

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FORTY-SECOND SESSION

246 (XLII). Statistical services in Asia and the Pacific¹

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

Recognizing that economic and social development plans, programmes and policies are more cost-effective when based on adequate, reliable and timely statistics,

Noting that the demands from administrators and policy makers for quantitative information at national, subnational and community levels will continue to increase,

Accepting that sustained support is required to build or enhance statistical capabilities which currently differ considerably among countries of the region, ranging from relatively developed statistical services to those in the early stages of development,

Further noting that statistical information should be comparable over time and as far as practicable also across countries,

Recognizing that staff calibre and working conditions, *inter alia*, are crucially important for sustained statistical development,

Recognizing also that familiarity with and access to fast-developing computer technology are important for the quality of data collection and the speed and economy of their analysis and dissemination,

1. *Recommends* that members and associate members of the Commission:

(a) Accord high priority to the improvement and strengthening of their statistical services so as to provide information which will assist in effective planning, implementing and monitoring of economic and social development plans and programmes and in assessing their impact;

(b) Identify information uses as a basis for determining priorities for data collection and analysis in each economic and social sector, and set up mechanisms for such priority setting;

(c) Utilize available training outlets to provide appropriately qualified statistical manpower, according special attention to training in computers, including statistical software and microcomputers;

(d) Utilize guidelines and standards and participate in capability-building programmes evolved and promoted by the United Nations and its agencies;

(e) Improve the statistical infrastructure in terms of legislation, manpower policies, equipment, work programming, use of administrative records, dissemination facilities, and so on;

(f) Establish appropriate machinery to promote greater interaction between producers and users of statistics;

2. *Requests* the United Nations and its specialized agencies, in consultation with the Governments of the region, to assist these processes by:

(a) Continuing efforts to support and co-ordinate technical co-operation in all aspects of quantitative information;

(b) Taking greater account of the needs and capabilities of developing countries in evolving and revising international standards and guidelines;

(c) According priority to the special training needs of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries;

3. *Recommends* that multilateral and bilateral donor agencies:

(a) Continue to support and, where appropriate, strengthen the statistical services in the region;

(b) Support activities designed to improve the utilization of statistical information in the development process;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take positive steps to assist in the continued improvement of statistical services in Asia and the Pacific, particularly in the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and to report to the Commission at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

¹ See paras. 653-654 above.