



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventy-second session

Agenda item 8

**Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific**

**72/12. Harnessing science, technology and innovation for inclusive
and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012 entitled “The future we want”, resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it recognized, inter alia, the critical role of science and technology, the importance of promoting innovation, in particular in developing countries, and the significance of international cooperation in this regard,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/213 of 22 December 2015 on science, technology and innovation for development, in which it recognized the vital role that science, technology and innovation, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to address global challenges, such as efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security and nutrition, enhance access to energy and increase energy efficiency, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification, inclusion, growth and transformation, improve productivity and competitiveness and, ultimately, support sustainable development,

Recalling further resolution 71/1 of 29 May 2015 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, entitled “Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda”, in which it reconstituted the Committee on Information and Communications Technology as the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, for dealing with the emerging issues, challenges and opportunities in the area of science, technology and innovation,

Recognizing the Commission’s unique role as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations development system for the Asia-Pacific region and the most representative regional intergovernmental forum, which may encourage dialogue and cooperation on science, technology and innovation in support of the attainment of the 2030 Agenda and which will cooperate with, and remain across, broader discussions on science, technology and innovation being held within the region, facilitated by major groups and other stakeholders as appropriate,

Noting that the spread of information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies across areas as diverse as medicine and energy,

Recognizing the importance of creating a conducive environment that attracts and supports private investment, entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility, including an efficient, adequate, balanced and effective intellectual property framework, while encouraging access to science and technology by developing countries,

Welcoming the theme study of the seventy-second session of the Commission, *Harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*,¹

1. *Reaffirms* that science, technology and innovation are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,² and for the full participation of developing countries in the global economy;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific serves the region as one of the most suitable forums in the United Nations system, which may encourage dialogue and cooperation among member States on science, technology and innovation policies, in particular through its Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation;

3. *Encourages* member States to enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on science, technology and innovation, including knowledge-sharing;

4. *Requests* the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation to consider the recommendations outlined in the theme study¹ and to present an inclusive and comprehensive set of recommendations to the Commission at its seventy-third session;

5. *Invites* member States to work further on convening a biennial Asia-Pacific innovation forum starting in 2017 through the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation and to work further on its terms of reference and modalities, the forum to be held alternatively with that Committee, as a means to enhance and facilitate knowledge-sharing and collaboration among member States, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders as appropriate;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Raise awareness among member States on the science, technology and innovation dialogues taking place at various forums and international, regional and subregional organizations, by acting as a bridge to facilitate cooperation and joint action when necessary;

¹ See E/ESCAP/72/32.

² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

(b) Encourage, through existing mechanisms, member States to promote public, public-private and civil society partnerships, as appropriate, in order to harness science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of access by all countries to environmentally sound technologies, new knowledge, know-how and expertise and the importance of cooperative action on technology innovation, research and development;

8. *Calls upon* member States and the relevant organizations of the United Nations development system to support the Commission in harnessing science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region through all mechanisms, as appropriate;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*6th plenary meeting
19 May 2016*
