

74 (XXIII). Regional co-operation in the field of population

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

Recalling its resolution 54 (XX) of 10 March 1964 on population growth and economic development,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolutions 1048 (XXXVII) of 15 August 1964 on population growth and economic development and 1084 (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965 on work programmes and priorities in the field of population,

Noting further the resolution on dynamic Asian economic co-operation adopted at the second Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Co-operation, held in 1965, which reiterated the vast scope for, and importance of, regional demographic co-operation,

Welcoming United Nations General Assembly resolution 2211 (XXI) of 17 December 1966, which recommended that ECAFE assist, when requested, in further developing national and regional facilities for training, research, information and advisory services in the field of population,

Sharing the concern expressed in a statement^{3/} signed by the Heads of State of eleven countries in 1966, which notes among other obstacles that "too rapid population growth seriously hampers efforts to raise living standards, to further education, to improve health and sanitation, to provide better housing and transportation, to forward cultural and recreational opportunities -- and even in some countries to assure sufficient food",

Expressing its appreciation of the intensified work of countries of the region and of the ECAFE secretariat in the field of population,

Noting with approval the recommendations of the Expert Working Group on the Feasibility of Establishing a Regional Population Centre, particularly those pertaining to the expansion of work on regional co-operation in the field of population through the strengthening of the ECAFE secretariat and the development of a multi-disciplinary approach,

^{3/} See United Nations press release SG/SM/620 of 9 December 1966.

Reiterating the increasingly urgent need for closer regional and appropriate sub-regional co-operation among countries of the ECAFE region in respect of programmes in the population field,

Emphasizing the role of the Commission in assisting Governments to improve the well-being of their peoples through development plans and programmes,

Recognizing that those efforts must take account of the interaction between population and economic and social factors in development,

Decides to establish the Asian Population Conference as a statutory organ of the Commission, to be convened every ten years synchronizing with the decennial population and related censuses, for the consideration of all aspects of population questions and of their impact on economic and social development;

Requests the Executive Secretary:

- (a) To take appropriate steps to expand the regional population programme substantially as recommended by the Expert Working Group referred to above, with a view to providing for the analysis and consideration in depth of the region's population problems and for the application of the most effective means of solving them through regional and national co-operative effort;
- (b) To assign primary emphasis to existing priority areas and to emerging needs of Governments for assistance in the field of population through an expanded programme of training, research, information and advisory services, making full and economical use of regional and national resources;
- (c) To initiate preparations as soon as possible for the Asian Population Conference to be convened towards 1970;

Further requests the Executive Secretary to carry out for consideration by the Asian Population Conference a series of studies in depth, through secretariat research and working groups to be convened from time to time, to explore the effect of the pressure of population in delaying the achievement of development goals, and to consider the setting of targets designed to bring

rates of population increase and of economic growth and social advancement into some reasonable alignment with one another in order to guide the region in attaining its growth and welfare objectives, and to provide such guide-lines as may be appropriate to the implementation of the expanded programme in the field of population;

Invites the interested specialized agencies, within their respective mandates, to undertake a role commensurate with the importance of co-operative action in planning and implementing the programme, including the provision of experts, where appropriate, to participate in multi-disciplinary projects;

Calls upon all member and associate member countries of ECAFE, other members of the United Nations which are interested in the solution of population problems, and other appropriate international, regional and national institutions to extend all possible co-operation and support in implementing the expanded regional population programme.

371st meeting,
17 April 1967.

89 (XXIII). Country contributions to United Nations
development programme expenses

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Noting that the contributions of some countries to United Nations development programmes (technical assistance sector) carried out within their borders are calculated as 12 1/2 per cent of the exchange costs converted to local currency at the most favourable market rate,

Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to examine the possibility of assessing the 12 1/2 per cent contribution in local currency by those countries towards their country programmes in a manner and at rates that will avoid budget difficulties caused by fluctuations during the course of the project.

369th meeting,
14 April 1967.