Recalling also its resolution 49/5 of 29 April 1993 on the regional programme on space applications for development, in which it was decided to hold the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific in Beijing in September 1994,

Noting with satisfaction the success of the Ministerial Conference, which adopted the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Strategy for Regional Cooperation in Space Applications for Sustainable Development, and the Action Plan on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and launched the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development,

Bearing in mind the strong interest of members and associate members in participating in the cooperative activities that would emerge from the Programme and their commitment to contribute to those activities,

Convinced of the essential role of space information technologies and their applications in environmental and natural resource management, human development and poverty alleviation, and sustainable development planning, including natural disaster reduction,

Recalling the efforts of the Commission in promoting space applications for sustainable development in the region and its commitment to continue to play a pivotal and catalytic role in that regard,

1. Endorses the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Beijing in September 1994;

2. Endorses also the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Strategy for Regional Cooperation in Space Applications for Sustainable Development, and the Action Plan on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific;

3. Calls for the early implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference, the Beijing Declaration, the Strategy and the Action Plan;

4. Urges all members and associate members to participate actively in the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and also to initiate vigorously national implementation of the Strategy and the Action Plan;

5. Recommends that the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Remote Sensing Programme reconstitute itself as the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, under the purview of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, which would advise as appropriate on the implementation of the Programme, and urges members and associate members to enhance their representation in the reconstituted Committee;

6. Invites all United Nations bodies and agencies concerned, and donor countries and agencies to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference, the Beijing Declaration, the Strategy and the Action Plan;

7. Reiterates the call by the Ministerial Conference to include the Regional Space Applications Programme, as envisaged in the Action Plan, in the next intercountry programme of the United Nations Development Programme;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord priority to the activities proposed in the Action Plan and to incorporate the Regional Space Applications Programme in the next medium-term plan;

(b) To strengthen infrastructure within the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to implement the Programme successfully;

(c) To mobilize both human and financial resources for the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference, the Beijing Declaration, the Strategy and the Action Plan;

(d) To report to the Commission at its fifty-third session on the implementation of these recommendations, and, as proposed in the Beijing Declaration, to include in its agenda an item on space technology applications for sustainable development.

12th meeting 1 May 1995

51/12. Strengthening of the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/172 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly approved the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification; 42/189 of 11 December 1987 on the Plan of Action, 44/172 of 19 December 1989 concerning implementation of the Plan of Action, 47/188 of 22 December 1992, by which it

12 See para. 251 above.
established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 48/175 of 21 December 1993, on drought and desertification, and 48/191 of 21 December 1993, on the elaboration of an international convention,

Recalling the decision of the Commission at its forty-third session to establish the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific, in response to decision 12/10 of 28 May 1984 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, to combat desertification in Asia and the Pacific,

Bearing in mind that in the long term the problems of drought, desertification and land degradation have serious worldwide economic and social consequences,

Deeply concerned over the immensity and magnitude of land degradation and desertification in the Asian and Pacific region,

Noting the economic and social consequences of desertification for the affected countries,

Welcoming the adoption of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling the guidelines and arrangements of the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia to the Convention,

Reaffirming its commitment to the provisions of the Convention and its Regional Implementation Annex for Asia,

Recognizing the importance of regional and subregional cooperation in full and expeditious implementation of the Convention,

Further recognizing the activities conducted by the Regional Network,

1. Urges the Governments of the Asian and Pacific region that have not yet signed the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, to join the countries that have already become signatories;

2. Urges the members of the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific to provide further support for its strengthening;

3. Welcomes the provision of the facility in cash and in kind by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Programme Office for the Regional Network in Tehran, and the designation of an interim coordinator for the Office to facilitate the coordination and programming of Network activities;

4. Urges the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme to continue their strong support to, and cooperation with ESCAP for the implementation of, the Convention, in line with the guidelines and arrangements contained in the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia to the Convention;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, to convene a high-level meeting of the Regional Network to develop the work programme of the Network and to elaborate further the role and mandate of the Programme Office for the Regional Network;

6. Invites the Executive Secretary to continue to provide the necessary advisory services to countries of the Regional Network;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

12th meeting
1 May 1995