

of 11 December 1969, the twentieth anniversary of which will be observed by the international community in 1989, and General Assembly resolution 42/48 of 30 November 1987 on the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,

Commending the activities of the secretariat in implementation of its resolution 252 (XLII) of 2 May 1986 on the social aspects of rural development, in particular the organization and report of the regional Seminar on the Role of Women in Social and Economic Development with Special Reference to Rural Development,

Taking note of document E/ESCAP/617 on the implementation of special ESCAP mandates in the field of social development,

1. *Invites* its members and associate members to participate actively in the formulation of a regional social development strategy to the year 2000 and beyond, with special reference to the social aspects of rural development;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to pay appropriate attention to the social aspects of rural development in the formulation of that strategy;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to accord priority consideration to the social aspects of rural development and to facilitate the exchange of experience among the members and associate members in solving problems of social development in rural areas.

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20 April 1988

266 (XLIV). International Literacy Year^{3/}

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/104 of 7 December 1987 proclaiming 1990 International Literacy Year and recommending that the regional commissions consider in their respective forums the contributions they could make to the success of the Year,

Recalling that the elimination of illiteracy is recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as a prerequisite for ensuring the right to education,

Recalling also that the elimination of illiteracy is an important target of the integrated plan of action on human resources development,

Emphasizing that widespread illiteracy, especially in many developing countries, seriously hinders the process of economic and social development and cultural and spiritual advancement,

Considering that the Asian and Pacific region, encompassing some of the most populous countries in the world, has the bulk of the world's illiterates and the highest number of non-enrolled children in the primary age group,

Recognizing that International Literacy Year is a means of enhancing worldwide public understanding of the problem of illiteracy and of the need to increase efforts to disseminate education,

Considering it essential to contribute appropriately to the success of International Literacy Year,

1. *Invites* members and associate members to participate actively in the preparation and implementation of International Literacy Year at both the regional and national levels by carrying out programmes and measures for the Year;

2. *Recommends* that members and associate members pay special attention to the implementation of the Regional Programme for the Universalization and Renewal of Primary Education and the Eradication of Illiteracy in Asia and the Pacific (APPEAL);

3. *Invites* members and associate members, and interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate actively in both the preparation and implementation of International Literacy Year with a view to the elimination of illiteracy by the end of this century;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in co-ordination with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to identify specific areas where ESCAP could lend its support for human resources development in this field.

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^{3/} See para. 209 above.