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**FOLLOW-UP TO THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE
SIXTIETH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(Item 5 of the provisional agenda)

Note by the secretariat

SUMMARY

The High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly (also known as the 2005 World Summit), held in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005, marked a watershed in the annals of development cooperation. It galvanized the international community into building and deepening a consensus on key areas of the development agenda. In particular, it reaffirmed the international community's support for accelerating efforts towards achieving internationally agreed development goals and targets, including the Millennium Development Goals.

The 2005 World Summit Outcome calls for multilateral solutions to problems in four areas: development; peace and collective security; human rights and the rule of law; and strengthening of the United Nations. In the development area, the main outcomes included strong and unambiguous commitment by all Governments, in donor and developing nations alike, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015; an additional \$50 billion a year by 2010 for fighting poverty; commitment by all developing countries to adopt national plans for achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2006; and agreement to provide immediate support for quick impact initiatives to support anti-malaria efforts, education and health care.

ESCAP will have a significant role to play in assisting countries of the region in implementing some of the key actions envisaged in the outcome document. These would include research and studies on conditions for ensuring macroeconomic stability; effective utilization of official development assistance and better debt management; implementing pro-poor growth strategies; improving capacity for delivering basic services to the poor; promoting the participation of the poor in the development dialogue; fostering micro-macro linkages in poverty reduction interventions; and employment generation at the community level.

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Introduction

1. The High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly (also known as the 2005 World Summit), held in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005, marked a watershed in the annals of development cooperation. Coming on the heels of the Group of Eight (G8) Gleneagles Summit, held in July 2005, it galvanized the international community into building and deepening a consensus on key areas of the development agenda. In particular, it reaffirmed the international community's support for accelerating efforts towards achieving internationally agreed development goals and targets, including the Millennium Development Goals. The 2005 World Summit also broke new ground in drawing the attention of the international community to a wide range of critical issues which required an urgent and concerted response.

2. At the Regional Ministerial Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: The Way Forward 2015, held in Jakarta from 3 to 5 August 2005, leaders from the Asian and Pacific region met to take stock of the progress made thus far in achieving the Goals and to arrive at a consensus on the region's position on the Goals to be articulated at the 2005 World Summit. The Ministers issued the Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: The Way Forward 2015,¹ setting out the region's vision for achieving the Goals and other internationally agreed development goals and targets.

3. The 2005 World Summit Outcome² reaffirmed the role that the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly have vested in the Economic and Social Council. It recognized the need for a more effective Economic and Social Council as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, as well as for implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major United Nations summits and conferences, including the Millennium Development Goals. The 2005 World Summit Outcome recommended several measures to achieve these objectives. As the regional arms of the United Nations, the regional commissions would have to continue to play a critical role in the implementation of decisions and mandates in the economic and social fields, including the Millennium Development Goals.

4. The present note has two broad objectives: firstly, to provide some information on the key elements of the 2005 World Summit Outcome as far as the development agenda is concerned; and secondly, to seek the guidance of the Committee in identifying areas for implementation and priority action in reducing poverty and fostering development in the context of the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

¹ A/60/313, annex.

² General Assembly resolution 60/1.

5. The present note has three sections. After the introductory section, the key actions that Heads of State and Government agreed to take on a range of global challenges in the area of poverty and development are summarized in section I. Section II provides a summary of the progress made in the region in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Section III explores some of the options faced by the countries of the region in taking the development agenda forward, as viewed through the 2005 World Summit Outcome, with a special focus on poverty reduction and other related goals and targets, as spelled out in the Millennium Development Goals.

6. The present note takes the 2005 World Summit Outcome as the basis for outlining the follow-up actions that may be needed at the regional level in reducing poverty and fostering development. In particular, the creation and scaling up of national capacities will be a key challenge in concretizing the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Creating such capacities with a special focus on the weaker countries of the region, such as the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and the countries with economies in transition, will require bold and innovative measures, including swift and effective actions to strengthen domestic capacities for absorbing official development assistance (ODA), utilizing external trade possibilities, creating infrastructure for attracting and using foreign direct investment (FDI), improving service delivery systems, and reorienting public resource allocation in favour of the social sector with a special focus on health, education, sanitation, access to safe water and environmental security.

I. KEY ELEMENTS AND ACTIONS ON A RANGE OF GLOBAL CHALLENGES

7. The 2005 World Summit Outcome calls for multilateral solutions to problems in four areas:

- Development
- Peace and collective security
- Human rights and the rule of law
- Strengthening of the United Nations

8. In the area of development, 20 items were covered, namely the global partnership for development; financing for development; domestic resource mobilization; investment; debt; trade; commodities; quick-impact initiatives; systemic issues and global economic decision-making; South-South cooperation; education; rural and agricultural development; employment; sustainable development; HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other health issues; gender equality and empowerment of women; science and technology for development; migration and development; countries with special needs; and meeting the special needs of Africa.

