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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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**REVIEW OF ISSUES PERTINENT TO THE SUBSIDIARY STRUCTURE OF  
THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING THE PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE  
REPORT FOR THE BIENNIUM 2008-2009 AND THE WORK OF THE  
ESCAP REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

(Item 3 of the provisional agenda)

**SUMMARY OF PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
COMMISSION RESOLUTIONS**

*Note by the secretariat*

**SUMMARY**

The present document summarizes the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolutions on which the secretariat is required to report to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session.

The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and to provide the secretariat with comments and further guidance for the effective implementation of the resolutions.

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### **I. RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO MACROECONOMIC POLICY, POVERTY REDUCTION AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**

#### **A. Resolution 65/1**

##### **Implementation of the Bali Outcome Document in addressing the food, fuel and financial crises**

1. In its resolution 65/1, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to:
  - (a) Continue to assist, in coordination with other international entities, particularly the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in implementing the recommendations contained in the Bali Outcome Document and in building their capacity;
  - (b) Conduct analytical studies and share experiences on improving food and energy security, on responding to the financial crisis, and on sustainable agriculture, including its climate adaptation and mitigation potentials;

(c) Convene, in coordination with international and regional organizations, a regional dialogue with participation by government representatives and other experts, to discuss the progress so far achieved in the Asian and Pacific region in addressing the economic crisis and its impact on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

2. The present document covers the implementation of resolution 65/1 over a period of one year, and includes the work activities of several subprogrammes.

3. In response to paragraph 2 (a) of resolution 65/1, the secretariat of ESCAP organized several activities designed to implement the recommendations of the Bali Outcome Document and build the capacity of member States to make appropriate policy responses that mitigate the impact of the economic crisis, restore growth and avoid future global setbacks. The *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2009*,<sup>1</sup> its year-end update and the forthcoming 2010 *Survey* underline the fact that, even though a regional recovery appears to be under way, the current rebound is fragile and uneven. A number of downside risks exist, linked to rising inflationary pressures, asset bubbles and appreciating exchange rates in an environment of weak growth. Of particular concern to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States is the recent upward pressures on oil prices and certain commodities, which could see the region returning to high food prices as world demand for commodities picks up again. The secretariat also undertook several capacity-building activities, including the organization in Dhaka of a high-level regional workshop on the theme “Strengthening the responses to the global financial crisis in Asia-Pacific”. Attended by 17 Asia-Pacific countries, the workshop was aimed at sharing experiences and examples of good practice with regard to how Asia-Pacific countries have responded to the global financial crisis and how they could bolster their defences against such crises in future. The secretariat also organized, in Beijing from 20 to 22 May 2009, the Regional Policy Forum on Trade Facilitation and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Times of Crisis, which was attended by 60 participants from 20 countries. The participants discussed trade facilitation for small and medium-sized enterprises to tackle the challenges posed by the global financial crisis. The secretariat co-organized, with several United Nations agencies, the Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis. Held in Port Vila from 10 to 12 February 2010, the Conference brought together more than 200 delegates to discuss how countries could reduce the impact of the economic crises and build resilience for future crises. The three key themes of the Conference were: (a) measures to protect the poor and vulnerable; (b) the need for inclusive economic growth, social protection and green growth; and (c) sustainability to tackle future crises. The outcome of the Conference will be reported to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session (see E/ESCAP/66/INF/7) and to the Pacific Islands Forum leaders at their 2010 meeting.

