

ECOSOC Resolution 2002/2

Restructuring the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974,¹ 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980,² 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987,³ 47/3 of 10 April 1991,⁴ 48/2 of 23 April 1992⁵ and 51/3 of 1 May 1995⁶ of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on the conference structure of the Commission,

Recalling also Commission resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997⁷ on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, in particular the Commission's decision contained therein to review its conference structure, including its thematic priorities and subsidiary structure, no later than at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission,

Cognizant of its resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling the objectives outlined in the relevant millennium development goals, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted at the Millennium Summit on 8 September 2000,⁸ and other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/11 of 2 November 1995 on multilingualism, in particular paragraphs 1, 5 and 6 thereof,

Recognizing that the major economic and social development challenges facing countries and areas of the Asia and Pacific region are interrelated and multidimensional in nature, particularly in an increasingly globalizing world, and that effective approaches to addressing them require multidisciplinary action as well as enhanced regional cooperation and intercountry exchanges of experiences,

Cognizant of the scope of the responsibilities of the Commission, which constitutes the largest region in the world in respect of geographical coverage and contains 62 per cent of the world's population as well as the majority of the world's extreme poor,

Noting the diversity in levels of development of countries and areas of the Asia and Pacific region and the special needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing economies, and economies in transition,

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1974, Supplement No. 5* (E/5469-E/CN.11/1153), part III.

² *Ibid.*, 1980, *Supplement No. 6* and corrigendum (E/1980/26 and Corr.1), chap. III.

³ *Ibid.*, 1987, *Supplement No. 14* (E/1987/34), chap. IV.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 1991, *Supplement No. 14* (E/1991/35), chap. IV.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 1992, *Supplement No. 11* (E/1992/31), chap. IV.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 1995, *Supplement No. 17* (E/1995/37), chap. IV.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 1997, *Supplement No. 18* (E/1997/38), chap. IV.

⁸ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

Noting also the unique role of the Commission as the most representative body for the Asia and Pacific region and its comprehensive mandate as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations system for the Asia and Pacific region,

Taking into account the indivisibility in attainment of economic and social development goals,

Commending the initiatives taken by the Executive Secretary of the Commission to revitalize and restructure the programme of work of the Commission, and endorsing the focus of the work of the Commission on three key thematic areas, namely, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues,

Having considered the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Meeting to Review the Conference Structure of the Commission, including Its Thematic Priorities and Subsidiary Structure, held at Bangkok from 26 to 28 March 2002,⁹

1. *Decides* to approve the revision of the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, to conform to the following pattern:

I. The Commission

The Commission shall meet annually, with each session comprising a senior officials' segment followed by a ministerial segment, for a maximum of seven working days to discuss and decide on important issues concerning economic and social development in the region, decide on the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, examine and approve the programme of work and priorities and take any other decisions required, in conformity with its terms of reference.

II. Subsidiary structure

The subsidiary structure of the Commission shall consist of the two existing special bodies and the following three thematic committees and their respective subcommittees:

- (a) Committee on Poverty Reduction;
- (b) Committee on Managing Globalization;
- (c) Committee on Emerging Social Issues.

The three thematic committees shall meet biennially for a maximum duration of three days for each session.

Under the Committee on Poverty Reduction, the following two subcommittees shall be established:

- (a) Subcommittee on Poverty Reduction Practices;
- (b) Subcommittee on Statistics.

⁹ E/ESCAP/1235, sect. III.

Under the Committee on Managing Globalization, the following four subcommittees shall be established:

- (a) Subcommittee on International Trade and Investment;
- (b) Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism;
- (c) Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development;
- (d) Subcommittee on Information, Communications and Space Technology.

Under the Committee on Emerging Social Issues, the following two subcommittees shall be established:

- (a) Subcommittee on Socially Vulnerable Groups;
- (b) Subcommittee on Health and Development.

The subcommittees shall meet biennially for a maximum duration of three days for each session. Should the Committee on Poverty Reduction so decide, the Subcommittee on Statistics shall meet annually for a maximum duration of three days for each session.

The Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall be retained. Their sessions shall be held biennially for a maximum of two days, one each in alternate years, back-to-back with the annual sessions of the Commission.

III. Ad hoc ministerial conferences

(a) Subject to the approval of the Commission, ad hoc ministerial conferences may be organized on specific issues, but no more than one such conference shall be held per year;

(b) In those years when a ministerial conference is held covering issues normally discussed in a committee/subcommittee, the corresponding committee/subcommittee may not be convened.

