

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.

on the possible causes of the debt crisis in terms of external trade, industrialization, rise in world interest rates, economic and debt management policies of debtor countries and financial policies of creditor countries, drawing to the greatest extent possible on available studies;

2. *Invites* members and associate members participating in the forthcoming Meeting of Ministers of Trade, to be held from 16 to 18 June 1986, to hold informal consultations on the implications of the debt crisis for international trade and financial co-operation;

3. *Appeals* to multilateral financial institutions to continue to assist in alleviating the crisis by supporting adjustment measures in debtor countries consistent with long-term growth perspectives, particularly for developing and least developed, land-locked and island developing countries;.

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

646th meeting
2 May 1986

254 (XLII). Programme co-ordination and evaluation in the Commission⁹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the need to rationalize the activities and operations of the Commission so as to improve its efficiency and effectiveness,

Realizing that the available resources are limited and therefore reaffirming the need for their judicious utilization and mobilization,

Convinced that programme co-ordination and evaluation are directly interrelated with priority setting and monitoring,

Desirous of strengthening existing ways and means to improve the efficiency of the Commission in the attainment of its goals,

Noting that the programme of work of the Commission should contain only those activities which the countries in the region consider most essential to their needs and most suitable for effective implementation,

Noting also the need to avoid overprogramming, duplication of work and proliferation of bodies,

Conscious of the guidelines for streamlining the ESCAP programme of work endorsed by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session and the criteria for setting its programme priorities as adopted at its thirty-ninth session,

Noting further that the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission provides advice to the Executive Secretary in programme co-ordination and evaluation,

1. *Urges* the legislative committees to continue to strengthen their capability to monitor their respective work programmes and results;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, to recommend further measures to bridge the gap between programming and performance, including a review of the present documentation to make it more concise and issue-oriented and paying due regard to the fact that the programme of work for the next biennium should contain only activities that the members and associate members of the Commission consider basic to their priority needs and suitable for effective implementation;

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

646th meeting
2 May 1986

255 (XLII). The Eighth Replenishment of the International Development Association¹⁰

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and resolution 165 (VI) of 2 July 1983 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on multilateral development institutions,

Recalling further the recommendation of the Task Force on Concessional Flows of the Development Committee, Joint Ministerial Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries, that "donor governments should exert redoubled efforts to increase the supply of official development assistance as a matter of urgency",

⁹ See paras. 706-714 above.

¹⁰ See para 179 above.