4. In response to paragraph 2 (b), the secretariat facilitated regional consultation in sharing information on policy options for integrating action on climate change and energy security into the development agenda. The secretariat is developing a low-carbon, green growth road map for East Asia (2010-2011) and a regional strategy for low-carbon development in Asia and the Pacific (2011-2012). It also organized, in August 2009, a regional workshop on eco-efficient water infrastructure with a view to the sharing of knowledge and experiences on eco-efficient water management in the region. The secretariat is implementing energy-related capacity development activities in Central, South-East and South Asia, with a focus on institutional arrangements and subregional strategies. The secretariat has conducted research on

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.II.F.11.

resource efficiency as a way to improve the security of resources, including energy. A set of indicators that will support regional countries in tracking efficiency in the use of energy and other commodities has been developed. The Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) completed 11 country studies on the status of renewable energy technology adoption and utilization. In addition, four manuals on the assessment of solar, wind, biomass and mini-hydro power resources were completed. A web-based resource centre, the Renewable Energy Cooperation Network for Asia and the Pacific ([www.recap.apctt.org](http://www.recap.apctt.org)), has been set up, and all of the country studies, training manuals and materials developed are available through the website. The secretariat, through the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication for Development (APCICT), has also developed an online knowledge-sharing platform, the e-Collaborative Hub (e-Co Hub), the purpose of which is to enhance the learning and training experience by providing easy access to relevant resources and by making available an interactive space for sharing experiences and fostering regional dialogue on information and communications technology (ICT). With a view to ensuring food security through sustainable agriculture, in 2009 the secretariat, through the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM), launched a project on the theme “Understanding hybrid rice cultivation technology for food security in the Asia-Pacific region through South-South cooperation” to help member countries to address issues relating to food insecurity through the transfer of agricultural technology, the dissemination of knowledge and skills and the enhancement of member countries’ capacity in grain production and agricultural research and development. A regional training on hybrid rice cultivation technology, attended by participants from 12 Asian and Pacific countries, was held in Changsha, China, from 24 August to 4 September 2009. The secretariat published *Pacific Perspectives 2009: Crises and Opportunities*,<sup>2</sup> which included an article entitled “The threats and opportunities of higher food prices in the Pacific”, addressing the question of whether rising food prices could boost agricultural sectors in the Pacific. With a view to promoting sustainable agriculture, the secretariat, through UNAPCAEM, conducted feasibility studies and drafted methodology guidelines on the application of the clean development mechanism in conservation agriculture and household biogas, and a regional expert group meeting was held in Los Baños, Philippines, in October 2009 to discuss the development of agricultural machinery for sustainable agriculture in the region.

5. In response to paragraph 2 (c), the secretariat continued its ongoing work in supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, with a special focus on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, through the tripartite partnership programme of ESCAP, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Under the partnership, ESCAP, ADB and UNDP jointly published the report *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in An Era of Global Uncertainty: Asia-Pacific Regional Report 2009/10*,<sup>3</sup> which was launched in Manila in February 2010. The report focused on the impact of the economic crisis on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and examined fiscal stimulus packages and social protection as instruments for promoting the Goals in the region. ESCAP will also implement a project entitled “Strengthening Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific”, the aim of which is to enhance social protection policies and programmes through the adoption of innovative tools and approaches to tackle emerging social challenges, including those resulting from the impact of financial shocks, volatile fuel and food prices and climate change. The ESCAP theme study

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.II.F.25.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.II.F.10.

*A Supportive Financial System and Green Growth for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific Region*, which will serve as a background document for discussion at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission (see E/ESCAP/66/26), highlights the prospects for and challenges to achieving the Goals by 2015 in the context of the current financial and economic crisis and volatility in food and fuel prices. It also explores possible synergies between economic growth and environmental sustainability and presents a new paradigm of green growth that will not only contribute directly to the environmental sustainability of growth but also facilitate the achievement of other goals by conserving and releasing resources.

**B. Resolution 65/4**  
**Strengthening of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through**  
**Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific**

6. In its resolution 65/4, the Commission determined that the process of strengthening the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA) and increasing its relevance for countries in the region should include the following elements:

(a) The membership of the Technical Committee should include heads of national agricultural research centres of member countries;

(b) The research carried out by the Centre should be focused on sustainable secondary crop farming systems and agribusiness development in the context of inclusive agricultural and rural development for food security and poverty alleviation;

(c) The Centre's primary focus should be on networking, promoting and coordinating research, highlighting and disseminating research findings and converting the results of primary research into relevant policy options for the region.