IV. Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings

(a) Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings may be convened, with the prior approval of the Commission, to carry out a detailed examination of substantive and priority issues, including relevant cross-sectoral issues;

(b) No more than five such intergovernmental meetings may be held during a calendar year and the total number of days shall not exceed twenty-five.

V. Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

The functions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall be in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex I to the present resolution. The Advisory Committee shall examine ways to enhance and improve its ability to advise and

assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the medium-term plan, the programme budget, work programme priorities and resource allocation, consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission, and to monitor and evaluate the implementation, outcome and effectiveness of the programme of work of the Commission in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee, and shall report back to the Commission regularly.

VI. Existing regional institutions under the auspices of the Commission

The following regional institutions under the auspices of the Commission shall continue to function as prescribed in their respective statutes and terms of reference:

- (a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;
- (b) Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific;
- (c) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;
- (d) Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery.

VII. General provisions

(a) Functions

The functions of the thematic committees and special bodies are specified in their respective terms of reference in annexes II to VI to the present resolution. The committees shall deal with issues covered under their respective terms of reference in a comprehensive manner following an intersectoral and thematic approach.

(b) Rules of procedure

Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, the rules of procedure of the Commission, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the committees/subcommittees and special bodies.

(c) Informal session

An informal session among the heads of delegations during the ministerial segment of each session of the Commission may be organized but shall not be institutionalized. The agenda for the informal session shall be decided by consensus and the annotated agenda shall reach members at least thirty days before the opening of the session to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the session. Simultaneous interpretation shall be provided;

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Commission, under the direction of the Secretary-General and in conformity with the goal of maximizing the impact of the United Nations in the field of economic

and social development, to reorganize the secretariat so as to enhance its capability to service the subsidiary structure of the Commission and implement its revised programme of work under the framework of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to inform members and associate members of the Commission of his preliminary assessment of the organizational, staffing and financial implications of the revision of the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission within the next six months;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to explore, in close consultation with members and associate members, inter alia, through the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, innovative ways, including possible changes to the format of the Commission session, to bring about greater ministerial participation and more active exchanges among representatives at the sessions of the Commission and to submit his recommendations to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session;

5. *Commends* the secretariat of the Commission on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions establishing language arrangements for both the official languages and the working languages of the Commission, and urges the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts to monitor closely the strict implementation of Assembly resolution 50/11;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its subsequent sessions on the implementation of the present resolution, focusing in particular on whether the conference structure has served the purpose of improving efficiency and attracting higher and wider representation from members and associate members, which would serve in particular as the basis for a mid-term review of the functioning of the conference structure, to be conducted during the sixty-first session of the Commission;

7. *Endorses* the Commission's decision to review its conference structure, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, taking into account the outcome of the mid-term review of the conference structure, no later than at its sixty-third session

*32nd plenary meeting
19 July 2002*

Annex I

Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall have the following functions:

1. To maintain close cooperation and consultation between the members and the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

2. To advise and assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the medium-term plan, programme budget and priorities, consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission.

3. To receive on a regular basis information on the administrative and financial functioning of the Commission and to assist and advise the Executive Secretary in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the programme of work of the Commission.

4. To review the draft calendar of meetings prior to its submission to the Commission session.

5. To exchange views with the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for each session of the Commission, bearing in mind chapter II of its rules of procedure.

6. To advise the Executive Secretary on the identification of emerging economic and social issues and other relevant issues for incorporation into the provisional agendas of the sessions of the Commission.

7. To assist the secretariat in the formulation of the annotated provisional agenda for each session of the Commission before it is finalized.

8. To monitor the functioning of the thematic approach and the implementation of activities under it, in order to provide an assessment of the thematic approach and to suggest to the Commission at the appropriate time potential modifications to or changes in the themes.

9. To carry out any other tasks to be entrusted to it by the Commission.

Annex II

Terms of reference of the Committee on Poverty Reduction

Poverty is the leading development challenge facing developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, with two thirds of the world's poor living in this region. The urgent need for effective action on poverty reduction is reflected in the United Nations millennium development goals, which call for the proportion of people living in extreme poverty to be halved by the year 2015. Poverty is a multidimensional and dynamic phenomenon with complex and interlinked issues requiring an integrated focus on economic, social and environmental areas.

