

(d) Assist the countries, whenever requested, in preparing applications for the Special Fund's assistance in undertaking pre-investment surveys and/or pilot installations leading to the establishment of the above industries, in close contact with the representative of the Special Fund in these countries.

305th meeting,
11 March 1964.

54 (XX). Population growth and economic and
social development 31/

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Asia and
the Far East,

Considering that the achievement of a satisfactory pattern of economic growth, including advancement in health, nutrition, housing, education, social welfare and the whole range of social services, is a vital necessity for the region,

Considering further that any economic and social development programme should take into account and, if necessary, modify demographic trends in view of their interrelationship with economic and social processes,

Recognizing that the recent demographic trends amongst most of the countries of the region, which reflect high rates of population growth and an increasing mobility of the population, are hindering the achievement of satisfactory living standards in the shortest possible time,

Noting further that the problems relating to the increase in the volume of migration within countries, especially from rural to urban areas, require even greater efforts on the part of Governments to achieve urgently needed economic and social betterment,

Observing that efforts to find effective solutions for population problems have been hampered in many countries of the region by lack of facilities and funds, lack of comprehensive and reliable demographic statistics, insufficient development of demographic and socio-biological research and shortages of trained personnel, all of which have heightened the need for international or intra-regional co-operation.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1838 (XVII) of 18 December 1962, recommending that the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East intensify study and research on the interrelationship of population growth and economic and social development, and endorsing the view of the Population Commission that the United Nations should encourage and assist developing countries in obtaining basic data and carrying out studies of the demographic aspects of development,

31/ See para. 465 above.

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 933 (XXXV) of 5 April 1963, inviting the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East to examine the possibilities of intensifying its work in the demographic field within the general framework of the programme recommended by the Population Commission at its twelfth session,

Noting with approval the resolution unanimously adopted by the Asian Population Conference on 20 December 1963, strongly urging the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East to give its full support to the recommendations of the Conference,

1. Invites the Governments of member States of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East:

(a) To take account of the urgent need to adopt a positive population policy related to their individual needs,

(b) To take account, in their formulation and execution of general policies and plans for social and economic development, of the recommendations of the Asian Population Conference relating to national population policies;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Facilitate direct exchanges of information at the departmental level among Governments in the region on all aspects of population and social and economic growth,

(b) Expand the scope of technical assistance available to Governments in the region, upon their request, for data collection, research, experimentation and action in all aspects of population problems, including family welfare planning programmes, through regional advisory services, development and strengthening of regional, sub-regional and national training and research institutions, study tours, fellowships and meetings of technical groups;

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary to organize a collaborative programme of regional, sub-regional and inter-regional technical working group meetings designed to provide guidelines for governmental action and international assistance in particular fields of work relating to the population problems of the region;

4. Recommends that the Conference of Asian Statisticians give urgent attention to inadequacies in the concepts and definitions of the labour force, employment, unemployment and under-employment as used in the statistics of countries of the region;

5. Invites the United Nations and the specialized agencies to expand the scope of the technical assistance they are prepared to give, upon the request of Governments, in the development of statistics, research, experimentation and action programmes related to population.

311th meeting,
17 March 1964.