

## ECOSOC Resolution 2004/8

### **Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recognizing* the importance of international road transport to the development of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific region's economy, trade and tourism,

*Recognizing also* that an intergovernmental agreement on the Asian Highway network would play a catalytic role in the coordinated development of international highways in the region and between Asia and Europe,

*Recalling* the establishment of a working group to develop an intergovernmental agreement on the Asian Highway network, as recommended by the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, held in Seoul on 16 and 17 November 2001, and endorsed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its fifty-eighth session,

*Recalling also* the decision of the Commission at its fifty-ninth session to convene an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting to consider and adopt the agreement in the second half of 2003 and its hope that the agreement could be concluded at the meeting in November 2003,

*Welcoming* the unanimous adoption of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network by the Intergovernmental Meeting to Develop an Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, held in Bangkok on 17 and 18 November 2003,

*Recalling* the priority area of infrastructure development and maintenance identified in the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,<sup>1</sup> adopted at the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, held in Almaty on 28 and 29 August 2003, and acknowledging that the Asian Highway network provides transit transport opportunities,

*Expressing its appreciation* to the Government of Japan for its valuable support for the development and formalization of the Asian Highway network and for the assistance which it provided in preparing for and convening the Intergovernmental Meeting,

*Expressing its appreciation also* to the Government of China for hosting the signing ceremony for the Agreement in Shanghai on 26 April 2004,

*Convinced* that the Agreement will strengthen relations between member countries, promote international trade and tourism through coordinated development of the Asian Highway network and have a substantial positive impact on the region by achieving internationally

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<sup>1</sup> A/CONF.202/3, annex. I.

agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000,

1. *Invites* all the relevant members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to become parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network in order to ensure the speedy entry into force of the Agreement;

2. *Also invites* the international and regional financing institutions and multilateral and bilateral donors to provide financial and technical support for the development of the Asian Highway network and related infrastructure, particularly taking into account the special needs of landlocked developing countries;

3. *Further invites* subregional organizations to promote the Agreement and accord priority to the development of the Asian Highway network in their respective subregions;

4. *Encourages* landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours that are members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to enter into bilateral or subregional transit traffic facilitation agreements which will enable the Asian Highway network to provide further tangible transit transport opportunities within the scope of the Almaty Programme of Action;<sup>2</sup>

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist member countries in becoming parties to the Agreement;

(b) To accord priority to the development of the Asian Highway network, within the work programme of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

(c) To collaborate effectively with international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors and subregional organizations for the development of the Asian Highway network;

(d) To discharge effectively the functions of the secretariat of the Agreement;

(e) To report to the Commission at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*42nd plenary meeting  
16 July 2004*

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.