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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Asia-Pacific High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Assessment of Progress
against Commitments in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS
and the Millennium Development Goals

Bangkok, 1-3 November 2011

ESCAP resolution 66/10

Regional call for action to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/262 of 2 June 2006, by which the Assembly adopted the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, which calls for, inter alia, halting and beginning to reverse, by 2015, the spread of HIV/AIDS, and scaling up significantly national efforts to achieve the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010,

Recalling also Commission resolutions 57/1 of 25 April 2001 on the regional call for action to fight the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in Asia and the Pacific and 59/1 of 4 September 2003 on regional action in follow-up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, which call for regional action in implementing the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,¹

Taking note of the progress made and challenges still to be overcome by countries of the Asian and Pacific region in their implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, as reported at the 2008 United Nations high-level meeting on AIDS,

Recognizing HIV and AIDS as major public health and development challenges that threaten to reverse many of the social and economic gains achieved in the Asian and Pacific region, including progress in attaining the Millennium Development Goals,

¹ General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

Taking note of the need to address the multisectoral elements that drive HIV epidemics and work with all relevant stakeholders in carrying out a comprehensive response,

Emphasizing the mutually reinforcing interrelationship between Millennium Development Goal 6, which includes targets to halt and reverse the spread of HIV and to achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV and AIDS for all who need it, and other Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, Goal 3 on promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, Goal 4 on reducing child mortality and Goal 5 on improving maternal health, where progress is mutually reinforcing,

Recognizing that political commitment at the highest level, and effective leadership at all levels of society, are vital in achieving universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support, as well as for the success of other HIV and AIDS interventions,

Noting with particular concern the continuing high prevalence of HIV among key affected populations, including sex workers, injecting drug users and men who have sex with men, as well as the extent of the legal and policy barriers that impede progress in developing and implementing effective ways of responding to HIV and related risks among them,

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

(a) To accelerate the implementation of the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;²

(b) To reinforce commitments to the Millennium Development Goal target of universal access to treatment for HIV and AIDS for those who need it, in terms of measurable, sustained advances towards a significantly higher level of coverage for treatment and effective prevention interventions needed to manage diverse epidemics, with services being equitable, accessible, affordable, comprehensive and responsive to individual needs, especially for women and girls, through evidence-based and gender-responsive national strategic plans, taking into account relevant recommendations from the Commission on AIDS in Asia and the Commission on AIDS in the Pacific;

(c) To ground universal access in human rights and undertake measures to address stigma and discrimination, as well as policy and legal barriers to effective HIV responses, in particular with regard to key affected populations;

(d) To ensure the sustainability of the AIDS response by maintaining a sufficient level of investment, both domestic and external, with the financial and human resources necessary to halt and reverse the spread of HIV in the countries in the region, including by linking HIV and AIDS with Millennium Development Goals and development plans;

² General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, within the existing ESCAP mandate, and in close coordination with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Health Organization and other relevant stakeholders:

(a) To support members and associate members in the implementation of the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and in reaching the Millennium Development Goal target of ensuring universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support, by promoting regional cooperation among countries of Asia and the Pacific, as appropriate, and partnerships with people living with HIV and AIDS, civil society and faith-based and private-sector groups, guided by the priorities of the UNAIDS Outcome Framework 2009-2011³ which most concern the drivers of the epidemic in each country;

(b) To support members and associate members in their efforts to enact, strengthen and enforce, as appropriate, legislation, regulations and other measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS and other key affected populations, and to develop, implement and monitor strategies to combat stigma and exclusion connected with the epidemic;

(c) To support and collaborate with subregional organizations, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Pacific Islands Forum, in enhancing cooperation in developing and implementing effective interventions to deal with HIV/AIDS as a development challenge, giving special attention to transboundary issues which require intercountry collaboration, such as cross-border movement of people and HIV vulnerability, access to affordable medicines, the identification of regionally appropriate and innovative intervention paradigms and models and the promotion of South-South sharing of expertise and experience;

(d) To convene a high-level intergovernmental review for the Asian and Pacific region to assess progress against commitments in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Development Goals and efforts to ensure universal access, and identify areas for regional cooperation, in particular in such areas as identifying and removing policy and legal barriers to universal access and promoting dialogue between health and other sectors, including justice, law and order and drug control;

(e) To bring the present resolution to the attention of the General Assembly AIDS Review, to be held in June 2010, with a view to presenting issues of concern to the Asian and Pacific region;

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

*Fifth plenary meeting
19 May 2010*

³ Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, "Joint action for results: UNAIDS outcome framework 2009-2011" (2010) (UNAIDS/09.13E – JC1713E).