

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

57/1. Regional call for action to fight the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 55/13 of 3 November 2000 on review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects, in which the Assembly decided, inter alia, to convene, as a matter of urgency, a special session of the General Assembly, from 25 to 27 June 2001, to review and address the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects,

Noting that the General Assembly specifically encouraged regional bodies and organizations, as well as the regional commissions, to make available to the preparatory process and to the special session the outcomes of respective subregional, regional and global level initiatives addressing a range of HIV/AIDS issues, and called upon the regional commissions to be involved actively in the preparatory activities and to participate at the highest level in the special session,

Noting further the ongoing efforts of various regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Task Force on AIDS, which is preparing for an ASEAN Heads of Government Summit on HIV/AIDS that would put HIV/AIDS on the highest regional and national agendas, and commit to collaborate on intercountry and cross-border issues, as well as the exchange of technical expertise and experience,

Welcoming the holding of an international meeting in Senegal in 2001 to promote enhanced access to care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS, to be participated in by Member States of the United Nations, United Nations bodies and agencies, multilateral institutions, non-governmental organizations, associations of people living with HIV/AIDS, and pharmaceutical industries,

Recognizing that the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS has generated a global pandemic that far exceeds what was predicted even a decade ago, threatening the human security of the Asian and Pacific region,

Emphasizing the relationship between AIDS and poverty, and recognizing that poverty reduction is an integral part of reducing vulnerability to HIV and of reducing the impact of AIDS,

Noting with particular concern that, at conservative estimates, at least 7.5 million people already live with HIV/AIDS in the Asian and Pacific region, and that HIV in the region is likely to continue to spread through factors such as denial, stigmatization and discrimination, inadequate education and limited access to information and services, increased injecting drug use, men with multiple partners, commercial sex, population mobility, lack of adequate resources, lack of access to antiretroviral drugs, and lack of treatment,

Mindful that youth are especially vulnerable to the spread of the pandemic, and account for over 50 per cent of new infections,

Alarmed that despite all efforts, resources thus far devoted to combating the epidemic at both the national and regional levels are not commensurate with the exponential growth of the problem,

Emphasizing that the window of opportunity to prevent the wide-scale spread of HIV/AIDS will be closed if interventions are not made in the early stage of the pandemic,

Aware that early prevention efforts in some countries of the Asian and Pacific region have resulted in the reduction of HIV prevalence and the maintenance of a low level of HIV prevalence in a few countries,

Recognizing that political commitment at the highest level, as well as at all other levels of society, has proved to be essential for the success of HIV/AIDS intervention,

Further noting that a multisectoral response involving all concerned development ministries, and mobilizing a wide range of civil society actors, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and networks of people living with HIV/AIDS, has resulted in a number of effective actions for HIV prevention, reduction of vulnerability to HIV infection, provision of care and support and minimization of the impact of HIV/AIDS,

1. *Calls upon* concerned members and associate members in the region:

(a) To secure a regional commitment to enhancing coordination, building and strengthening community, national, regional and international efforts, including cross-border collaboration, to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and address the social and economic impact of the epidemic;

(b) To secure political commitment at the highest and all levels, as well as leadership from development ministries and civil society, on the essential features of a successful response to HIV/AIDS;

(c) To encourage the electronic and print media to play an important role in disseminating information on HIV/AIDS, in order to create awareness among the general public;

(d) To mainstream HIV/AIDS into national economic and social development processes, and to increase government human and financial resources to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic at the country level;

(e) To promote policies that accord priority to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, reducing the negative impact on individuals, communities and society, supporting harm reduction strategies related to injecting drug use, eliminating the sexual exploitation of women, recognizing gender-specific impacts, improving access to affordable care and treatment and scaling up successful interventions, including public/private sector partnerships;

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(f) To recognize the rights and aspirations of people living with HIV/AIDS and ensure their full participation in the planning and implementation of national responses to HIV/AIDS, as well as focus attention on reducing the discrimination and stigma related to AIDS;

(g) To promote and ensure the protection of the rights of all children, and strengthen and expand prevention and care programmes for youth, giving special attention to reducing the vulnerability of girls and young women;

(h) To be actively involved in the preparatory activities, and ensure representation at the highest political level at the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS and, with the availability of funds, include in their national delegations to the special session representatives of civil society, including young people's organizations, people living with HIV/AIDS or representatives of their associations and representatives of the private sector;

2. *Urges* governments of donor countries and agencies, regional and international financial institutions, international organizations, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector:

(a) To advocate for an expanded response to the epidemic, promote the use of best practices, and make every effort to build enabling environments and support effective interventions in the Asian and Pacific region to prevent the rapid growth of HIV/AIDS;

(b) To strengthen funding support to countries with significant risk factors in the Asian and Pacific region in their efforts to combat HIV/AIDS;

(c) To improve the mobilization of technical and financial resources for accelerating access to care and support, including strategies to significantly enhance the provision and affordability of drugs;

(d) To strengthen the global access to drugs programme, under the aegis of the United Nations system, and to seek support, as necessary, from other relevant international organizations, to enhance access to antiretroviral drugs at affordable prices in Asia and the Pacific;