9. In the area of development, the main outcomes were as follows:³

³ Department of Public Information, *2005 World Summit Outcome*, Fact Sheet.

- Strong and unambiguous commitment by all Governments, in donor and developing nations alike, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.
- Additional \$50 billion a year by 2010 for fighting poverty.
- Commitment by all developing countries to adopt national plans for achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2006.
- Agreement to provide immediate support for quick impact initiatives to support anti-malaria efforts, education and health care.
- Commitment to innovative sources of financing for development, including efforts by groups of countries to implement an International Finance Facility and other initiatives to finance development projects, in particular in the health sector.
- Agreement to consider additional measures to ensure long-term debt sustainability through increased grant-based financing, cancellation of 100 per cent of the official multilateral and bilateral debt of heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs). Where appropriate, to consider significant debt relief or restructuring for low and middle income developing countries with unsustainable debt burdens that are not part of the HIPC initiative.
- Commitment to trade liberalization and expeditious work towards implementing the development dimensions of the Doha work programme.

10. In paragraphs 17 to 68, the 2005 World Summit Outcome elaborates on the above decisions. Some of the key issues and challenges identified for further action which could be of interest to the Committee on Poverty Reduction are described below.

A. Global partnership for development

11. The 2005 World Summit Outcome reaffirmed the commitment to the global partnership set out in the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, and to mobilize domestic resources, attract international flows, promote international trade as an engine for development and increase international financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief and to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems. This affirmation thus provides a broader framework for promoting development in the developing countries of the region, encompassing issues of governance and the rule of law. They also affirmed that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. This should foster greater ownership of national development policies and strategies. The world leaders resolved to take several actions, including:

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(a) To adopt, by 2006, and implement comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) To manage public finances effectively to achieve and maintain macroeconomic stability and long-term growth and to make effective and transparent use of public funds and ensure that development assistance is used to build national capacities;

(c) To enhance the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts;

(d) To protect the natural resource base in support of development.

12. The regional commissions have played a key role in assisting the countries in their respective regions in implementing the development agenda. In particular, the regional commissions will have a significant role in the effective follow-up to global conferences and summits and in shaping the broad development cooperation agenda. Their proximity to developing countries affords the regional commissions the added advantage of being able to give a sharper focus to many facets of development cooperation and to foster partnerships at the regional, subregional and country levels.

B. Financing for development

13. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the Monterrey Consensus and recognized that mobilizing financial resources for development and the effective use of those resources in developing countries and countries with economies in transition were central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Thus, a clear link was established between financing for development and the Goals. This bodes well for the countries of the region, particularly the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, because the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimates that, as many developed countries establish timetables for achieving the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) by 2015 and at least 0.5 per cent by 2010, total ODA will now increase by around \$50 billion a year by 2010. Although a good part of the existing and additional ODA is likely to flow to Africa, many of the Asian developing countries could benefit significantly if aid effectiveness could be ensured.

C. Domestic resource mobilization

14. The 2005 World Summit Outcome recognizes that a critical challenge in the pursuit of growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development is the need to mobilize sufficient domestic resources. It identifies the necessary internal conditions for mobilizing domestic resources, both public and private, as (a) sustaining adequate levels of productive investment; (b) increasing human

capacity; (c) reducing capital flight; (d) curbing the illicit transfer of funds; and (e) enhancing international cooperation for creating an enabling domestic environment.

15. The Heads of State and Government undertook to support the efforts of developing countries to create a domestic enabling environment for mobilizing domestic resources. To that end, they resolved, *inter alia*:

- (a) To pursue good governance and sound macroeconomic policies at all levels;
- (b) To reaffirm that good governance is essential for sustainable development;
- (c) To make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels.

The 2005 World Summit Outcome recognizes that sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation. In that context, it also recognizes that freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, gender equality and market-oriented policies and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing. It is therefore clear that the traditional framework for looking at development issues has been significantly broadened by the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

D. Investment

16. The Heads of State and Government resolved to encourage greater direct investment, including foreign investment, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to support their development activities. A few innovative ideas have been put forward, including the resolve to “put into place policies to ensure adequate investment in a sustainable manner in health, clean water and sanitation, housing and education and in the provision of public goods and social safety nets to protect vulnerable and disadvantaged sectors of society”. Investments in the social sector are therefore expected to become a major area of policy attention during the coming years. The 2005 World Summit Outcome also invites national Governments seeking to develop infrastructure projects and generate foreign direct investment to pursue strategies “with the involvement of both the public and private sectors and, where appropriate, international donors”. Another innovation is the call by the Heads of State and Government for international financial and banking institutions “to consider enhancing the transparency of risk rating mechanisms”.

