

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION
AT ITS FIFTY-NINTH SESSION (2003)
(PHASE II)**

59/1. Regional action in follow-up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which it resolved, inter alia, to have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions S-26/2 of 27 June 2001, by which the Assembly adopted the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, calling for enhanced initiatives to fight HIV/AIDS at the regional level, and 57/299 of 20 December 2002 on follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,

Recalling further Commission resolution 57/1 of 25 April 2001 containing a regional call for action to fight HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific,

Taking note of the steps taken by leaders of the Asian and Pacific region since the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly to strengthen regional efforts to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, including the solidarity demonstrated at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on HIV/AIDS, held at Melbourne, Australia, in October 2001,

Recognizing HIV/AIDS as a major development challenge of our times, which could unravel many of the social and economic gains that the Asian and Pacific region has achieved,

Taking note of the need for a sustained multisectoral approach to addressing this development challenge,

Bearing in mind the need for political commitment to secure an expanded and comprehensive response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the ESCAP region, which is home to three of the world's most populous countries, 62 per cent of the world's population and over 600 million young people who are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS,

Noting with particular concern the continuing high rates of infection among young people and the urgent need for increased investment in and implementation of HIV prevention strategies for young people, including improved access to HIV preventive services and the promotion of respectful and responsible sexual behaviour,

1. *Calls upon* all members and associate members:

(a) To implement the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session;

(b) To respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic with political commitment at the highest decision-making levels, including by immediate action to develop more comprehensive and strategic national programmes and to strengthen their implementation;

(c) To mainstream HIV/AIDS into national economic and social development planning and increase the availability of human and financial resources to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic at the country level as an emergency development challenge;

(d) To generate adequate resources, both through domestic resource mobilization and by encouraging donors to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance, and encouraging developing countries to ensure that such aid is used effectively to assist in closing the resource gap of an estimated US\$ 7 billion required by 2007 for HIV/AIDS in the Asian and Pacific region;

(e) To consider maintaining a high level of investment to prevent the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, even in low-prevalence countries, since in the absence of an early response, low prevalence today could translate into an epidemic in the near future;

(f) To promote policies that prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS through high-risk behaviour, such as casual sex, use of commercial sex services, injecting drug use, reuse of virus-contaminated equipment, and unsafe blood and blood products, reduce its multiplier effects on other communicable diseases, improve access to affordable care and treatment and scale up successful interventions, ensuring that a balance is maintained in the focus on, and allocation of resources for, the prevention of HIV infection, treatment of HIV/AIDS and care for people living with HIV/AIDS;

(g) To promote the implementation of comprehensive interventions for HIV prevention among drug users, together with drug abuse prevention strategies, especially among young people, and encourage members to administer laws in a way that does not inadvertently promote the transmission of HIV;

(h) To support action to address the gender-specific dimensions of the epidemic, including through efforts for the economic and social empowerment of women, as also greater gender responsiveness and equality to strengthen women's ability to protect themselves from HIV;

(i) To support action to reduce new infections among young people aged 15 to 24;

(j) To facilitate and improve with specific strategies prevention of the mother-to-child-transmission mode of HIV infection;

(k) To improve the accessibility by, and availability for, the poor of antiretroviral and other life-saving drugs as well as diagnostics deemed essential for enabling people living with HIV/AIDS to continue to live meaningful lives;

(l) To strengthen support for children living with HIV/AIDS, orphans of parents who have died of AIDS-related illnesses and older persons affected by the death of adult offspring as a result of HIV/AIDS, so that they do not suffer even more from discrimination and economic hardship;

(m) To encourage the corporate/private sector to play a stronger role in the HIV/AIDS response;

2. *Urges* donor Governments and agencies, regional and international financial institutions, members of the United Nations system and the private sector to join in advocacy for a comprehensive response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic as a major development challenge, including through promoting good practices, building enabling environments and supporting effective interventions in the Asian and Pacific region to prevent the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS;

3. *Urges* the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its sponsors to intensify efforts to ensure that the targets in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS are fulfilled in the Asian and Pacific region, especially those pertaining to young people aged 15 to 24;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To intensify, where gaps are identified, advocacy to promote the implementation of the political and resource commitments in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

(b) To further strengthen United Nations regional coordination, under the auspices of ESCAP, and together with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, to promote accelerated action and coordinate with other United Nations organizations in addressing issues of stigma and discrimination that are relevant to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and in ensuring the human dignity of persons living with HIV/AIDS;

(c) To support and cooperate with all subregional groupings, at their request, to strengthen subregional capability to deal with HIV/AIDS as a development challenge;

