Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its sixty-eighth session

- 68/1 Reaffirming the special case and the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States with a focus on the Pacific
- 68/2 Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in the Asia-Pacific region
- 68/3 Enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable intraregional trade facilitation
- 68/4 Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016), and the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport
- 68/5 Asia-Pacific Years of Action for Applications of Space Technology and the Geographic Information System for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017
- 68/6 Asia-Pacific regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014
- 68/7 Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022
- 68/8 Enhancing coordination within the United Nations system and cooperation with regional organizations for promoting regional development
- 68/9 Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
- 68/10 Enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific
- 68/11 Connectivity for energy security

Resolution 68/1 Reaffirming the special case and the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States with a focus on the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling Agenda 21, which recognized that small island developing States and islands supporting small communities were a special case for both environment and development,

Also recalling the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which acknowledged that small island developing States were a special case for both environment and development,

Further recalling the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, recalls since 1992, the vulnerability of Pacific small island developing States has become of increasing concern while their capacity to cope had not, and that this was due in no small part to the additional pressures of climate change, climate variability and sea-level rise, which had been compounded by the international fuel, food and financial crises,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/2, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the unique and particular vulnerabilities of the small island developing States and called for improved and additional measures, and for coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to be taken at all levels to further implement the Mauritius Strategy,

Noting that, occupying about one third of the earth's surface, the Pacific Ocean provides a significant global environmental, economic, social and developmental contribution to sustainable development,

Recognizing that Pacific small island developing States share the same vulnerabilities as those of other small island developing States and are economically and ecologically fragile and vulnerable, while their small size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and isolation from markets place them at a disadvantage economically and prevents economies of scale,

Noting the joint statement issued by the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and the Secretary-General at the forty-second Pacific Islands Forum, in Auckland, New Zealand, on 7 and 8 September 2011,

Welcoming the support provided by the secretariat of the Commission, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme and the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific to Pacific small island developing States in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

1. *Reaffirms* the special case and the unique and particular vulnerabilities of Pacific small island developing States for sustainable development;

2. *Invites* members and associate members, as appropriate:

(a) To recognize the importance of the oceans and the sustainable development of ocean resources to Pacific small island developing States,

including the need for the conservation and sustainable management of the Pacific Ocean and coastal environments for the benefit of small island developing States and as a global resource;

(b) To support efforts for the sustainable management, conservation and use of ocean resources;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international financial institutions, other organizations and bilateral donors:

(a) To continue to support capacity development and capacity supplementation for Pacific small island developing States to pursue sustainable development and to increase their resilience, including in response to the challenges of climate change;

(b) To improve access to finance so that Pacific small island developing States can transform their economies towards sustainable development and climate resilience;

(c) To promote and support voluntary technology transfer as a contribution to the sustainable development of Pacific small island developing States;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its seventieth session.

Fifth plenary meeting 23 May 2012

Resolution 68/2 Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in the Asia-Pacific region

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 63/227 of 19 December 2008 on the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, in which it, inter alia, decided to convene, as called for in paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2011,

Also recalling its resolution 64/6 of 30 April 2008 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region, in which it, inter alia, requested the Executive Secretary to assist countries in the region in achieving the Goals, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island developing countries,

Expressing concern at the slow pace of progress in the least developed countries in closing these development gaps,

Reaffirming that the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (the Istanbul Programme of Action), which was adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, has as an overarching goal to overcome the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, sustain inclusive growth and improve the quality of life,

Emphasizing the need for continued international support and mobilizing technical and financial resources to achieve internationally agreed development goals to enable graduation from least developed country status in the stipulated time,

Noting the need to further intensify the engagement of the international community in the attainment of the goals and targets agreed in the Istanbul Programme of Action, including the mobilization of additional international support measures and action in favour of the least developed countries and the formation of a renewed partnership between these countries and their development partners,

Noting with appreciation the convening, from 14 to 16 December 2011 in Bangkok, of the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, which adopted a Regional Road Map containing a set of capacity development activities and identifying the key agencies and entities that could be involved in delivering these activities,