E. Education

17. In the area of education, the Heads of State and Government emphasized the critical role of both formal and informal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration. Several areas have been emphasized for policy attention: (a) basic education and training for eradicating illiteracy; (b) expanded secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training, especially for girls and

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women; (c) the creation of human resources and infrastructure capabilities; and (d) the empowerment of those living in poverty.

F. Rural and agricultural development

18. The 2005 World Summit Outcome reaffirmed that food security and rural and agricultural development must be adequately and urgently addressed. Here, the contributions of indigenous and local communities were emphasized. The Heads of State and Government expressed the conviction that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, particularly as they affected children, was crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

G. Employment

19. The Heads of State and Government expressed strong support for fair globalization and expressed the resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people, a central objective of their relevant national and international policies as well as their national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies. Those measures would also encompass the elimination of forced labour and the worst forms of child labour, as defined in International Labour Organization Convention No. 182.

H. Countries with special needs

20. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to address the special needs of the least developed countries and urged all countries and all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to make concerted efforts and adopt speedy measures for meeting in a timely manner the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010. They also recognized the special needs of landlocked countries and the vulnerabilities faced by small island developing States. They called for the timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, a process initiated by ESCAP. In that context, the Summit encouraged the work undertaken by the regional commissions and organizations towards “establishing a time-cost methodology for indicators to measure the progress in implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action”.

II. REGIONAL PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

21. As can be seen from the brief and partial discussion above, the development agenda, as enunciated in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, is firmly anchored around the Millennium Declaration, Monterrey Consensus and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. In that context, two reports⁴ recently issued provide an assessment⁴ of the region’s progress in achieving the Millennium

⁴ ESCAP/UNDP/ADB, *A Future within Reach: Reshaping Institutions in a Region of Disparities to Meet the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.F.27); and ESCAP/UNDP, *Voices of the Least Developed Countries of Asia and the Pacific: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals through a Global Partnership* (New Delhi, Elsevier, 2005).

Development Goals, thereby constituting a good basis for understanding some of the challenges that lie ahead in terms of reducing poverty and fostering development in the Asian and Pacific region.

22. Asia and the Pacific is a large, dynamic and highly diverse region with some of the most populous and rapidly growing countries in the world. One of the key messages emanating from the second regional report on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals⁵ is that, despite the impressive overall performance of the region, disparities both within and across countries are increasing. The region is also home to 14 of the 50 least developed countries in the world. As a result, the performance of Asia and the Pacific in attaining poverty reduction and human development goals and targets is largely to be determined by the performance of those 14 least developed countries.

23. On eliminating extreme *poverty*, the region has seen the most dramatic progress in terms of reducing both the incidence of and number of people in poverty. Of the 23 countries with data on \$1 (purchasing power parity) a day, the proportion of people living below that threshold fell from 31 per cent in 1990 to 20 per cent in 2001. The absolute number of the poor also fell, from 931 million to 679 million. However, the achievement in reducing the incidence of hunger has been rather lacklustre: it came down from 21.3 per cent in the early 1990s to 19.4 per cent in 2001. Least developed countries and some of the countries with economies in transition pose a particular challenge in the region's overall performance in reaching the Millennium Development Goal targets. Clustered in South Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific, the 14 least developed countries in the region find themselves at a crossroads. Only Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic are expected to halve the proportion of people living below their national poverty lines by 2015.⁶ Except for some Pacific least developed countries, none of them enjoy a per capita income in excess of US\$ 500. The incidence of hunger is also unacceptably high with widespread child malnutrition. Even if the Millennium Development Goal targets for malnutrition are reached, more than 10 million children in the least developed countries will remain underweight in 2015. This is a grim reminder of the very low standard of living and the poor quality of life in many of the least developed countries of the region.

24. In achieving *universal primary education*, the region as a whole has done well. Of the 33 countries with sufficient data, 8 have already achieved the target. Dropout rates continue to be high in many countries, however. Although primary school enrolment in the least developed countries rose from 71 per cent to 79 per cent in the 1990s it remains significantly lower than the regional average of 93 per cent. As a consequence, the vast majority of the children in these countries are growing up with their true potentials – physical as well as intellectual – unlikely to be fully realized.

