

**2000/5. Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion  
Development Cooperation, 2000–2009**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* the responsibility of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for initiating and participating in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, and for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific,

*Noting* the large membership and diverse needs of the region, and considering it essential for the secretariat of the Commission to sharpen the focus of its programme of work so as to support subregional initiatives and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of programmes established at the subregional level,

*Acknowledging* the importance of having a concerted strategy and close coordination among member countries of the Commission region and the relevant development agencies, as well as the development frameworks concerned, to promote cooperation among the countries of the Greater Mekong subregion in enhancing economic and social development and poverty alleviation in the area,

*Recognizing* the need to strengthen the capacity of the countries in the Greater Mekong subregion as a means of helping to narrow the large development gap between countries in the region,

*Noting with appreciation* the contribution made by the secretariat to various development programmes in the Commission region, including the Greater Mekong subregion, and the high level of support extended to the secretariat in that endeavour by other concerned United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies,

*Welcoming* the statement of the Ninth Conference on the Programme of Economic Cooperation in the Greater Mekong Subregion, held in Manila on 13 January 2000,<sup>16</sup> and in particular the determination expressed by the ministers to redouble their initiatives to accelerate, strengthen and extend regional cooperation within the subregion,

*Noting with appreciation* the continued financial support given by United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and the Asian Development Bank to a number of development programmes for countries in the subregion under the Greater Mekong subregion framework, some of which have been undertaken in collaboration with the secretariat,

*Recognizing* the important role played by the Mekong River Commission, which is now implementing, through its secretariat, the Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin of 5 April 1995,<sup>17</sup> in pursuance of an economically and socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River basin,

1. *Calls upon* the concerned regional members and associate members:

(a) To reaffirm their commitment to the development programmes in the Greater Mekong subregion through existing bodies, including the Mekong River Commission;

(b) To review jointly the existing development strategies with a view to developing a more concerted and rational approach that could respond effectively to the challenges of globalization while avoiding duplication of efforts in the development of the Greater Mekong subregion;

(c) To continue to work closely together to ensure that development cooperation in the Greater Mekong subregion is being pursued in a complementary manner;

(d) To formulate the development programmes in such a way that the private sector is encouraged to support them;

2. *Proclaims* the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000–2009, in order to draw the attention of the international community to the intensification of economic and social development in the subregion and to encourage its support thereof;

3. *Requests* the General Assembly to endorse the present resolution and to encourage, at the global level, support for its implementation;

4. *Urges* member countries, and international and intergovernmental organizations and institutions, to strengthen cooperation with and assistance to Greater Mekong subregion development programmes;

5. *Encourages* donor Governments and agencies, regional and international financial institutions, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to assist countries in the Greater Mekong subregion in their capacity-building to enable them to integrate effectively into the regional and global economy;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific:

(a) To help to mobilize the necessary resources to provide technical assistance and assistance in other areas that may be deemed necessary, upon the request of various Greater Mekong subregion development frameworks, in particular in such key sectors as human resources development, trade and investment, transportation and communications, poverty alleviation and social development;

(b) To call necessary meetings among the parties concerned to design a work programme for the development of the Greater Mekong subregion with the aim of achieving a tangible result in the given period;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to monitor the overall programmes of various framework activities in order to report to the Commission at its annual sessions and to all concerned member countries, and to evaluate the implementation of the programmes every three years until the end of the Decade.

<sup>16</sup> See [www.adb.org](http://www.adb.org).

<sup>17</sup> See [www.mekongforum.org](http://www.mekongforum.org).