

UNITED NATIONS



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

MEMORANDUM OF INTENT (MOI)
BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR) AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)

Whereas the High Commissioner for Human Rights has the principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General;

Whereas the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action reaffirmed that the promotion and protection of all human rights and freedoms must be considered as a priority objective of the United Nations in accordance with the purposes and principles of its Charter;

Whereas the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific serves under its terms of reference to promote economic and social development and regional cooperation in the region, through the dissemination of information, provision of technical assistance, advisory services and other support to member states in the formulation, implementation, evaluation and follow-up on public policies and the strengthening of national capabilities;

Whereas the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region have adopted the Asia-Pacific Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation in Tehran in 1998, focussing on four areas: national human rights plans of action, national human rights education plans of action, national human rights institutions and strategies for the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development;

Whereas the need to integrate human rights in the work of the United Nations is among the primary objectives of the Secretary-General, as contained in his report to the General Assembly "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" and is the responsibility of all agencies, funds and programmes of the Organization;

Whereas ESCAP has progressively integrated human rights dimensions into its activities, particularly regarding economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development.

ESCAP AND OHCHR AGREE ON THE FOLLOWING:

May Robinson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name.

ARTICLE 1

Within the terms of reference and mandate of ESCAP and subject to the availability of resources, OHCHR and ESCAP agree to strengthen their cooperation for the further integration of the human rights dimension in the programmes carried out by ESCAP in the Asian and Pacific region, having as reference the indivisibility of all human rights and the need to create and strengthen national capacities for the promotion and protection of all human rights.

ARTICLE 2

OHCHR and ESCAP will collaborate within the terms of reference and mandate of ESCAP and subject to the availability of resources in the dissemination of information and in the organization of human rights training in the Asia-Pacific region. OHCHR and ESCAP will, as resources permit, maintain regular consultations, exchange information and cooperate in studies of mutual concerns, with a view to strengthening support for ESCAP's activities relating to human rights and for the work of the Commission on Human Rights relating to economic and social development.

ESCAP will facilitate the placing within its Secretariat in Bangkok of a senior-level OHCHR Human Rights Advisor, whose principal mandate will be to:

- a) Support the programmes and activities of ESCAP in human rights related areas;
- b) Promote the mainstreaming of attention to human rights within the UN system in the region;
- c) Support the regional, sub-regional and national programmes of OHCHR in Asia-Pacific region.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned, representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (ESCAP), respectively, sign the present Memorandum.

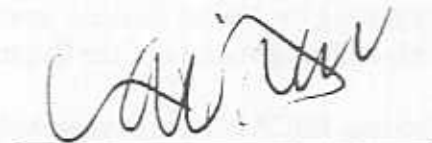
Done in Bangkok, this 28th day of February 2001.

FOR THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)



Ms Mary Robinson
High Commissioner for Human Rights

FOR THE UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)



Mr Kim Hak-Su
Executive Secretary