3. Expresses its appreciation for the existing regional partnership on the Millennium Development Goals, which provides a consolidated regional platform to support the achievement of the Goals, as well as various activities undertaken through the partnership;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary, within her mandate and in close coordination with member States and United Nations entities and multilateral financial institutions, to continue, among other things:

(a) To reinforce regional partnerships on the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) To assess progress towards achieving all Goals and targets in the ESCAP region and to transmit a progress assessment to the Economic and Social Council, in particular to its annual ministerial review, for its consideration;

(c) To assist countries in the region in achieving the Goals, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island developing countries;

(d) To make further efforts to advocate the Goals in order to focus the attention of policymakers and other stakeholders;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session a sub-item entitled “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region” under the agenda item “Policy issues for the ESCAP region”, and requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the Commission at that session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008

Resolution 64/7

Financing for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in the ESCAP region

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,48

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 62/186 of 19 December 2007 on external debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries,

Recalling further the ministerial declaration of the 2007 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council adopted on 10 July 2007,49

Recalling its resolutions 62/1 of 12 April 2006 and 63/4 of 23 May 2007 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region,

Having considered the report entitled “A future within reach: progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Asian and Pacific region”,50

Underlining that the quality and the effectiveness of development assistance is an important element in achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Underlining also the need for the harmonization and coordination of aid policies and actions among governments, donors, the United Nations and other development agencies,

Reiterating that, in the common pursuit of growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, a critical challenge is to ensure the necessary internal conditions for mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private, sustaining adequate levels of productive investment and increasing human capacity and, in this context, recognizing the crucial task of enhancing the efficiency, coherence and consistency of macroeconomic policies, an enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector, and attracting and making effective use of international investment and assistance, while also recognizing that efforts at creating such an environment should be supported by the international community,

Emphasizing that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth, stressing the importance of debt sustainability to efforts to achieve national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, inviting creditors and debtors to continue to use, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, mechanisms such as debt swaps to alleviate the debt burden of low- and middle-income developing countries with unsustainable debt burdens that are not eligible for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and taking note of the discussions of and assessment by the Paris Club on the proposal for debt-for-equity in Millennium Development Goal projects,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized,

Bearing in mind that the World Bank estimate of the additional foreign aid required to reach the Millennium Development Goals globally by 2015 is between 40 billion and 60 billion dollars per year,

Recognizing that challenges, such as rising food and energy prices, and global economic uncertainties, compounded by climate change, have the potential to decelerate global and developing countries’

47 See paras. 327 to 347 above.
48 See General Assembly resolution 55/2.
50 E/ESCAP/64/37.
growth and undermine gains from poverty reduction efforts,

1. Recognizes that several modalities can be followed to ensure resource flows to achieve the Millennium Development Goals as outlined in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development51 to the off-track countries, including those listed in the above-mentioned report on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region;

2. Also recognizes the role of official development assistance in contributing to financial, human and technical resources in developing countries;

3. Urges the developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product to least developed countries and encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To explore the feasibility of establishing a regional Millennium Development Goal resource facility as referred to in the above-mentioned report;

(b) To contribute to the possible review of the Economic and Social Council’s existing mechanisms by the Council and take action, where appropriate, to ensure the effective review and implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session a sub-item on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region and requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission on the implementation of the present resolution at that session.

Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008

Resolution 64/8

Regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific52

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.


52 See paras. 131 to 154 above.

Recalling its resolution 61/8 of 18 May 2005 on the midpoint review of the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific,53 in which the Commission called for the convening of a high-level intergovernmental meeting on the midpoint review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012,

Welcoming the adoption of Biwako Plus Five: Further Efforts towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific54 at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, held in Bangkok from 19 to 21 September 2007,

Recognizing that Biwako Plus Five, in drawing upon the findings of the five-year review, taking into consideration global developments and the emerging needs of countries in the region with regard to disability and the challenges to be overcome, will supplement the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action over the remaining five years of the Decade, from 2008 to 2012,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/127 of 18 December 2007 on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities, in which the Assembly urged relevant entities of the United Nations system, including agencies, funds and programmes, to take concrete measures to incorporate the perspective of persons with disabilities, including accessibility requirements, in development cooperation and development finance activities,


Noting with appreciation the contributions of members and associate members of the Commission, donor agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to the technical assistance trust fund for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012,

1. Calls upon all members and associate members:

(a) To develop and implement inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based policies on disability in line with the recommendations contained in the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action53 and Biwako Plus Five;54


54 E/ESCAP/APDDP(2)/2.

55 General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.

56 Ibid., annex II.