7. The Commission adopted the recommendation of the Governing Council to allow for a larger Council and agreed that all nine members submitting nominations for membership in the Governing Council of the Centre, in addition to the host country, Indonesia, should become members of the Council for the period 2009-2012. It also urged members of the Commission to increase their regular voluntary contributions, and urged the Executive Secretary to provide financial and human resources to the Centre.

8. The secretariat has undertaken a number of activities in response to paragraph 2 (a) of resolution 64/5 concerning the membership of the Technical Committee. The fifth session of the Technical Committee of CAPSA was held in Bogor, Indonesia, on 9 December 2009. It was preceded by a two-day workshop on the theme "Developing an inclusive strategic plan for CAPSA", which was attended by 34 participants, representing 13 ESCAP member countries. The Technical Committee is currently composed of nine eminent scientists and experts representing various fields of agricultural research. The membership of the Committee is undergoing some changes in keeping with the Centre's new focus.

9. In response to paragraph 2 (b), the secretariat consolidated the activities of the Centre through efforts to bring on board additional staff and implemented two projects: "Adding value to fresh and processed produce through product certification", which was funded by France and has now been completed; and "Forecasting food security under El Niño in Asia and the Pacific", which was funded

by Japan and is expected to be completed in mid-2010. The Centre re-engaged in networking and marketing itself to a broad range of Indonesian and international stakeholders in an effort to reverse the decline in its visibility and increase its relevance in the Asia-Pacific region.

10. In response to paragraph 3, ESCAP focused on networking with national agricultural research centres and promoting and coordinating research. Meetings were held to discuss strengthened collaboration with the heads of the Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (IAARD), the Indonesian Centre for Food Crops Research and Development (ICFORD) and the Indonesian Centre for Agriculture Socio-Economic and Policy Studies (ICASEPS). On the regional front, efforts have been initiated to re-engage the Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) and the Centre for Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD). The information services and database unit of CAPSA published and uploaded on its website three issues of *Palawija News* and six issues of *CAPSA Flash* to disseminate and advocate policy recommendations and research methodologies among Centre stakeholders. A newly designed CAPSA “profile” was produced, highlighting the mandate of the Centre. Collaboration with the AgEcon Search website at the University of Minnesota, United States of America, continued. Downloads of publications from the CAPSA website reached just over 100,000, with visits reaching 98,000.

11. In response to paragraphs 4 and 5, regarding the recommendation of the Governing Council to allow for a larger Council, 10 members of the Governing Council for the period 2009-2012 were elected. In addition to the host country, Indonesia, the following countries were elected: Bangladesh, Cambodia, France, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea and Thailand.

12. In response to paragraph 6, the secretariat continued to make efforts to encourage members of the Governing Council to fulfil their voluntary financial commitments and to encourage non-members of the Council to make voluntary contributions.

13. In response to paragraph 7, the Executive Secretary took several actions to augment the human resource base of the Centre. The position of Programme Leader, Research and Development, was filled, and the process of recruiting a Regional Adviser (P-4) and an Associate Programme Officer (P-2), both to be based in Bogor, Indonesia, has been initiated. ESCAP also explored the possibility of recruiting a United Nations Associate Expert through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in New York and VIDA volunteers from Australia.

## **II. RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO TRANSPORT**

### **Resolution 64/5**

#### **Establishment of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport**

14. The Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in November 2006, expressed strong support for the establishment of a forum of Asian ministers of transport. Consequently, at its sixty-fourth session, the Commission adopted resolution 64/5 of 30 April 2008 on the establishment of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport as a regional mechanism within the framework of the conference structure of the Commission, in order to facilitate close collaboration and more frequent interaction between members and associate members with a view to addressing emerging issues in the transport sector. In so doing, it

requested the secretariat to coordinate the convening of the forum with the Committee on Transport.

15. In accordance with the resolution, the first session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport was held in Bangkok from 14 to 18 December 2009. It comprised two segments: a senior officials' segment, which was held from 14 to 16 December, and a ministerial segment, held on 17 and 18 December. The first session was attended by 151 representatives, including 16 ministerial-level officials from 27 members and associate members of ESCAP and representatives from relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system.

