

Noting the important role of human settlements in the improvement of the social and economic conditions of the peoples of the region,

Considering that human settlements should be viewed as an instrument of socio-economic development,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver in June 1976,

Recalling that in its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 the General Assembly decided, *inter alia*, that:

(a) The Economic and Social Council should transform the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning into a Commission on Human Settlements, one of whose objectives would be to strengthen co-operation and co-participation in the domain concerned among all countries and regions;

(b) A secretariat, to be named "United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)", should be established to service the Commission on Human Settlements and, *inter alia*, supplement the resources of the regions in formulating and implementing human settlement projects when so required;

(c) There should be close links between the Centre and the United Nations Environment Programme, and for that reason the location of the Centre should be at Nairobi;

and recommended that:

(a) The responsibility for implementing regional and subregional programmes should be gradually transferred to regional organizations;

(b) The regional commissions should consider the establishment of regional intergovernmental committees on human settlements which should co-ordinate their activities with those of the Commission on Human Settlements and report to it through the appropriate regional commissions;

(c) The budgetary and personnel resources available to each regional secretariat unit should consist of those available from the regular budgetary resources and those redeployed from the aggregate posts available to the central secretariat, and those provided through voluntary contributions, including contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,

Noting that in the report of the Regional Conference on Human Settlements in the ESCAP region it was emphasized that staff resources of the secretariat should be strengthened by redeployment from the global level to the regional level to accompany the decentralization of activities in the field of human settlements,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to confer at an early date with the Executive Directors of the Centre for Human Settlements, when the Centre is established, and the United Nations Environment Programme and to take mutually agreed measures:

(a) To effect redeployment of adequate staff together with related costs and other appropriate resources from the global level to ESCAP;

(b) To bring about greater regionalization of programmes in the field of human settlements;

(c) To ensure the necessary co-ordination and collaboration in the formulation, execution and monitoring of regional and subregional programmes and projects in the field of human settlements;

2. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session on the implementation of this resolution.

531st meeting
15 March 1978

185 (XXXIV). Strengthening the capacity of the Commission to contribute more effectively to the solution of the population problems of the region⁶

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing that population is a crucial factor in the socio-economic development process, and also that population policies and programmes need to be formulated as an integral part of over-all development,

Recalling the Declaration of Population Strategy for Development adopted at the Second Asian Population Conference, held at Tokyo in 1972, and the principles and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action adopted by the World Population Conference, held at Bucharest in 1974,

Noting that the Regional Post-World Population Conference Consultation in 1975 and the ESCAP Committee on Population at its first session in 1976 requested the Commission to assign a high level of priority to the subject of population,

Noting further that continued efforts in implementing population policies and programmes have contributed significantly to the achievement of developmental goals in a number of countries of the region,

Recognizing that the problems of population growth and distribution continue to pose a serious

⁶ See paras. 445-451 above.

challenge to developmental efforts and call for more innovative approaches and greater efforts by Governments, members of the United Nations system and other international organizations in systematically integrating population factors into development,

Considering that the resources available for implementing the regional and subregional population programmes and activities of ESCAP are inadequate and not commensurate with the urgency and magnitude of the immediate and long-term population problems facing the Asia and Pacific region,

Expressing appreciation to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, which has so far provided a substantial part of the resources for the implementation of the Commission's programmes in the field of population,

Taking note of the decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its twenty-fourth session relating to the infrastructure posts funded by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities,

Conscious of the Commission's responsibilities in promoting regional and subregional co-operation and assisting member countries in their tasks of socio-economic development,

1 *Decides* that greater emphasis should be placed on the regional and subregional population programmes and activities of the Commission commensurate with the urgency and magnitude of the problem and that resources to implement such programmes and activities should accordingly be increased,

2 *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further strengthen the capability of the secretariat to assist the member and associate member countries, upon request, in the formulation and implementation of population policies and programmes as integral parts of socio-economic development plans,

3 *Urges* countries within and outside the region to increase their assistance so as to enable the Commission to contribute more effectively to the solution of population problems in the region,

4 *Requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake early consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to convey the concern of the Commission regarding the urgency of population problems in the region with a view to securing increases in the allocations from regular and extrabudgetary resources in support of the current and future population activities of the Commission

531st meeting
15 March 1978

186 (XXXIV) Relationship between the Committees on Population and on Social Development⁷

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing that the formulation and implementation of effective policies in the field of population are integral to continued social and economic development in the Asia and Pacific region,

Recalling the recommendation of the Second Asian Population Conference, held at Tokyo in 1972, that population and socio-economic development be given a co-ordinated and integrated status in national development planning, and the recognition by the World Population Conference, held at Bucharest in 1974, of the interrelation between population and socio-economic development,

Noting section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in which the General Assembly recommended that regional commissions should rationalize their structures, *inter alia*, by streamlining their subsidiary machinery in order to perform their functions more effectively,

Further noting that the ESCAP Committees on Population and on Social Development meet only triennially, with the next sessions scheduled for 1979 and 1978, respectively, and that this indicates an inadequate recognition of the importance of these subjects in the work of the Commission,

Requests the Committee on Population and the Committee on Social Development to meet consecutively before the thirty-fifth session of the Commission and, at their respective meetings, to consider the question of merging the two Committees and report their views to the Commission at that session

532nd meeting
17 March 1978

187 (XXXIV) International Year of the Child⁸

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 31/169 of 21 December 1976, in which the Assembly proclaimed the year 1979 International Year of the Child, and 32/109 of 15 December 1977, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, reaffirmed that the major focus of the International Year of the Child was at the national level, but that that should be supported by regional and international co operation,

⁷ See para 462 above

⁸ See para 461 above