Against this background, the Committee on Poverty Reduction shall serve as a regional forum to assist members and associate members in meeting the objectives of (a) developing strategies and policies to reduce poverty in a rapid and sustained manner and improve the quality of life of the poor, (b) strengthening national statistical infrastructure to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics through the promotion of common methodologies for intercountry comparisons and improvement in the quality of statistics and (c) developing and sharing experiences concerning best practices in poverty reduction in both urban and rural areas.

The goal of the Committee shall be to enable the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia

and the Pacific better to design and implement pro-poor policies and strategies to attain the millennium development goals.

Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Committee shall:

1. Review the progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving both the quantitative and the qualitative aspects of the relevant millennium development goals.

2. Analyse global and regional trends and developments, including emerging economic and social issues, that have an impact on poverty levels in the region, with a special focus on recommending policy options that support pro-poor economic growth and prevent social inequities.

3. Review and analyse progress in the development of statistics in the region, assist in the strengthening of national statistical infrastructure and promote the improvement of the quality of statistics, with emphasis on the following areas:

(a) Improvement and harmonization of methodologies for poverty measurement and related economic and social statistics;

(b) Priority fields of statistics identified by members and associate members, including, but not limited to, national accounts, the informal sector, gender statistics, environment statistics and statistics on information and communications technologies and the knowledge-based economy.

4. Promote the exchange of experiences and the transfer of best practices in poverty reduction, as well as human and institutional capacity-building, with special emphasis on:

(a) Integrating poverty reduction, sustainable development and environmental protection;

(b) Integrating poverty reduction and population dynamics and migration;

(c) Strengthening the economic and social position of the poor through a needs-, development- and rights-based approach;

(d) Enhancing the participation of the poor in decision-making through community-based organizations;

(e) Fostering the development of sustainable and affordable information and communications technologies focused on the needs of the poor.

5. Review and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of the Commission and make recommendations to the Commission concerning future programmes of work and, in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the special concerns of the Pacific island countries, landlocked developing countries, least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, the environment, human resources development and women in development are adequately addressed.

6. Strengthen liaison with governmental and non-governmental, regional and bilateral organizations as well as private sector entities to

support poverty reduction policies and strategies that maximize synergies and avoid duplication of effort.

7. Promote closer collaboration and joint activities with relevant agencies of the United Nations system to minimize overlap and duplication as well as promote increased liaison with financial institutions, development agencies outside the United Nations system, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor countries within and outside the Asia and Pacific region so as to maximize the use of available resources and enhance the effectiveness and impact of the work of the Commission in addressing critical development challenges in the region.

8. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

9. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to poverty reduction.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall be composed of all members and associate members of the Commission.

The Committee shall meet biennially and present its report to the Commission to facilitate deliberations on poverty reduction.

The Committee shall be assisted in its work by the following two subcommittees:

- (a) Subcommittee on Poverty Reduction Practices;
- (b) Subcommittee on Statistics.

While the Committee shall consider overall policy aspects of poverty reduction, the subcommittees shall focus on specific sectoral aspects of the mandates given to the Committee under its terms of reference.

The subcommittees shall meet in the intervals between sessions of the Committee, preferably in alternate years. The Committee shall provide overall direction to the subcommittees on the issues to be addressed and the prioritization of their work, which shall guide the subcommittees in determining their agendas. The Committee may decide that, in addition to meeting in years when the Committee does not meet, the Subcommittee on Statistics could meet in the alternate years to deliberate in particular on matters referred to in paragraph 3 (b) above. The reports of the subcommittees shall be submitted to the Committee at its subsequent session as a basis for deliberations at an intersectoral/thematic level. With regard to the reports of the Subcommittee on Statistics covering issues related to those referred to in paragraph 3 (b), the Committee on Poverty Reduction should review those reports and also make them available to the other committees, as appropriate, taking into account the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Statistics.

Annex III

Terms of reference of the Committee on Managing Globalization

The process of globalization has profound, and still unfolding, implications for the economic and social development of the region. The challenge is how to manage globalization effectively by formulating and implementing effective policies to seize the new opportunities while minimizing inevitable costs. In this context, the Committee on Managing Globalization shall address issues within the focused subprogramme areas of (a) international trade and investment, (b) transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism, (c) environment and sustainable development and (d) information, communications and space technology.

Under the overall supervision of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Committee shall:

1. Review and analyse emerging economic issues and their implications for the region and recommend policy guidelines that could be considered for adoption by Governments.

