FORUM: General Assembly

QUESTION OF: Measures to Promote Economic Development and Social Stability in South Asia

MAIN SUBMITTER: Australia

CO-SUBMITTER: Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, Bangladesh, India, Ghana, Romania, Indonesia, Japan, Chile

The General Assembly,

Concerned that while South Asia is aiming to achieve rapid economic growth of 5.6% in 2026 and 5.9% in 2027, hundreds of millions of people remain staying in poverty without access to stable jobs or basic public services,

Recognizing the growing spatial inequality between urban regions and rural regions,

Alarmed by overlapping climate disasters pushing vulnerable populations further into a vicious cycle of poverty by destroying their homes and livelihoods,

Regretting that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has been unusable since 2014 due to ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, preventing the region from effectively solving shared economic and environmental challenges,

Welcoming the progress made through alternative regional frameworks, such as the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC),

Acknowledging the vital efforts of international financial institutions, including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), as well as international organizations,

1. Requests the expansion of climate-resilient social protection systems to solve the unfair growth of South Asian economy, cooperating with United Nations Development Program (UNDP):
    a) Beginning the cash-transfer programs for the people in rural areas or slums:
        i. Build a system that gives out the cost of damages from natural disasters like flood, famine, or heat wave,
        ii. Simplifying the register application for the support from the system for all citizens including people in rural areas,
    b) Preparing the basic human rights and safety standard with International Labor Organization (ILO) to protect the employees that are working for an unsafe job:
        i. Serving medical insurance for the employees with physically dangerous jobs,
        ii. Support the job training for all the informal workers in South Asia to become formal employees;

2. Recommends overcoming the economical limitation of SAARC through collaboration with different organizations around the world:
    a) Strengthen the trading connection between trading countries following; Bangkok Vision 2030:
        i. Developing maritime transportation to help small countries nearby Australia,

ii. Changing the customs clearance digitally, so that it could reduce the time,

b) Developing early alarms and agricultural skills for people to be ready before any disasters according to the regions' physical form:
   i. Informing all (relevant persons) through mobile phone alerts or the town notification alert systems to notify residents about respective natural disasters,
   ii. Supporting the organizations of irrigation systems to control the water when there are natural disasters like floods or heavy rains;

3. Encourages all the South Asian nations including India and Pakistan to work together to create social balance to eliminate economical problems in South Asia:
   a) Operating the data sharing system across South Asian nations of any natural disasters:
      i. Sharing the information of glacier lake outburst flood (GLOF) of Himalayan Mountain range,
      ii. Create a path for all South Asian nations to support when a natural disaster occurs,
   b) Supporting developing nations economically through project led by ADB:
      i. Investing money for developing nations to build biotechnological energy source,
      ii. Decreasing the spatial inequality between the urban and rural regions by developing physical and economical connection;

4. Invites international financial institutions such as the World Bank to increase financial assistance for climate resilience and poverty reduction in South Asia, through ways such as but not limited to:
   a) Requesting the development of affordable financing programs for small businesses and vulnerable households:
      i. Providing low-interest loans for businesses rebuilding after climate-related disasters,
      ii. Increasing the access of insurance for risk of climate hazards to farmers and small businesses,
   b) Encourages cooperation between international financial institutions and national governments:
      i. Ensuring funding reaches rural and marginalized communities rather than being focused only in urban areas,
      ii. Publishing reports regularly on how funds for development is equally used and distributed;

5. Urges UN member states to establish the organization relieving the conflict between Pakistan and India through ways such as but not limited to:
   a) Promoting cooperation between two countries to keep in peace with:
      i. Organizing meetings between the heads of two countries promoting shared business,
      ii. Creating a channel for mutual communication released to general citizens,
   b) Locating the 3rd party's army including UN's army in Kashimir to prevent physical conflict between two countries;

6. Establishes youth job training program, through ways such as but not limited to:
    a) Rationally leverage World Bank funding to enhance vocational skills training and entrepreneurial support:
        i. Offering practical vocational courses in growing industries,
        ii. Providing business guidance and startup support for young entrepreneurs,
    b) Giving young people chances to learn digital skills like online selling and basic computer use;

7. Calls upon all member states to work together closer economic relationship— by developing both current economic partnerships, such as BIMSTEC and SASEC, and newer ones:
    a) Making trade and connection between South Asian countries easier:
        i. Creating custom checks for goods simpler so that products cost less to move,
        ii. Supporting for the connectivity projects, such as Building better roads, railways and link lines that link the neighboring countries region ‘s economies,
        iii. Supporting countries in building infrastructure together with the Asian Development Bank including under the SASEC program,
        iv. Sharing each area of expertise — India, for example, has a lot of experience with digital payments,
    b) Supporting Nepal toward the revitalization of SAARC:
        i. Holding a SAARC summit again once member states trust each other enough,
        ii. Keeping SAARC's office in Kathmandu in maintain technical committees and its expert groups running,
        iii. Following SAARC rules, where all members are equal and decisions are made together,
        iv. Making sure small countries like the Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan get fair representation in regional projects.