16. The regional policy-oriented agenda placed before the Forum addressed the following major issues: (a) transport infrastructure, focusing in particular on the development of Euro-Asian transport links, the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Networks and intermodal transport; (b) transport and development, highlighting the important direct and indirect contributions of the transport sector to overall economic and social development and facilitation of border crossings, as well as the resulting need for the ministers to consider increased investment in transport; (c) transport and poverty, focusing on reducing problems related to the transport of agricultural products from farm to market and on providing rural communities with access to the main transport and logistics networks; (d) transport and the environment, approaching issues of energy consumption and emissions in the transport sector in an integrated manner; and (e) transport and society, focusing on how to improve road safety in the Asian and Pacific region.

17. The Forum took stock of progress and considered the issues which needed to be addressed to ensure that the advances made in recent years in promoting regional connectivity were sustained. In this context, the Forum endorsed the continued implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific<sup>4</sup> and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011).<sup>5</sup>

18. The Forum culminated in the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia. Major recommendations and conclusions emanating from the Forum are contained in the report of the Forum (E/ESCAP/66/11), to be submitted to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session.

19. In the current and the next biennium, the focus will be on ensuring that the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport continues to play a significant role in providing strategic guidance for the regional development of transport and transit and the improvement of transport capacity in the region. In this context, priority will be accorded to ensuring effective implementation of the recommendations of the Bangkok Declaration, in particular in promoting regional cooperation in realizing the long-term vision of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system in support of production and distribution networks and international trade.

20. In line with the resolution, the secretariat will continue to coordinate the convening of the Forum with the Committee on Transport. In this respect, it is expected that the Forum will meet in the intervals between sessions of the Committee, in alternate years, so as to ensure the timely review of emerging issues.

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<sup>4</sup> E/ESCAP/63/13, chap. V.

<sup>5</sup> Commission resolution 63/9, annex.

21. Concerning the second session of the Forum, at its first session the Forum requested the secretariat to convene, in 2011, a ministerial conference on transport to assess and evaluate the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), and to consider a regional action programme for phase II (2012-2016). That request was reflected in the Bangkok Declaration (see E/ESCAP/66/11).

### **III. RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

#### **Resolution 61/6**

#### **Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development**

22. In its resolution 61/6, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Report annually on the progress made by APCICT in (i) capacity-building to bridge the digital divide, (ii) creating a sustainable institutional framework for the training of trainers in the field of information and communications technology and (iii) enhancing regional cooperation in human resources development in that field;

(b) Submit a report in 2008 on the performance of the Centre, in particular regarding the complementary and value-added contribution of its work to that of other relevant international organizations;

(c) Submit a comprehensive report on the Centre's work to serve as the basis for a review by the Commission.

23. Since its establishment in 2006, APCICT has substantively contributed to strengthening the human and institutional capacity of member States to use information and communications technology for socio-economic development, in accordance with the Tunis Commitment,<sup>6</sup> adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society, which endorsed the need to build human capacities in information and communications technology, especially in developing countries. The Centre's flagship programme, the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders, includes a comprehensive training curriculum on ICT for development, which was developed through an inclusive and participatory process. It has been implemented in 12 countries, including, in particular, countries with special needs, in close partnership with national Governments. There has been a strong field uptake, as evidenced by the incorporation of customized and locally relevant versions of the programme into sustainable national and institutional capacity-building frameworks in many countries.