2. Review and analyse trends and developments in order to raise understanding of the implications of World Trade Organization agreements, regional trading arrangements and other multilateral trade negotiations and recommend appropriate activities to strengthen capacities of countries to consider accession to the World Trade Organization and for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate actively in international trade negotiations.

3. Promote the development of internationally competitive trade by rationalizing and automating documentation, promoting the simplification and harmonization of trade rules and enhancing conformity with standards and certification as well as enhancing management skills.

4. Promote the exchange of experiences and the sharing of best practices in investment promotion and facilitation and strengthen countries in building capacity to formulate and implement policies and strategies in support of enterprise and entrepreneurship development, with a special focus on small and medium-sized enterprises.

5. Promote further development of sustainable tourism by strengthening capacities of human resources and institutions and promoting regional cooperation, especially networking of training institutions.

6. Serve as a catalyst for action in formulating and implementing national, regional and interregional transport initiatives with a particular focus on the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway and the development of intermodal transport linkages to improve access to domestic and global markets.

7. Promote a comprehensive approach to removing institutional and physical barriers in order to facilitate the movement of people, goods and services and strengthen the development of multimodal transport/logistics services, including transit facilities, to enable active participation in the process of globalization.

8. Review, analyse and document transport trends and policy responses and assist members and associate members in addressing issues that focus on public/private partnerships and promotion of participatory approaches to the integration of economic, social and environmental considerations into transport planning and policy development.

9. Review and assess the state of the environment in the region and highlight the major environmental considerations with a view to encouraging the integration of such concerns into development policies, strategic plans and programmes at the macroeconomic and sectoral levels and facilitating policy dialogues, training and exchange of experiences.

10. Promote human and institutional capacity-building to respond effectively and in an integrated manner to global, regional, national and local environmental plans for participation in developing, acceding to and implementing multilateral environmental agreements. In this regard, promote the formulation and dissemination of regional perspectives and model legislation and standards as well as economic instruments that would be appropriate in the light of prevailing economic, social and environmental conditions, and support regional and subregional environmental cooperation.

11. Assist in capacity-building, formulation and implementation of strategies and action plans for sustainable use of natural resources, particularly water resources, with a special focus on problems of water quality and access to safe drinking water for the poor.

12. Strengthen national capacities in preventing, mitigating and managing water-related disasters and promote and strengthen collaboration with convention secretariats in combating land degradation, desertification and the negative effects of climate change, and coordinate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on deforestation through the promotion of regional cooperation.

13. Promote capacity-building in sustainable energy development through policy advice, human resources development and exchange of information so as to support national efforts in strategic planning and management and in enhanced utilization of renewable energy and energy efficiency improvement by integrating economic, social and environmental dimensions. Also support subregional cooperation in energy sector development, energy trade and sharing as well as policy reforms.

14. Promote capacity-building for creating an enabling environment for the development of information and communications technologies transfer and application, particularly through regional cooperation and networking of governmental, non-governmental and private sector organizations for the benefit and mainstreaming of developing economies and economies in transition.

15. Promote regional cooperation and effective integration of satellite-based applications of information and communications technologies with other information technologies for informed sustainable economic and social development planning and

management, and improved quality of life, particularly integrated remote sensing and satellite communications for remote and rural areas, poverty mapping and distance education.

16. Promote collective self-reliance and South-South cooperation, such as in economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and regional resilience.

17. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of the Commission and make recommendations to the Commission concerning future programmes of work and, in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the special concerns of the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries and countries with economies in transition are adequately addressed.

18. Strengthen the relationship with relevant subregional organizations to promote intra-subregional and inter-subregional cooperation.

19. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences relevant to the work of the Committee at the national, subregional and regional levels, evaluate progress and provide guidance on the formulation and implementation of regional action programmes.

20. Promote liaison with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors and supporting countries within and outside the region and relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlap and duplication and strengthening cooperation with those organizations and bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the activities of the Commission.

21. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

22. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to managing globalization.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall be composed of all members and associate members of the Commission.

The Committee shall meet biennially and present its report to the Commission to facilitate deliberations on managing globalization.

The Committee shall be assisted in its work by the following four subcommittees:

- (a) Subcommittee on International Trade and Investment;
- (b) Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism;

(c) Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development;

(d) Subcommittee on Information, Communications and Space Technology.

While the Committee shall consider overall policy aspects of managing globalization, the subcommittees shall focus on specific sectoral aspects of the mandates given to the Committee under its terms of reference.