(e) To support South-South and North-South cooperation among countries of the Asian and Pacific region as an integral response to building effective national AIDS programmes;

(f) To set up a mechanism for the mobilization of funds from private and public sources for the establishment of a global AIDS fund to finance, inter alia, prevention, care, treatment and support activities in Asia and the Pacific;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To strengthen the United Nations regional coordination mechanism, under the aegis of ESCAP, and together with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, promote accelerated action, including increased political engagement at the highest level, and provide full support to the United Nations Regional Coordination Meeting Thematic Working Group on HIV/AIDS and intergovernmental working groups on HIV/AIDS;

(b) To acknowledge the recommendation by the Secretary-General in his statement to the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations that new infections in young people between the ages of 15 to 24 years be reduced by 25 per cent by the year 2010 by supporting member governments in expanding and accelerating HIV/AIDS programmes among youth, particularly focusing on life-skills training and human resources development programmes to enhance the capacity of social service and health providers;

(c) To support a wide range of HIV/AIDS prevention programmes for all vulnerable groups, especially youth, and including injecting drug users, men with multiple partners, indigenous populations, and sexually exploited and sexually abused women and children;

(d) To encourage members and associate members to promote intercountry and cross-border action to mitigate the spread of HIV/AIDS among mobile and other vulnerable populations, including refugees, internally displaced people, migrant and transient workers, seafarers, truck drivers and students;

(e) To encourage the efforts of members and associate members to implement multisectoral approaches to address HIV/AIDS;

(f) To promote human resources development efforts in public education, and legal measures and psychosocial support mechanisms to eliminate stigma and discrimination;

(g) To develop new prevention strategies to reach those members of the general population who engage in casual sex, particularly young people who are sexually active;

(h) To continue to recognize HIV/AIDS as a major concern for the Commission, by reporting to it annually on the progress of efforts arising from the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To seek extrabudgetary resources, where appropriate, to provide technical assistance and other means of support for efforts to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS in countries and areas of the ESCAP region, particularly the developing and least developed among them;

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(b) To bring the present resolution to the attention of the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, as a basis for the preparation of the draft declaration of commitment and other preparatory activities related to the special session, with a view to presenting issues of concern and mobilizing support for the Asian and Pacific region.

*5th meeting
25 April 2001*

57/2. Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting with satisfaction the successful organization of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, held in Kitakyushu, Japan, from 31 August to 5 September 2000, which adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 2001-2005, the Regional Message for the 10-year Review of the Implementation of the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment,

Considering that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, within the framework of which efforts are being made to achieve a higher quality of life for people in Asia and the Pacific, with a special focus on women and children,

Recognizing the need for an integrated, multisectoral approach through comprehensive policies and programmes and adequate resources to address the environment and development issues confronting policy planners and decision makers in Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing also the strong interest of members and associate members in the regional and subregional cooperation activities that will be carried out in the follow-up to the Ministerial Conference,

1. *Welcomes with great satisfaction* the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, including the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 2001-2005, the Regional Message for the 10-year Review of the Implementation of the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, and calls for their early implementation;

2. *Requests* all members and associate members to participate actively in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference as follows:

(a) To ensure the formulation of programmes to implement the Regional Action Programme, 2001-2005 at the local, national and regional levels, acknowledging that the major role for the implementation of the Regional Action Programme lies with national governments, individually and collectively;

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(b) To encourage their local governments to participate in the activities to implement the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, including the establishment of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network for a Clean Environment;

(c) To communicate information on the state of implementation of such programmes and activities to assist the ESCAP secretariat in conducting the necessary review and assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

3. *Also requests* all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned, multilateral financial institutions, donor countries and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, to contribute technical and financial resources as much as possible to implement the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

4. *Calls upon* the members of the Regional Coordination Meeting Thematic Working Group on Environment and Development to play an effective role in the implementation of the Regional Action Programme, 2001-2005, as well as its special implementation mechanism, the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, as coordinators of areas identified by the Regional Coordination Meeting;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To mobilize both human and financial resources as much as possible for the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

(b) To ensure effective coordination and joint pursuit of the activities of all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, in facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

(c) To encourage the active participation of all stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, research and academic societies, the private sector, local communities, and youth and women's groups, in different phases and aspects of the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference;

(d) To include in the agenda of the fourth session of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development, to be held in 2002, a midterm review and assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference and to report to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session, as well as to conduct yearly reviews at the Committee sessions, as necessary.

*5th meeting
25 April 2001*

57/3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 52/3 of 24 April 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, in which the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to provide support to national efforts, as required, for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in coordination with the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific,

Cognizant of General Assembly resolution 55/71 of 4 December 2000 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, namely the “Political declaration” and “Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action”,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women, peace and security, in which the Council reaffirmed the important role of women in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building,

Noting the recommendations of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, held from 26 to 29 October 1999, in pursuance of Commission resolution 50/4 of 13 April 1994 on regional preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995: Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, 1994, which contained key actions and initiatives to accelerate regional implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and which constituted the regional input to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Also noting that civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, fully participated in

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