⁵ ESCAP/UNDP/ADB, *A Future within Reach: Reshaping Institutions in a Region of Disparities to Meet the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.F.27).

⁶ ESCAP/UNDP, *Voices of the Least Developed Countries of Asia and the Pacific: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals through a Global Partnership* (New Delhi, Elsevier, 2005).

25. Promoting *gender equality and empowering women* have been one of the greatest successes of the region in terms of eliminating gender disparity at all levels of education. At the primary level, 26 countries have already achieved the target. At the secondary level, the ratio of girls to boys increased from .73 in 1990 to .87 in 2001. A total of 25 countries have already reached the target.

26. In *reducing child mortality*, the region as a whole offers a mixed picture. Of the 46 countries examined for reducing under-five mortality rate by two thirds, only 23 have done so, and the remainder are either on track- or off-track, or regressing. In 2003, the largest number of child deaths occurred in China, India and Pakistan. The absolute levels of child mortality are also unacceptably high in the Asian least developed countries.

27. In *improving maternal health*, the regional progress appears to be too slow. With a target to reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters between 1990 and 2015, an average country in the region has managed to reduce the ratio from 395 to 342 per 100,000 live births.. In 22 countries, the ratio has gone up. Across the region, about 250,000 women die each year as a result of pregnancy and childbirth. The highest rates of maternal mortality are found in three least developed countries: Afghanistan, Nepal and Timor-Leste.

28. In *combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases*, significant concerns remain, particularly HIV/AIDS. The region appears to be off-track in halting and then reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. The region has over 9 million people living with HIV/AIDS and half a million die every year. There are also serious concerns about malaria and tuberculosis. Many of the least developed countries are also engaged in battling a variety of communicable diseases.

29. In *ensuring environmental sustainability*, a mixed picture emerges. Few countries seem to have integrated the principles of sustainable development in their country policies and programmes. In reversing the loss of environmental resources, the proportion of land forested increased in 13 countries, remained unchanged in 17 and decreased in 18. The average per capita carbon dioxide emission increased across the region from 2.2 to 2.5 tons between 1990 and 2002. The region as a whole seems to have done reasonably well in halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation, though concerns remain for the rural areas. The situation in the least developed countries remains quite grim, however. Widespread poverty has placed great stresses on their environmental resources. It is feared that, if current trends persist, around 40 million people in the least developed countries will be without sustainable access to safe drinking water in 2015. Another 60 million people will be without access to improved sanitation.

30. In the area of *development cooperation*, the picture is also a mixed one. While many countries in the region are forging ahead in terms of accessing foreign direct investment and achieving record export growth rates, many others are not doing so well. In particular, the least developed countries and a few other developing countries are yet to make the kind of breakthroughs that would put them on the path to self-sustaining growth. In fact, the performance of the least developed countries in the

external sector is quite disappointing. Their share of regional trade remains insignificant. While it is widely acknowledged that the removal of trade restrictions and facilitation of exports have the potential of boosting incomes and reducing poverty, the destination and composition of exports from least developed countries need special attention. Both require diversification. In this context, the overdependence of the least developed countries on selected developed country markets could be reduced through increased participation in intraregional trade and South-South cooperation. Similarly, moving along the value-addition chain and linking up with regional and subregional production hubs require concerted attention. In this regard, more foreign direct investment needs to be encouraged so that labour-intensive production processes can be upgraded through progressive improvements in labour productivity and technology. Using information and communication technologies to their full potential also merits careful consideration.

31. Given the unique challenges faced by least developed countries, it is important to consider how such instruments as tariff- and quota-free export access, cancellation of official bilateral debt and more generous aid to countries committed to poverty reduction, as called for in the Brussels Programme of Action and the Millennium Declaration, could be used to assist Asian and Pacific least developed countries. Here, too, the least developed countries have to pay particular attention to institutional capacity-building so that their economies acquire the needed flexibility to take full advantage of market access opportunities as well as make greater use of ODA.

32. It is anticipated that, whatever ODA is offered to the least developed countries in the coming years, the bulk of it will be directed to the establishment of physical infrastructure and meeting the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in the areas of poverty reduction, eliminating hunger, reducing child and maternal mortality, promoting universal education, combating communicable diseases, provision of safe drinking water and improved sanitation. In order to cope with this changed emphasis, the least developed countries will have to invest in and improve their institutional capacity along a wide range of development activities, including governance and public participation.

III. LOOKING AHEAD

33. The Regional Ministerial Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: The Way Forward 2015, held in Jakarta from 3 to 5 August 2005, provided a good backdrop for the issues that need to be addressed during the coming years at the regional level as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The Meeting issued the Jakarta Declaration on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: The Way Forward 2015, reiterating the region's commitment to attaining the Goals by 2015. Among other measures necessary to achieve the Goals, the Declaration re-emphasizes the crucial role of regional cooperation in that process. In particular, the Declaration reaffirms "the vital importance of an effective multilateral system, including a stronger United Nations, in order to better address the challenges associated with achieving MDGs".

It reaffirms “the role of South-South cooperation, including through triangular cooperation, in the overall context of regional partnership in achieving the MDGs”. The Declaration recognizes poverty, hunger and malnutrition as the main causes of child and maternal mortality and calls for enhanced regional partnership and cooperation to support national effort[s] in addressing these problems on a priority basis. It recognizes that “regional partnership and regional cooperation in the field[s] of trade, investment, capacity-building and technology support, and infrastructure development, such as transport, and information and communication technologies and promotion of environmental sustainability are crucial in addressing the specific concerns of countries with special needs in meeting the MDGs”.

34. The 2005 World Summit Outcome provides a further basis for identifying the contours of the future shape of regional cooperation in achieving the internationally agreed development goals and targets, including the Millennium Development Goals. One of the key messages of the World Summit Outcome is that the development agenda requires a comprehensive and integrated approach in which the economic and social spheres are different facets of the same challenge facing the global community. It recognized that the world’s economic, social, political and environmental threats and challenges are interconnected and need to be addressed in a comprehensive manner. In order to advance the development agenda from the Asian and Pacific perspective, priority action should be considered in the following areas:

(a) Ensuring an inclusive development process where the poor, older persons, youth, person with disabilities, women and indigenous communities have a voice and stake;

(b) Combating the rise of inequalities within and across countries. Failure to do so would hold back growth and breed social exclusion, crime and instability. Public interventions are needed to bring all groups and sections of society to participate in the growth process;

(c) Ensuring macroeconomic stability to provide a firm basis for promoting inclusive growth and eradicating poverty;

(d) Creating the necessary fiscal space for growth and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(e) Generating employment as a way to eradicating poverty. Adequate employment is also necessary to generate income sufficient to protect households from economic downturns;

(f) Scaling up institutions to deliver services to the poor in areas such as education, health, water and sanitation;

(g) Scaling up investment in infrastructure, including strong programmes for health and education;

(h) Strengthening private-public partnerships to leverage investment and maximize its impact;

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(i) Improving the effectiveness of development for achieving the Millennium Development Goals:

(i) Using ODA to expand opportunities for those with the weakest voice and the fewest resources;

(ii) Improving the quality and effectiveness of aid through systematic monitoring and follow-up with regard to aid commitments;

(iii) Implementing vigorously the agreed agenda on managing ODA for results, harmonization and alignment;

(j) Complementing increased aid flows with increased openness and market access to ensure that trade benefits the poor;

(k) Exploring innovative mechanisms, such as the proposed Asian Investment Bank, to channel region's savings and foreign exchange reserves towards productive investment;

(l) Harnessing the full potential of South-South cooperation.

35. The 2005 World Summit Outcome has provided the work of the regional commissions with a new focus and direction. In that context, ESCAP would have a significant role in assisting countries in the region to implement actions in many of the areas identified above. The traditional strengths of ESCAP in providing high-quality policy assessments and technical assistance for improving and scaling up national capacities will continue to be useful. In particular, ESCAP can assist the countries of the region in their efforts to achieve some of the objectives set out in the World Summit Outcome, including those related to eradicating poverty and fostering sustained development. This assistance can take a variety of forms, including research and studies on conditions for ensuring macroeconomic stability, mobilizing finance for development, fostering conditions for greater development effectiveness, including effective utilization of ODA and debt management, designing and implementing pro-poor growth strategies, improving institutional capacity for delivering basic services to the poor, promoting the participation of the poor in the development dialogue, fostering micro-macro linkages in poverty reduction interventions, and employment generation at community levels. There is also scope for ESCAP to strengthen its assistance by fostering greater interface and synergies in its work in the economic and social fields. In addition, ESCAP will continue to play a significant role in assisting the countries of the region in achieving the internationally agreed development goals and targets, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Brussels Plan of Action and the Almaty Plan of Action.

36. The Committee is invited to deliberate on this note and provide the secretariat with further guidance in implementing the key elements of the 2005 World Summit Outcome for reducing poverty and promoting development in Asia and the Pacific.