

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that with the merger of the ESCAP Pacific Liaison Office and the United Nations Development Advisory Team for the Pacific there is an improved capability by the merged office to respond directly to requests from the Governments of the developing island countries of the Pacific subregion;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to assist the Governments of Kiribati and Tuvalu in the preparation of data and statistics to enable them effectively to present to the Economic and Social Council their case for inclusion in the United Nations' list of least developed countries;

7. *Calls upon* the Governments of developed member countries and multilateral financing agencies, in formulating and implementing their development assistance, to consider favourably the special problems of the Pacific island countries;

8. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to study ways in which the Commission might be of assistance to developing island countries in overcoming their peculiar problems so as to enable them to play a full role in the Commission's activities, committees and sessions;

9. *Urges* the Executive Secretary to make every effort to increase the number of Pacific island nationals employed in the secretariat of the Commission by bringing their number closer to the quota;

10. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

614th meeting
27 April 1984

238 (XL). Social aspects of rural development⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969,

Recalling also the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, particularly that part of it related to social development, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980,

Recalling further the main conclusions and specific recommendations of the Second Asia and Pacific

⁴ See paras. 744-745 above.

Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development related to integrated social development,

Reaffirming that the social aspects and goals of development form an integral part of the overall development process,

Stressing the need to implement comprehensive rural development programmes in the light of the specific conditions of each country, in order to raise the standard of living of rural populations,

Recalling its resolution 232 (XXXIX) of 28 April 1983 on social aspects of rural development,

1. *Takes note of* the report on the secretariat's activities with regard to the social aspects of rural development;

2. *Urges* the Governments of members and associate members to give special attention to the social impact of policies relating to integrated rural development programmes;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts relating to the social aspects of rural development and to invite once more interested Governments of members and associate members to present to the secretariat country papers reflecting their national experiences on the social aspects of their rural development policies and programmes;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, within existing resources, and on the basis of available country papers, a report on the policies and programmes undertaken by the members and associate members and on national experience in solving different problems related to the social aspects of rural development and make it available to the Commission at its forty-second session.

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239 (XL). Prevention of oil pollution of the marine environment of the ESCAP region⁵

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the international conventions and protocols on the field of the environment,

Bearing in mind the involvement of all countries in the protection of the environment with a view to enhancing the quality of life for future generations,

Aware of the aims of the International Maritime Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as of other international and inter-

⁵ See para. 536 above.

governmental organizations concerned with the problem of oil pollution of the marine environment,

Noting that severe oil pollution of the marine environment has occurred in the Asian and Pacific region, thus endangering marine life,

Recalling that part of the report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session which addressed the problem of marine pollution in the Asian and Pacific region,

1. *Expresses* its grave concern about the oil pollution of the marine environment in the Asian and Pacific region;

2. *Further expresses* its deep concern regarding the possibility of further oil pollution of the marine environment;

3. *Calls upon* all the members and associate members of the Commission to refrain completely from resorting to action which might cause oil pollution of the marine environment, thereby endangering human or marine life;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to bring this matter to the attention of other relevant international organizations with a view to their taking appropriate steps to carry out a programme of evaluation and survey of the manifold environmental effects of marine oil pollution in the Asian and Pacific region and to ensure that their procedures address this problem adequately.

*614th meeting
27 April 1984*