The subcommittees shall meet in the intervals between sessions of the Committee, preferably in alternate years. The Committee shall provide overall direction to the subcommittees on the issues to be addressed and the prioritization of their work, which shall guide the subcommittees in determining their agendas. The reports of the subcommittees shall be submitted to the Committee at its subsequent session as a basis for deliberations at an intersectoral/thematic level.

Annex IV

Terms of reference of the Committee on Emerging Social Issues

The Asia and Pacific region faces new and continuing challenges from global and regional development trends that impact deeply on individuals, families and communities. Many in this region face barriers to equal participation and full enjoyment of the right to development because of gender, age, disability, income or other factors. There are other threats to “human security” relating to the rise in human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) infection and human trafficking and other crimes. Furthermore, new regional challenges arise from the rapidly ageing population and international migration, which impact on overall socio-economic development.

The Committee on Emerging Social Issues shall be responsible to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for assisting members and associate members in meeting the theme objective of designing and implementing effective policies and strategies to promote equal opportunities for the productive participation of all social groups and the overall improvement of the quality of life.

Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Committee shall:

1. Review and analyse major development trends so as to anticipate and identify emerging social development challenges and issues having an impact on the Asia and Pacific region, focusing on socially vulnerable groups, including women, youth, people with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, the ageing population, migrants and people living with HIV/AIDS.

2. Promote social policy development and the mainstreaming of social dimensions in national development programmes.

3. Promote the goals of Education for All, particularly by mainstreaming education in all relevant programmes, especially for socially vulnerable groups.

4. Recommend appropriate national capacity-building strategies at all levels for improving the development and delivery of basic social services such as education, health and nutrition, removing barriers to equal participation and threats to human security, focusing on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in tackling persistent and emerging social issues.

5. Recommend multisectoral strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support, including preventive education and public awareness programmes.

6. Provide guidance to the secretariat on the formulation of medium-term plans and biennial programmes of work to prevent or mitigate critical social problems and promote the right to development of all social groups focused on key areas under paragraph 1 above, through support for normative and operational activities, including:

(a) Implementing technical assistance projects, providing advisory services, conducting training and research and fostering information development and exchange;

(b) Identifying and disseminating best practices;

(c) Conducting integrated, multisectoral social policy analyses and dialogue.

7. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of the Commission in addressing persistent and emerging social issues and recommend measures to strengthen the impact and relevance of the programme, taking into account the comparative advantages of the Commission.

8. Promote regional cooperation among members and associate members of the Commission to strengthen political commitment and advocacy and generate action at all levels to prevent and mitigate any adverse social impacts of development trends. In this regard, attention should be paid to those emerging social issues that could best benefit from close regional cooperation and collaboration.

9. Accelerate national-, subregional- and regional-level follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of relevant global conferences, monitor and evaluate progress and provide guidance on the formulation and implementation of regional action programmes, taking into account pertinent recommendations of the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women and other intergovernmental United Nations subsidiary organs.

10. Promote closer collaboration and joint activities with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as increased liaison with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the business sector, and liaise with financial institutions, donors and supporting countries within and outside the Asia and Pacific region so as to maximize resources and the impact of the work of the Commission in addressing critical social development challenges in the region.

11. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

12. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to emerging social issues.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall be composed of all members and associate members of the Commission.

The Committee shall meet biennially and present its report to the Commission to facilitate deliberations on emerging social issues.

The Committee shall be assisted in its work by the following two subcommittees:

- (a) Subcommittee on Socially Vulnerable Groups;
- (b) Subcommittee on Health and Development.

While the Committee shall consider overall policy aspects of addressing emerging social issues, the subcommittees shall focus on specific sectoral aspects of the mandates given to the Committee under its terms of reference.

The subcommittees shall meet in the intervals between sessions of the Committee, preferably in alternate years. The Committee shall provide overall direction to the subcommittees on the issues to be addressed and the prioritization of their work, which shall guide the subcommittees in determining their agendas. The reports of the subcommittees shall be submitted to the Committee at its subsequent session as a basis for deliberations at an intersectoral/thematic level.

Annex V

Terms of reference of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries

The special problems and particular situations concerning the economic and social development of the Pacific island developing countries related to their isolation, small size and vulnerability to environmental hazards have been recognized by the international community and within the context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States¹⁰ and the implementation of the United Nations millennium development goals. These particular situations in Pacific island developing countries require focused priority attention in order to mainstream these countries into the ongoing regional integration process and associate them with the economic and social dynamism of the region. The Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall provide a focused forum for addressing the special issues and problems facing this group of countries in the spirit of regional cooperation.