(d) To mainstream HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support into the programme of work of ESCAP, including intercountry and cross-border cooperation to mitigate the spread of HIV/AIDS among groups whose behaviour, age, gender, mobility and means of livelihood render them especially vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, and through modalities such as life-skills training to enhance the behavioural capability of vulnerable groups to better protect themselves and others from fuelling the spread of HIV, and support for the strengthening of self-help groups of people living with HIV/AIDS;

(e) To initiate measures to build national capacity, upon the request of national Governments, to meet the challenge of HIV/AIDS effectively, including the capacity to deal with issues relating to intellectual property rights, as well as develop national strategic plans for tackling the pandemic, with road maps to achieve targets agreed upon, and the capacity of civil society and non-governmental organizations to participate in national responses;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) 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 countries;

(b) To report to the Commission at its sixty-first session on regional progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*5th meeting
4 September 2003*

59/2. Strengthening social safety in the Asian and Pacific region

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development in 1995, which referred to the urgent need to address profound social problems, especially poverty, unemployment and social exclusion, that affect every country,

Recalling also the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit, which established a consensus to place people at the core of the concerns for sustainable development,

Recalling further the pledge by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session in 2000 to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all,

Acknowledging that while globalization, technological advances and rapid economic growth in some countries of the region have offered unprecedented opportunities and brought about substantial progress on poverty eradication and social integration, they have also presented serious challenges for the people in the region,

Stressing that public policy on social welfare in the region should move beyond crisis management to strengthening the overall social safety system by considering long-term policies, institutional structures and collective efforts by all members and associate members to help the people of the region to manage risks,

Emphasizing the importance of fostering an integrated social safety net, particularly the necessity of establishing a social safety net which provides necessary assistance to the unemployed, the poor and senior citizens as well as other vulnerable groups,

Reaffirming that resources should be mobilized at both the national and regional levels for social safety, to expand opportunities for productive employment and to invest in the development of human resources, entrepreneurship and employability,

1. *Calls upon* members and associate members:
 - (a) To renew their commitment to implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, held in 1995;
 - (b) To strengthen efforts to foster social integration and an enabling environment for social development, by promoting productive and gainful employment and eradicating poverty;
2. *Also calls upon* members and associate members, in the context of strengthening social safety:
 - (a) To emphasize the need to continue to allocate, and enhance the allocation of, resources as appropriate to education, vocational and management training, occupational safety and health, inter alia, by strengthening technical cooperation and collaboration with the private sector in this area;
 - (b) To stress the need to improve methods for collection and analysis of basic employment data, disaggregated by, inter alia, age, sex and relevant socio-economic categories, as appropriate in the country context, including with regard to the informal, agricultural and service sectors and new forms of employment, and assess the feasibility of developing and improving mechanisms to measure unremunerated work;

(c) To consider devising arrangements, as appropriate, to meet the needs of the poor and vulnerable groups, having regard to available resources;

(d) To strengthen partnerships, as appropriate, among the public sector, the private sector and other stakeholders concerned with social welfare and social safety;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To design a comprehensive and action-oriented programme of work in this regard in consultation with, and after obtaining the endorsement of, the members and associate members;

(b) To assist members and associate members in the development of social safety policies, including the development of employment data collection and analysis;

(c) To promote experience-sharing and best-practice learning on social integration within the ESCAP region, in coordination and collaboration with other international and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(d) To continue to pay particular attention to disadvantaged, marginalized and unskilled groups in formulating its programme of work in 2004;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*5th meeting
4 September 2003*

59/3. Regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific during the Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 58/4 of 22 May 2002 on promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty-first century, by which it proclaimed the extension of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, for another decade, 2003-2012,

Recalling also the successful High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, held at Otsu City, Shiga, Japan, from 25 to 28 October 2002 and hosted by the Government of Japan, the Shiga Prefecture Government and the city of Otsu, and its adoption of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific,

Observing that the Biwako Millennium Framework identifies the following seven priority areas: self-help organizations of persons with disabilities and related family and parent associations; women with disabilities; early detection, intervention and education; training and employment, including self-employment; access to built environments and public transport; access to information and communications, including information, communication and assistive technologies; and poverty alleviation through capacity-building, social security and sustainable livelihood programmes,

Noting that the international community expressed its commitment to economic and social development in the face of rapid globalization in adopting General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000 entitled “United Nations Millennium Declaration”, embodying a large number of specific commitments, including gender equity, universal education and poverty eradication, aimed at improving the lot of humanity in the twenty-first century,

Noting the recognition by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank that unless persons with disabilities are brought into the development mainstream it will be extremely difficult to halve poverty by 2015 or give every girl and boy the chance to complete primary education by the same date, which was agreed at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000 and is part of those Banks’ commitment to the inclusion of disability concerns in their poverty eradication efforts,

Noting the discussions at the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and

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