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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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Agenda item 3 (d)

**Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary
structure of the Commission, including the
work of the regional institutions:
Environment and development**

Resolution 69/9

Implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme towards voluntary follow-up to the Rio+20 outcome “The future we want”

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling that the Astana Green Bridge Initiative: Europe-Asia-Pacific Partnership for the Implementation of “Green Growth”¹ was welcomed and endorsed by the sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific,²

Noting that the Green Bridge Partnership Programme³ was developed after the sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, welcomed by the seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference which was held in Astana in September 2011,⁴ and welcomed and supported by the Ministerial Declaration: “Save water, grow green!” adopted by the Ministers of the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,⁵

Recalling its resolution 67/3, in which it encouraged all members and associate members to encourage the private sector and civil society to participate in activities related to the Green Bridge Initiative, and requested the Executive Secretary to support the implementation of the Initiative and its proposed programme for partnership through various activities, including participation in meetings and conferences organized by the Government of Kazakhstan and the Economic Commission for Europe,

Noting that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in its outcome document entitled “The future we want,” encouraged

¹ See E/ESCAP/67/8, chap I, sect. C.

² Ibid., chap II, para. 10.

³ See ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/6.

⁴ See ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.2, para. 9.

⁵ See ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1.

coordinated regional actions to promote sustainable development, and recognized, in that regard, that important steps had been taken to promote sustainable development, in particular in the Arab region, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Asia-Pacific region, through relevant forums, including within the United Nations regional commissions,⁶

Noting also that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which, inter alia, welcomed regional and cross-regional initiatives for sustainable development, such as the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, which is voluntary and open for participation by all partners,⁷

Noting with appreciation the steps taken by the Executive Secretary to date on the implementation of resolution 67/3 in providing platforms and networks for exploring the interest in the development of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme,

Taking into account that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development emphasized that regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations regional commissions and their subregional offices, have a significant role to play in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their respective regions,⁸

Recognizing that member States underscored the need to support these institutions, including through the United Nations system, in the effective operationalization and implementation of sustainable development, and to facilitate institutional coherence and harmonization of relevant development policies, plans and programmes,⁹

Underlining the need for more coherent and integrated planning and decision-making at the national, subnational and local levels, as appropriate and, to this end, calling on countries to strengthen national, subnational and/or local institutions or relevant multi-stakeholder bodies and processes, as appropriate, dealing with sustainable development,

Appreciating the commitment of Kazakhstan to continuously support the cross-regional cooperation for sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes* the convening by the Government of Kazakhstan of the Meeting of Stakeholders of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, which is scheduled to be held in Astana in September 2013, to consider the establishment of relevant bodies responsible for (a) overall governance, (b) implementation and coordination, and (c) a financing facility;

2. *Invites* members and associate members to participate in this upcoming stakeholder meeting as a key step towards implementing, as appropriate and on a voluntary, mutually beneficial basis, specific measures on the development of relevant structures of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme, opening opportunities for regional cooperation by using the expertise, programmes, platforms and structures existing in the region, that could extend its support and aspiration to the region for sustainable development;

⁶ See General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, para. 185.

⁷ Ibid., para. 102.

⁸ Ibid., para. 100.

⁹ Ibid.

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to support the elaboration of the institutional framework and programmatic activities of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme by:

(a) Providing expert technical support in the preparations for the above stakeholder meeting, including through collaboration with the Economic Commission for Europe and special programmes, in particular the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, as appropriate;

(b) Supporting capacity development, technical expertise and access to policy tools and frameworks;

(c) Encouraging the development and application of policies and tools, such as environmentally sound technologies, for promoting and facilitating, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies, on mutually agreed terms and conditions;

(d) Promoting knowledge-sharing networks to exchange experiences and analyses and lessons learned from sustainable development pilot projects highlighting pro-poor pro-environment growth;

(e) Supporting the necessary transfer of know-how and technologies for capacity-building to developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region, on mutually agreed terms and conditions;

4. *Invites* international and regional organizations, including the Economic Commission for Europe, to contribute to and be part of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, jointly with interested countries and partners, including the Economic Commission for Europe, as appropriate, a report on the progress in regional implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme to be submitted to the seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, in 2015;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventieth session on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

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