

59/4. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, which are aimed, among other things, at the eradication of poverty,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, in which the Assembly endorsed the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Recognizing the special concerns of the least developed countries as emphasized in the Monterrey Consensus emanating from the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference,

Welcoming the establishment of a trust fund by the Secretary-General to support the activities of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the General Assembly's call, in resolution 57/276 of 20 December 2002, for Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund, in particular for the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and international levels,

Aware that 13 of the 49 least developed countries, many of which are landlocked developing countries or small island developing States, are in Asia and the Pacific,

1. *Reaffirms* its strong support for the full realization of the seven commitments made at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, as well as the recommendations emanating from the international conferences on the landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the least developed countries have the primary responsibility for formulating and implementing effective policies to promote sustainable economic growth and development;

3. *Further reaffirms* its full support for the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in its endeavour to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all stakeholders for the implementation of the Programme of Action, which forms a basis for regional cooperation to assist the least developed countries;

4. *Stresses* that successful implementation of the Programme of Action depends on shared responsibility and strengthened partnerships, including civil society and the private sector, and invites all members and associate members and subregional, regional and international organizations to support the efforts of the least developed countries in Asia and the Pacific;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close coordination with the Office of the High Representative, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and specialized agencies:

(a) To ensure that the programme of work under the themes of poverty reduction, managing globalization and emerging social issues mainstreams the relevant priorities and commitments identified in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, as called for in General Assembly resolutions 56/227 of 24 December 2001 and 57/276 of 20 December 2002;

(b) To review, analyse and disseminate information on economic and social developments in the least developed countries annually in line with the Programme of Action;

(c) - To assist the least developed countries, where appropriate, in the formulation of appropriate sectoral development strategies and policies, paying due regard to the diverse development circumstances and constraints facing the least developed countries, in accordance with the Programme of Action;

(d) To conduct a regional mid-term review of the implementation of the Programme of Action in 2005 which considers the developments affecting the countries concerned subsequent to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

6. *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*