24. The Academy has increased awareness and skills among decision-makers in the area of ICT for development in the region. In addition, APCICT has organized thematic workshops focused on topics such as ICT capacity-building for women and persons with disabilities, while promoting the reach of the Academy through multiple delivery channels, including online through the distance-learning APCICT Virtual Academy (AVA). In total, 2,423 trainees and participants, primarily policymakers and government officials, have benefited from 43 workshops/events and from AVA,

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<sup>6</sup> See A/60/687.



thus contributing to a greater pool of knowledge for leveraging ICT to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

25. Regional cooperation in ICT human resource development has also been enhanced through two regional training-of-trainers workshops, a regional-level Academy partners meeting, held in 2009, the exchange of Academy resource persons between countries, and the e-Collaborative Hub, an online knowledge-sharing platform for exchange of best practices in ICT for development that has already seen 20,000 unique visitors. Moreover, the impact of the work of APCICT and its partners at the national level has been amplified through effective collaboration with other international entities, including UNDP, ADB, the European Union and the Economic Commission for Africa. Annual reports on the progress of the Centre are being submitted to the Commission, as specified in the resolution.<sup>7</sup>

26. A review of the performance of the Centre (E/ESCAP/64/29) was submitted to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session, in 2008. The issue of the complementary and value-added contribution of the Centre's work to that of other relevant international organizations was addressed in that report, as well as in the report on the comprehensive evaluation of the Centre (E/ESCAP/66/18), to be considered by the Commission at its sixty-sixth session under agenda item 4 (a).

#### **IV. RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

##### **A. Resolution 58/4**

##### **Promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty-first century**

27. In its resolution 58/4, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to strengthen, subject to available financial resources, (a) the national capacity of members and associate members in developing and pursuing national programmes of action during the forthcoming Decade and (b) collaboration with other regional initiatives in the field of disabilities, including the sharing of best practices in the implementation efforts of the African Decade of Disabled Persons, 2000-2009. It also requested the Executive Secretary to report to it biennially until the end of the Decade on the progress made on the implementation of the resolution and to submit recommendations to the Commission, as required, on action to maintain the momentum of the Decade.

28. The present document covers the implementation of the resolution in 2008 and 2009. Since the establishment in 2003 of the second Asian Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, the secretariat has been taking the lead in building the capacities of members and associate members by promoting the 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, which is the defining comprehensive policy guideline of the Decade. The Framework for Action promotes a paradigm shift from a charity-based to a rights-based approach to disability policy development, as well as incorporating the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals. The entry into force in May 2008 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>8</sup> the world's first disability-specific human rights treaty, reaffirmed the approach of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and added a new dimension to the work of the secretariat on the promotion of the Framework.

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<sup>7</sup> For the latest report, see E/ESCAP/66/13.

<sup>8</sup> General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.

29. In 2008, the secretariat prepared a paper entitled “Building an inclusive society by addressing the exclusion of persons with disabilities” (E/ESCAP/CSD/6), which was considered during the first session of the Committee on Social Development and provided the basis for discussions among ESCAP members and associate members on the latest conceptual approaches for tackling the barriers faced by persons with disabilities, including the lack of reliable data and evidence to assess the extent of their exclusion from society. It was noted that, while the region in general had made progress in the formulation of laws, policies and plans relating to disability, the majority of countries still lacked the provisions, including for the enforcement of existing laws, policies and plans, necessary to ensure the enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their rights.

30. The secretariat has been implementing a project entitled “Creating a rights-based and accessible society in Asia and the Pacific” with a view to building the capacity and knowledge of policymakers in the ESCAP region. Under the project, an expert group meeting on the harmonization of national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific was held in June 2009, in collaboration with the Regional Office for South-East Asia of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to impart knowledge on model antidiscrimination laws, case studies on review of domestic legislation in the light of the Convention and the types of disability-based discrimination experienced in the region. Furthermore, the secretariat published *Disability at a Glance 2009: a Profile of 36 Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific*<sup>9</sup> and its online edition, “Disability Policy Central for Asia and the Pacific”, in November 2009, which provide an overview of the development of disability demography and policy in the region. Those efforts enabled members and associate members not only to gain access to available policy options and data on persons with disabilities, but also to benchmark the extent of the development of data and policy vis-à-vis other countries and areas. They also served as a tool to monitor the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals from the disability perspective.

