Thirty-fifth session
Ad hoc Working Group

Bangladesh*, People's Republic of China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, and Thailand

Establishment of an Asia-Pacific facility within UNDP

Draft decision

The Governing Council,

Recognizing that the Asia-Pacific region continues to contain the largest concentration of mass poverty in the world, in addition to containing the most populous developing countries and regions,

Aware that the large concentrations of acute poverty in themselves act as the greatest deterrent to development efforts in the region,

Gravely concerned by the fact that the per capita availability of grant assistance for multilateral technical co-operation through the UNDP for the developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region is as low as $0.37 which compares most unfavourably with other developing regions,

* Observer.
Conscious of the fact that modest but consistent performance of a handful of countries of this region in the recent years through prudent management and innovative approaches notwithstanding, the genuine problems of mass poverty and underdevelopment deserve increased attention of the international community,

Noting the close interrelationship amongst population, resources, environment and development, and the fact that poverty still remains one of the main causes of pollution and environmental degradation in the region,

Recognizing the fact that many countries of the Asia-Pacific region are prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, droughts, floods, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, desertification, etc. and that concrete and concerted measures for disaster relief and disaster management, including reconstruction and rehabilitation are necessary,

Recognizing further that many developing countries of the region are among the least developed countries - constituting the largest concentration of the LDC population in the world and that this requires special and urgent attention,

Mindful of the fact that many developing countries of the region suffer from inherent disadvantages on account of their size and geographic location such as land-locked and small island-developing countries, which require special and differential treatment,

Conscious of the fact that the collapse of the commodity prices has adversely affected the economic performance of the countries in the region,

Recognizing that stagnation and decline in real terms of financial resource flows, especially ODA, to the region have retarded development efforts of recipient countries in the region,

Recalling the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region adopted by the ESCAP on 20 April 1988,

1. Decides to establish within the UNDP a facility called the "Asia and Pacific Facility";

2. Decides further that an initial amount of $100 million be allocated from the nominal surplus resources now available towards the facility;

3. Further requests the Administrator to initiate steps to ensure a speedy and effective establishment and continuance of the Facility in order to assist the developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region for purposes set out in paragraph 4;
4. **Decides** that the Facility will, at the request of the recipient countries of the Asia-Pacific region and in accordance with their national development plans, priorities and objectives, provide them assistance in the following areas:

   (a) Disaster relief, including disaster preparedness, disaster management, reconstruction and rehabilitation;

   (b) Strengthening of institutional capacity;

   (c) Education and training;

   (d) Establishment and maintenance of information systems;

   (e) Implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on HRD in the ESCAP region;

   (f) Full employment and manpower development;

   (g) Elimination of hunger and malnutrition and improvement in quality of life through monitoring its indicators and sustained efforts at improving them;

5. **Calls upon** the donor community and international organizations, multilateral institutions, organs, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, etc. to contribute funds generously to the Facility and assist in its implementation;

6. **Requests** the Administrator to report to the Council at its thirty-sixth session (1989) on actions taken to implement this decision.