

ECOSOC Resolution 2004/7

Work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in implementing its technical cooperation projects

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 37 (IV) of 28 March 1947, by which the Council established the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in particular paragraphs 1 (d) and (e) of that resolution, regarding advisory services and technical assistance,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, through which the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was mandated to serve as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region and as an executing agency for intersectoral, subregional, regional and interregional projects,

Cognizant of the scope of the responsibilities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the domain of which comprises the largest region in the world in geographical coverage and contains sixty-two per cent of the world's population, as well as the majority of the world's poor,

Aware of the focus of the work of the Commission on three key thematic areas, namely, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues,

1. *Recognizes* with appreciation that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has been implementing a number of technical cooperation projects that strengthen the capacity of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific members and associate members in the development and implementation of policies and programmes in economic and social fields;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those traditional donors which have made significant voluntary contributions to the technical cooperation activities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and invites non-traditional donors to increase their contributions;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Executive Secretary to focus on high-priority, results-oriented and demand-based projects and requests him to implement such projects in an effective and efficient manner;

4. *Recognizes* the need for the technical cooperation activities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to be guided by the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, and the outcomes of United Nations summits and conferences, including the Doha agenda,¹ the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,² the Monterrey

¹ Adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha from 9 to 14 November 2001. See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

Consensus,³ the Almaty Programme of Action⁴ and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society;⁵

5. *Also recognizes* that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has comparative strengths and advantages in certain technical cooperation activities in the Asian and Pacific region and requests the Executive Secretary, in carrying out its technical cooperation activities, to continue to attach high priority to the following areas:

(a) Capacity-building for members and associate members to plan and implement effective policies and programmes in economic and social fields through training activities, such as organizing seminars, workshops and the exchange of experts;

(b) Provision of advisory services, at the request of members or associate members, to strengthen their capacity to respond effectively to the challenges of globalization in the region;

(c) Identification of existing good practices in the region and promotion of their introduction in places where feasibility studies yield positive results;

(d) Enhancement of awareness among members and associate members and facilitation of the dissemination of relevant information;

6. *Urges* the Executive Secretary to implement the projects in close cooperation with the participating Governments and relevant international organizations and bodies, as well as in partnership with the private sector and relevant non-governmental organizations;

7. *Also urges* the Executive Secretary to pay particular attention to the special needs of socially vulnerable groups and to the gender dimension when implementing projects;

8. *Further urges* the Executive Secretary to pay particular attention to the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, and economies in transition when implementing projects;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Executive Secretary for actively monitoring and evaluating its projects and urges him to continue to do so in order to determine the effectiveness of those projects and to draw lessons therefrom for improved planning and implementation of future projects of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to include the following in his report to the Commission at its sixty-first session under the agenda

² *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa,*

26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

³ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico,*

18-22 March 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.62.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁴ A/CONF.202/3, annex I.

⁵ WSIS-03/GENEVA/DOC/5-E.

item entitled “Technical cooperation activities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and announcement of intended contributions”:

(a) His efforts to mobilize resources in areas such as broadening the donor base, cost-sharing, private sector funding and other innovative means in view of the trend towards declining voluntary contributions for technical cooperation activities;

(b) His strategy paper and action plan for technical cooperation activities for the year 2005 and thereafter, taking into account the priorities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and recognizing that the implementation of projects is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

(c) The results of the monitoring and evaluation of ongoing and recently completed projects for the purposes mentioned in paragraph 9 above.

*42nd plenary meeting
16 July 2004*