31. Taking into account the lack of comparable statistical data on persons with disabilities in the region, the secretariat, in collaboration with the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and the World Health Organization, implemented a project to enhance the capacity of national statistical offices through a series of regional and national training workshops in the region. Those efforts were aimed at deepening the understanding of senior statistical staff of comparable definitions on disability on the basis of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, and enabled them to conduct both field testing and cognitive testing of sample questions for censuses and surveys, which were recommended by the secretariat and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. Those efforts were recognized by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-first session, held in New York in February 2010, as a good practice for replication (see E/2010/24).

32. The secretariat also enhanced the knowledge of key stakeholders and policymakers on model practices, and promoted multisectoral dialogue for the enhancement of accessibility in environment and information. Two workshops were held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in 2008 and 2009 in the context of a project entitled “Enhancement of information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities”. The meetings brought together policymakers from the ICT and disability fields, technical experts and persons with disabilities from 11

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<sup>9</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.II.F.21.

countries in the region. While highlighting good practices in the area of ICT accessibility, the workshops identified region-wide challenges in the development and distribution of accessible ICT products. The outcome documents of the workshops provide comprehensive recommendations in the area of ICT accessibility.

33. The secretariat also partnered with the city of Takayama, Japan, in November 2009 in organizing the ESCAP Takayama Congress on the Creation of an Inclusive and Accessible Community in Asia and the Pacific. The outcome document of the Congress, the Takayama Declaration on the Development of Communities for All in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>10</sup> serves as a guide for promoting accessible tourism as an effective means to build inclusive communities in which all people, including persons with different types of impairments, older persons, families with infants and persons with diverse linguistic backgrounds, can participate equally in all aspects of community life, including the enjoyment of recreational and cultural activities. The Declaration also underscored the importance of the involvement of the private sector for the development of inclusive communities.

34. In the area of interregional collaboration, the secretariat collaborated closely with the Japan International Cooperation Agency and Disabled People's International in the facilitation of a forum for exchange of information and experiences between persons with disabilities in Asia-Pacific and Africa. African counterparts felt strongly that they needed to learn good practices from the ESCAP region. Further collaboration between the two regions is envisaged.

#### **B. Resolution 64/8**

##### **Regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific**

35. In its resolution 64/8, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Assist members and associate members in building their capacity to implement the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five in order to ensure that a rights-based approach to disability is incorporated into their policies and programmes;

(b) Promote coordination and collaboration among United Nations agencies and regional organizations in order to support member States in implementing the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five, and in incorporating the perspective of persons with disabilities in actions aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals and also, as appropriate, to assist States in becoming parties to and in implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(c) Improve the accessibility of the facilities and services of ESCAP for persons with disabilities, in collaboration with United Nations agencies and organizations and disabled persons' organizations;

(d) Continue strengthening the partnership between ESCAP and the Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability;

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<sup>10</sup> Available at [www.escaptakayama.com](http://www.escaptakayama.com).

(e) Convene a high-level intergovernmental meeting to review the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five in 2012, the concluding year of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012.

36. Progress made in the implementation of paragraph 8 (a) of resolution 64/8 is covered in the summary of progress on resolution 58/4 (see paras. 27-34 above). With reference to the request made to the secretariat to promote coordination and collaboration among United Nations agencies and regional organizations, the secretariat has been active at both the global and the regional levels. Globally, the United Nations system-wide commitment to the promotion of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is exemplified by the work of the Inter-agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was established in 2006. The secretariat has been an active member and contributed to the drafting of its strategic plan of action. In 2009, the secretariat took the lead, together with the Regional Office of OHCHR, in organizing the first forum for United Nations organizations and agencies in the region to share information on the Inter-agency Support Group for the Convention, the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and the mainstreaming of the disability perspective in the monitoring of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The meeting succeeded in establishing an informal network for knowledge-sharing among various United Nations agencies and organizations in the region and in enhancing their awareness of the importance of disability mainstreaming in their work. The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed in December 2009. The event was organized by ESCAP in collaboration with the International Labour Organization, OHCHR and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and awareness-raising posters in English Braille were produced. The posters were intended to allow sighted persons to experience the information barriers that blind persons face. Regional inter-agency meetings will be held annually to strengthen collaborative work among agencies.

