

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 Development<sup>7</sup>

*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 Child<sup>8</sup>

*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,

<sup>7</sup> See para 462 above

<sup>8</sup> See para 461 above

Aware that the vast majority of the world's poor children live in the countries of the ESCAP region,

1. *Decides* to hold a regional consultation meeting in 1978 with a view to strengthening and supporting the preparation of activities for the International Year of the Child at the national level;

2. *Accepts* with appreciation the kind offer of the Government of the Philippines to provide the necessary host facilities for the regional consultation meeting at Manila;

3. *Urges* member and associate member countries of ESCAP, representatives of all concerned United Nations bodies and appropriate non-governmental organizations in the region to participate in the meeting;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake preparations and the organization of activities in connexion with the meeting, in collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund and the heads of other United Nations agencies concerned.

531st meeting  
15 March 1978

#### 188 (XXXIV). The Commission's activities in the Pacific<sup>9</sup>

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

*Recalling* its resolution 173 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977 on increased participation by the developing island countries of the Pacific in its activities,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 3338 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 and subsequent resolutions in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, invited the executive heads of the organizations concerned within the United Nations system to intensify their efforts with respect to developing island countries within their fields of competence, and also resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2126 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977 on specific action in favour of developing island countries,

*Recalling further* resolution 98 (IV) of 31 May 1976 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the least developed among the developing countries, developing island countries and developing land-locked countries, in which the Conference, *inter alia*, urged international organizations to pursue and intensify studies and technical assistance efforts to

help small islands to overcome the peculiar problems of their geographical situation and characteristics,

*Reiterating* the desire expressed by the developing island countries of the Pacific to play a more active role in the affairs of the Commission and the development of the region as a whole,

*Recognizing* that the Governments of developing Pacific island countries have expressed the wish that the Commission, in order to be effectively involved in the development of the Pacific area, should develop suitable programmes to meet the needs of the area,

*Noting* that financial and geographic constraints have restricted the ability of Governments of developing Pacific island countries to participate fully in ESCAP activities,

*Commending* the Executive Secretary's efforts so far in trying to develop a programme of activities relevant to the Pacific area, including particularly the United Nations Development Advisory Team for the South Pacific,

1. *Urges* that the Executive Secretary, in the detailed formulation of such activities, maintain close co-operation and consultation with Governments of developing Pacific island countries, the United Nations Development Programme, the South Pacific Commission and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, in order that these activities may meet identified needs and priorities;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, after due consultation with the developing Pacific island Governments, and where appropriate the South Pacific Commission and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, to consider urgently:

- (a) The appointment of a suitably qualified senior officer in the Pacific area in order to improve working linkages and maintain effective liaison between the Commission and the countries of that area and to assist the Executive Secretary in the programming and implementation of activities relevant to the needs of the area;

- (b) Increasing to an appropriate number the nationals of developing Pacific island member countries on the Commission's professional staff, in accordance with established United Nations recruitment procedures, in order to improve that area's geographic representation in the United Nations Secretariat;

- (c) The possibility of providing appropriate in-service training at the secretariat for nationals of developing Pacific island countries;

- (d) Ways and means of mitigating the constraints referred to above, in order to enable representatives of developing Pacific island countries to attend Commission sessions;

<sup>9</sup> See paras. 573-579 above.