

(b) To prepare for the Commission at its forty-third session, within the existing regular budget, a study, on the basis of national reports and other available country data, on the status of women in the region and their role in socio-economic development as a follow-up to the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies;

(c) To take further steps to ensure that the interests of women are incorporated in the work programme of the Commission;

(d) To submit a progress report to the Commission at its forty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

646th meeting
2 May 1986

250 (XLII). Observance of the fortieth anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific⁵

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/161 of 17 December 1984 on the observance of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations,

Hopeful that the year 1986, observed as the International Year of Peace, will contribute to the further strengthening of global peace and justice, social and economic development and progress, and the independence of all peoples,

Bearing in mind that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is the unique regional intergovernmental body for co-ordinating economic, social, scientific and technical co-operation among countries of Asia and the Pacific,

Considering that the observance of the fortieth anniversary of the Commission should contribute to the strengthening and implementation of the guiding principles as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations in the field of international economic and social co-operation and in ensuring a favourable international economic environment,

Emphasizing the need for the Commission to take an active part in co-operation in the economic and social fields and in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and other relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions,

Reaffirming its support for the aspirations of developing countries for economic and social progress,

⁵ See paras. 715-720 above.

Bearing in mind the need to improve the economic situation in developing countries and to promote their development,

Reaffirming its belief that the work of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields needs to be better understood among the peoples of the region,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, while preparing for and celebrating the anniversary, to take into account and make use of, as far as possible, the experience of commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations;

2. *Calls upon* members and associate members of the Commission to encourage in every possible way and participate actively in the activities marking the observance of the fortieth anniversary of the Commission;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to initiate necessary measures aimed at co-ordinating the activities of the Commission in connection with the preparations for the forthcoming anniversary;

4. *Invites* the members and associate members of the Commission to assign high-level delegations to the jubilee session to be held in 1987 to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Commission.

646th meeting
2 May 1986

251 (XLII). International Year of Peace⁶

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 40/3 of 24 October 1985, proclaiming 1986 as the International Year of Peace, and inviting all States and all organizations within the United Nations system to co-operate with the Secretary-General in achieving the objectives of the Year,

Recognizing that peace constitutes one of the most cherished aspirations of peoples and is a prerequisite for economic and social development,

Noting that the International Year of Peace provides the international community with a timely occasion to examine the problems facing the world today, and to find new lines of thought and stimulate action aimed at resolving them,

1. *Expresses* gratitude to members and associate members for the steps already taken towards achieving the objectives of the International Year of Peace

⁶ See paras. 633 and 635 above.

at the national, regional and international levels and encourages them to intensify their efforts in this region;

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to co-ordinate the efforts of the secretariat to contribute to the Year within its competence;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, to consider the best means for the dissemination of the Proclamation annexed to General Assembly resolution 40/3 and to inform the Commission at its forty-third session on the activities undertaken.

646th meeting
2 May 1986

252 (XLII). Social aspects of rural development⁷

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

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

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

Taking note of the recommendations of the Third Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held at Bangkok from 9 to 15 October 1985,

Referring to its resolution 238 (XL) of 27 April 1984 on the social aspects of rural development, and commending the secretariat on the report concerning the policies and programmes undertaken by members and associate members with regard to the social aspects of rural development,

Reaffirming that the social aspects of development form an integral part of the overall development process and that the major objective of development is to raise living standards and the quality of life,

1. *Calls upon* Governments to give due attention to the social impact of policies relating to rural development at the time of formulating such policies;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to pay special attention in future studies and reports to the present situation, tendencies and perspectives of social aspects of rural development in the ESCAP region, in particular, to public and/or private efforts in such

areas as agrarian reforms, co-operatives, rural development planning, the role of women in development, strengthening the role of qualified national personnel, including women, in rural development and encouraging popular participation in the development process in rural areas;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to organize a regional seminar on national experience in solving problems related to the social aspects of rural development;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to consider strengthening the co-ordination and monitoring within the secretariat to permit the effective implementation of activities relating to social aspects of rural development;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-fourth session on the steps taken to implement the present resolution.

646th meeting
2 May 1986

253 (XLII). Co-operation in alleviating the debt crisis⁸

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Taking note of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1985*, particularly the review of major developments in the international economy and of the macro-economic performance of the economies in the region,

Expressing concern at the problems in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, particularly in the areas of trade, capital flows and technology transfer,

Noting the initiatives taken by countries in the latter part of 1985 to foster more sound international financial conditions and a more stable exchange rate regime,

Recognizing the need to pursue the foregoing initiatives to bring about accelerated in-flows of capital at lower interest rates to improve the growth prospects of developing countries by complementing structural reforms in their economies,

Seriously concerned that the debt problem is a most serious threat to the stability of the world and regional economies,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a paper to the Commission at its forty-third session

⁷ See paras. 601 and 635 above.

⁸ See paras. 460-461 above.