37. The secretariat, in collaboration with Disabled Peoples' International Asia and the Pacific, conducted two training sessions on disability equality training for ESCAP staff with a view to improving access by persons with disabilities to the facilities and services of the United Nations complex in Bangkok. A wide section of ESCAP staff, including staff from the Facilities Management Unit, the Conference Services Section and the Security and Safety Section, attended the training, which enhanced their understanding of the importance of removing disabling barriers. In 2009, the secretariat, assisted by a group of people with expertise in the area, conducted an accessibility audit of the United Nations Conference Centre, which resulted in a number of recommendations for improvement. A regional accessibility manual and a handbook, synthesizing existing guidelines, were proposed for production in 2010 to serve as a useful point of reference.

38. The Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability (APCD) has been an invaluable partner of ESCAP in the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action. ESCAP and APCD have co-organized a series of South-South cooperation seminars on an annual basis to collect good practices in the area of South-South collaboration on disability matters, including the empowerment of persons with disabilities. During the biennium 2008-2009, the partnership jointly facilitated the development of a subregional network of self-help organizations of persons with disabilities in Central Asia through the holding, in Bishkek from 21 to 24 October 2008, of a regional workshop on the theme "Capacity development of self-help organizations of persons with disabilities: a rights-based approach to disability in Central Asia". Furthermore, ESCAP and APCD took the lead in

establishing the Asia-Pacific Community-based Rehabilitation Network, jointly organizing, in February 2009, the first Asia-Pacific Community-based Rehabilitation Congress.

39. The secretariat has started preparatory work towards the organization of the High-level Intergovernmental meeting to review the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and the Biwako Plus Five in 2012. As part of the process, in 2010 an expert group meeting/stakeholder consultation to review the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action will be organized. The second session of the Committee on Social Development, to be held in October 2010, will, inter alia, review the theme and serve as the regional forum for members and associate members to discuss pertinent issues related to the second decade on persons with disability and the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action.

**C. Resolution 65/3**  
**High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the**  
**Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled**  
**Persons, 2003-2012**

40. In its resolution 65/3, the Commission decided that the venue of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, should be decided by the Commission as its sixty-sixth session, and welcomed the offer of the Republic of Korea to host the meeting.

41. The Commission called upon other members and associate members that might wish to host the Meeting to present their offers as soon as possible and no later than October 2009.

42. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to examine all offers to host the Meeting, and to report the results of the examining process to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session.

43. As at the end of October 2009, no other offer had been made with regard to the hosting of the Meeting.

44. The secretariat has examined the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea and finds many factors that support the holding of the Meeting there. First, the Government of the Republic of Korea has demonstrated its full commitment to the goals of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action. The most recent and significant example of that commitment was the prompt ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008 and the adoption of domestic anti-discrimination laws on disability that preceded it. The Government has also expressed its willingness to host the General Assembly of the Asia and Pacific Disability Forum and the World Congress of Rehabilitation International in 2012. Both are non-governmental organizations accredited with the Economic and Social Council and have been instrumental in the efforts to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

45. Secondly, the Government took prompt and positive action with regard to the preparatory work for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting. The secretariat has been informed that numerous local governments in the country have offered to host the Meeting in their provinces.

46. Thirdly, the Government has launched a task force to undertake substantive preparations for the Meeting. Key stakeholders, including Government officials, representatives of organizations of and for persons with disabilities, as well as academicians and experts on disability rights and social welfare, are members of the task force.

## **V. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

47. The Commission may wish to review the progress achieved and provide the secretariat with comments and further guidance for enhanced and effective implementation of the resolutions mentioned herein. In line with resolution 65/3, in particular paragraph 1, the Commission at its sixty-sixth session will need to decide on the venue of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting. In that regard, the Commission may wish to accept the offer of the Republic of Korea to host the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the final review of the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons in 2012.

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