1. *Urges* the countries of the region and international and regional organizations to accelerate the implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Regional Road Map for Implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action in the Asian and Pacific Region from 2011 to 2020 in particular;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist the Asia-Pacific least developed countries in implementing the Regional Road Map;

(b) To continue to assist Asia-Pacific least developed countries in achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) To submit to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

Fifth plenary meeting 23 May 2012

Resolution 68/3 Enabling paperless trade and the cross-border recognition of electronic data and documents for inclusive and sustainable intraregional trade facilitation

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Conscious of the importance of trade as an engine of growth and development and of the need to increase the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of international trade transactions to maintain the competitiveness of the region,

Recognizing that electronic commerce enhances the expansion of trade opportunities, the importance of avoiding barriers to its use and development, and the need to promote uniformity in the application of international standards and to aim for interoperability of paperless trade systems,

Also recognizing the potential of paperless trade in making international trade transactions more efficient and transparent,

Noting that the trade and supply-chain security initiatives under implementation in major export markets will make it increasingly necessary for all actors in the international supply chain to exchange data and documents electronically,

Considering the fact that many countries in the Asia-Pacific region are currently engaged in implementing national electronic single window or related systems to expedite the processing of trade documents,

Aware that the benefits from these and related paperless trade systems would be greatly enhanced if the electronic documents generated by them could be used across borders,

Also aware that facilitating the cross-border recognition and electronic exchange of trade documents between landlocked and transit countries would significantly contribute to the implementation of Commission resolution 67/1 on the Ulaanbaatar Declaration: Outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries as well as the Almaty Programme of Action, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/201 of 23 December 2003,

Recalling that, during its sixty-seventh session, the Commission supported the intent of the secretariat to promote and develop innovative projects that made effective use of information and communications technology in the area of transport, and the use of information and communications technology in the area of trade,

Emphasizing the need to enable the cross-border use and recognition of electronic trade data and documents, and the need for all countries to adopt single window and mutual recognition of documents, as part of efforts to facilitate exports from least developed and landlocked developing countries,

Taking note of the proposal of the Committee on Trade and Investment supporting a regional agreement on electronic trade data and document exchange,

1. *Invites* member States to work towards the development of regional arrangements on the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade;

2. *Encourages* all members and associate members:

(a) To support and participate in the knowledge-sharing and capacitybuilding activities of the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific, including the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum and related activities supported by regional and international organizations active in the field of trade facilitation;

(b) To initiate or accelerate the implementation of national paperless trade systems, including national single windows defined in United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business recommendation No. 33 and related recommendation No. 35;

(c) To take into account, and whenever possible adopt, available international standards made by relevant United Nations bodies, such as the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, and other international organizations, such as the World Customs Organization and the International Organization for Standardization, when implementing these systems so as to facilitate their interoperability;

(d) To participate in the development of new international standards to achieve the seamless exchange and recognition of trade-related information and documents across borders among all relevant stakeholders from both the public and private sectors;

(e) To share lessons learned and the outcomes of existing bilateral and subregional pilot projects on the recognition and exchange of trade-related electronic data and documents with other members and associate members, and to initiate new ones;

(f) To consider entering into bilateral and subregional agreements on the cross-border recognition and exchange of trade-related documents as building blocks towards regional and global cross-border paperless trade;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To support and facilitate the process for the development of regional arrangements on the facilitation of cross-border paperless trade, including by conducting studies, developing potential options, and organizing expert review and member consultations, and in this regard to present its results to the Committee on Trade and Investment at its third session;

(b) To ensure that the regional arrangements take into account and are consistent with the existing international and regional agreements, mechanisms, and undertakings as well as build on existing international standards and conventions and are developed in consultation with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, the World Customs Organization and other relevant international bodies;

(c) To continue and further strengthen the secretariat's support for capacity-building activities related to trade facilitation and paperless trade, including transit facilitation, particularly with regard to least developed and landlocked developing countries and for the preparation, in consultation with member States, of such regional arrangements;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventieth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

Fifth plenary meeting 23 May 2012

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