¹⁰ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Under the overall supervision of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Special Body shall:

1. Review and analyse the economic and social progress in the Pacific island developing countries, including constraints on their development.
2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action to identify and promote new policy options at the national, subregional and regional levels that allow these countries to maximize the benefits from globalization.
3. Assist in capacity-building of Pacific island developing countries.
4. Foster and strengthen intercountry and inter-subregional cooperation arrangements for exchanges of experience and technical cooperation between and among the Pacific island developing countries and with other countries in the region.
5. Promote liaison, particularly through the Pacific Operations Centre of the Commission, with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors and supporting countries within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities for the benefit of the Pacific island developing countries.
6. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of the Commission and make recommendations to the Commission concerning future programmes of work and, in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the environment, human resources development and gender concerns are adequately addressed.
7. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences relevant to small island developing countries at the national, subregional and regional levels, in particular the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the implementation of the millennium development goals.
8. Promote closer collaboration and joint activities with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies.
9. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
10. Carry out such other functions as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to Pacific island developing countries.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Special Body shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Special Body shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Special Body shall meet biennially for two days, back-to-back with the sessions of the Commission, in alternate years with the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries.

Annex VI

Terms of reference of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries

The special problems in respect of, and the constraints on, the economic and social development of the least developed and landlocked developing countries have been recognized by the international community, and also within the context of the Brussels Declaration¹¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010¹² adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the international development strategy and the implementation of the United Nations millennium development goals. These constraints require focused priority attention in the Asia and Pacific region in order to mainstream the least developed and landlocked developing countries into the ongoing regional integration process and associate them with the economic and social dynamism of the region. The Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries shall provide a focused forum for addressing the special issues and problems facing these groups of countries in the spirit of regional cooperation.

Under the overall supervision of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Special Body shall:

1. Review and analyse the economic and social progress in the least developed and landlocked developing countries and undertake in-depth reviews of economic, social and environmental constraints on their development.
2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action to identify and promote new policy options at the national, subregional and regional levels that allow the least developed and landlocked developing countries to maximize the benefits from globalization, with emphasis on the adoption of measures for increased mobilization of domestic and foreign resources, trade and private sector development, public sector reform and the provision of advisory services on relevant issues, upon request, to Governments.
3. Support national capacities in the least developed and landlocked developing countries, including those related to the formulation of development strategies at the national and sectoral levels.
4. Foster and strengthen intercountry cooperation arrangements for exchanges of experience and technical cooperation between and among the least developed and landlocked countries and with other developing and developed countries in the region.
5. Promote a comprehensive approach to removing institutional and physical barriers in order to facilitate the movement of people, goods and services and strengthen the development of multimodal transport/logistics services, including transit facilities, to enable active participation in the process of globalization.

¹¹ *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Brussels, 14-20 May 2001 (A/CONF.191/13)*, chap. I.

¹² *Ibid.*, chap. II.

6. Without duplicating work done elsewhere, review and analyse the special transit trade and transport problems of Asian landlocked developing countries, recommend suitable measures for solving those problems in accordance with international agreements, in particular article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,¹³ and encourage the Asian landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours to cooperate, inter alia, in order to reduce transport costs in the final costs of delivered goods.

7. Promote liaison with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor countries, within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities for the benefit of the least developed and landlocked developing countries.

8. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of the Commission and make recommendations to the Commission concerning future programmes of work and, in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the environment, human resources development and women in development are adequately addressed.

9. Accelerate follow-up to the relevant decisions and recommendations of global conferences relating to the least developed and landlocked developing countries at the national, subregional and regional levels, in particular the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

10. Promote closer collaboration and joint activities with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as increased liaison with financial institutions, development agencies outside the United Nations system, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors and supporting countries within and outside the Asia and Pacific region so as to maximize the use of available resources and enhance the effectiveness and impact of the work of the Commission in addressing critical development challenges faced by the least developed and landlocked developing countries.

11. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

12. Carry out such other functions as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to the least developed and landlocked developing countries.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Special Body shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Special Body shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a

¹³ See *The Law of the Sea: Official Texts of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 with Index and Excerpts from the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.V.10).

time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Special Body shall meet biennially for two days, back-to-back with the sessions of the Commission, in alternate years with the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries.