

Resolution of ESCAP on NEASPEC

Adopted by the 53rd Commission Session of ESCAP on 30 April 1997

53/3. Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 50/8 of 13 April 1994 on the strengthening of subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia, including environmental cooperation for sustainable development,

Recalling also its resolution 52/8 of 24 April 1996 on the third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, in which it endorsed the recommendations of the Conference, including the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000,

Recognizing the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, as adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, which continue to provide general policy guidance on subregional environmental cooperation in North-East Asia,

Noting with satisfaction the Third Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, held at Ulaanbaatar in September 1996, in which the six countries of the subregion, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, for the first time came to a consensus and adopted the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation,

Welcoming decision 19/19 of 7 February 1997 on the Framework, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its nineteenth session, held at Nairobi in January-February 1997,

1. *Welcomes* the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation, as adopted by the Third Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, held at Ulaanbaatar in September 1996;

2. *Calls upon* the participating parties to the Programme, through the existing Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, to work towards practical institutional and financial arrangements for the Programme, as appropriate, including striving to reach a consensus on establishing a trust fund to be funded by donors, collaborating agencies and participating parties on a voluntary basis;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue ESCAP efforts, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, to promote subregional environmental cooperation in North-East Asia, *inter alia*, by providing technical and financial support for the implementation of the Framework and approved priority projects;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to provide secretariat support to the Meeting of Senior Officials, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other relevant institutions, in the interim period pending the final decision on the future institutional arrangements of the Programme;

5. *Decides* that the present resolution should be transmitted to the General Assembly at its special session on overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21, to be held in New York from 23 to 27 June 1997, as a substantive input outlining subregional cooperation on the environment in North-East Asia.