On this occasion, we express our deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Kazakhstan for hosting the sixty-third session of the Commission in Almaty, and to the municipal authorities of Almaty for their kindness and hospitality.

5. We are aware that the sixty-third session will be the final session attended by Mr. Kim Hak-Su in his capacity as Executive Secretary, and wish therefore to commend the Executive Secretary for his vision and dynamic leadership in re-engineering and revitalizing the Commission.

6. We recall Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, which recognizes the regional commissions as regional outposts of the United Nations, fulfilling norm-setting, dissemination and analytical functions, as well as providing an important forum for articulating regional perspectives on global issues and for building consensus within their respective regions.

7. In recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, we reaffirm our commitment to enhance the authority and efficiency of the United Nations, as well as its capacity to address effectively the full range of challenges we face in the present era of rapid socioeconomic development.

8. We also recall the Shanghai Declaration, a landmark resolution adopted at the birthplace of the Commission in Shanghai, China, which outlines the overall vision for the Commission in reducing poverty, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues.

9. In reaffirming the vital role of the Commission in fostering regional and subregional cooperation and in assisting members and associate members in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, we commit ourselves to supporting the mandated functions of the Commission as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the region.

10. We are convinced that the Commission is well placed to expand the scope of regional cooperation through the strengthening of linkages with subregional organizations, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Pacific Islands Forum, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

11. In a region that hosts the world’s most dynamic economies, we note with concern the widening disparities between and within countries and therefore resolve to strengthen South-South cooperation because it offers viable opportunities for the collective pursuit of sustainable economic growth and development.

12. In recognizing the particular development challenges confronting Central Asian countries, all of which are landlocked and in need of diversifying their economies and tapping their potential as a transport hub for the Asian and European continents, we resolve to accelerate the integration of Central Asia into the regional economy of Asia and the Pacific through, among other things, the strengthening of the United

See paras. 183 to 247 above.
13. We are determined to build an Asia-Pacific century, as an epoch during which poverty is eliminated and equal opportunities become available for every woman and man to live healthy, peaceful and productive lives.

14. Hence, we resolve to support the efforts of the Commission in renewing itself towards fulfilling our vision of an Asia-Pacific century.

15. We therefore request the Executive Secretary to reinvigorate the role of the Commission as a regional development centre, by identifying and advocating innovative approaches to address sustainable development issues and coordinating region-wide policy dialogues, in close collaboration with United Nations country teams, in order to respond effectively to the changing needs of the region.

16. We also request the Executive Secretary to strengthen the leadership of the Commission in promoting South-South cooperation as a key instrument for enhancing development assistance in the region.

17. We further request the Executive Secretary to enhance the visibility of the Commission and increase understanding of its role in policy advocacy and consensus-building, as the body uniquely representative of the Asian and Pacific region.

18. On this historic occasion, we pledge our strong and continuing support for the leadership role of the Commission in catalysing regional cooperation, in fostering an Asia-Pacific century and in creating a shared future based upon our common humanity.

Resolution 63/2

Recognizing the contribution and distinguished services of Mr. Kim Hak-Su as Executive Secretary of the Commission

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Aware that the sixty-third session of the Commission will be the final session attended by Mr. Kim Hak-Su in his capacity as Executive Secretary,

Recognizing the contributions and distinguished service that Mr. Kim has rendered in his role as head of the Commission secretariat,

Noting with appreciation the improvements that Mr. Kim has brought to the work of the Commission, in particular on the revitalization of the conference, programme and secretariat structures,