

3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Reaffirming the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/224 of 20 December 1982, 38/195 of 20 December 1983 and 39/174 of 17 December 1984 on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Recalling also Commission resolution 242 (XLI) of 29 March 1985 on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 40/205 of 17 December 1985 endorsing the conclusions and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries on the mid-term global review of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Expressing serious concern at the critical economic and social conditions in the least developed countries in spite of their national efforts as well as efforts made by the international community since the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action, and stressing the urgent need for increased support measures in order to enhance national efforts at self-reliance so that the objectives of the Programme can be fully realized,

1. *Calls upon* the international community to make special efforts towards providing increased transfer of resources and commercial policy support measures to the least developed countries of the Asian and Pacific region;

2. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries have primary responsibility for their overall development and that, although international support measures are vitally important, the domestic policies those countries pursue will be of importance for the success of their development efforts, and urges the least developed countries to continue to make every possible effort to mobilize domestic resources to implement the provisions of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries at the national level;

3. *Urges* developed countries, and developing countries in a position to do so, international financial and development institutions, and the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to provide adequate financial and technical assistance to the least developed countries of the Asian and Pacific region to enable them to implement their plans and

programmes in the context of the Substantial New Programme of Action;

4. *Calls upon* donor countries to continue to make every possible effort to increase their contributions in view of the important role that official development assistance plays in assisting the least developed countries to achieve the objectives of their country programmes, keeping in view the conclusions and recommendations of the mid-term global review of the Substantial New Programme of Action;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps to transmit the text of this resolution to major developed countries and international organizations for their consideration at all relevant international meetings.

646th meeting
2 May 1986

258 (XLII). International Year of Shelter for the Homeless¹³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/221 of 20 December 1982 proclaiming the year 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Having examined the report of the Committee on Industry, Technology, Human Settlements and the Environment on its ninth session with regard to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the strategies for action at the national and regional levels,

Noting the interrelation between the problems of human settlements and refugees and being aware of major concentrations of refugees in countries within the ESCAP region and the various problems that entails, especially in the provision of shelter for the homeless,

Alarmed by the attacks against civilian population centres in the conflicts in the region and the major problems involved in the reconstruction of residential areas and resettlement of the war-stricken population,

Reaffirming the need to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts in accordance with relevant international conventions and, in particular, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their related protocols,

Convinced that a special effort to address this fundamental issue will strengthen overall national economic and social development, in furtherance of the goals of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

¹³ See paras. 391, 393, 401 and 404-411 above.

1. *Reaffirms* that special attention should be given, during the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and the preparations therefor, to ways and means of:

(a) Securing renewed commitment by the international community to the improvement of the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged and to the provision of shelter for the homeless, particularly in the developing countries, as a matter of priority;

(b) Developing and demonstrating new approaches and methods to assist directly and to augment the present efforts of the homeless, poor and disadvantaged to secure their own shelter and to provide a basis for new national policies and strategies for improving the shelter and neighbourhoods of the poor and disadvantaged by the year 2000;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the organization of subregional meetings to promote the objectives of the Year, including meetings held in southern Africa, the Pacific, South Asia and Latin America, and urges other subregions to extend efforts to organize similar meetings;

3. *Takes note* with appreciation of the efforts made by countries in the region towards reconstruction of residential areas and cities and rehabilitation and resettlement of war-stricken people;

4. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to draw the attention of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his Regional Representative to the desirability of their participation in the activities under way with regard to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless with the objective of seizing the opportunity to promote resettlement of refugees and war-stricken people;

5. *Urges* all members and associate members of the Commission and relevant United Nations agencies to give further attention to the problem of human settlements and to make all possible efforts to realize the objectives of the Year and to address the roots of the problems involved in resettlement;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to remain continuously apprised of the matter and to report to the Commission at its forty-third session on the progress made in this regard.

*646th meeting
2 May 1986*