

267(XLIV). The adoption and implementation of the principle of environmentally sound and sustainable development in the Asian and Pacific region^{4/}

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/187 of 11 December 1987 on the findings and recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the inclusion by the United Nations General Assembly in the provisional agenda of its forty-third session in 1988 of a sub-item entitled "A long-term strategy for sustainable and environmentally sound development",

Noting that General Assembly resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond incorporates conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission,

Recognizing the important catalytic role played by the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting the concept of environmentally sound and sustainable development,

Recalling the recommendations of the Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific held in 1982 and those of the Ministerial-level Conference on the Environment in Asia, held in 1985,

Recalling further Commission resolution 224 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982 on the incorporation of environmental considerations into the economic and social development activities of the Commission,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Committee on Industry, Technology, Human Settlements and the Environment at its tenth session held in September 1987,

Noting with concern that despite the progress so far made within the region, it continues to battle such problems as depletion of natural resources, desertification and environmental degradation,

Also noting that environmentally sound and sustainable development generally demands that the very basic needs, in both the sectoral and spatial contexts, of all the people are met and that they are provided with the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations for a better quality of life,

Convinced of the importance of the restructuring of economic and social development policies and institutions as an essential prerequisite for the elimination of poverty and enhancing the rational use of limited natural resources, on which present and future generations depend,

Realizing the huge potential of human resources in the Asian and Pacific region and the necessity of also involving non-governmental organizations, the scientific community, the media and the general public in promoting environmentally sound and sustainable development,

Welcoming the follow-up activities initiated by the ESCAP secretariat on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission, in particular those on the promotion of public awareness and the integration of environmental considerations into development planning,

1. *Invites its members and associate members to integrate environmental considerations into their development policies and programmes aimed at contributing to environmentally sound and sustainable development;*

2. *Urges its members and associate members to focus their co-operative efforts on those environmental issues that affect the common well-being of the people of the Asian and Pacific region in the implementation of development projects;*

3. *Requests the Executive Secretary, in co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme, to undertake, within available resources, a cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary study on the basis of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, in order to identify issues of particular relevance to the Asian and Pacific region and, where appropriate, make proposals for action by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies for the promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development and identify additional activities contributing to sustainable development in the existing programme of work of the secretariat;*

4. *Further requests the Executive Secretary to prepare, within available resources, a progress report on the contribution of ESCAP to the efforts being made towards sustainable development for consideration by the Commission at its*

^{4/} See para. 368 above.

forty-fifth session, and for submission, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session in accordance with paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 42/187;

5. Also invites members and associate members in a position to do so, and concerned donors and international organizations, to provide additional financial resources to assist developing countries in identifying, analysing, monitoring, preventing and managing environmental problems in accordance with their national development plans, priorities and objectives;

6. Decides to convene a ministerial-level conference on the environment in 1990, and to include in the agenda an item to review the progress in the follow-up to the report of the World Commission and to identify further measures to be taken in respect of the Asian and Pacific region.

677th meeting
20 April 1988

268 (XLIV). Shelter strategies towards the year 2000^{5/}

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/221 of 20 December 1982 and 41/190 of 8 December 1986 on the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 42/191 of 11 December 1987 on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Recognizing the need to follow up the Year by concrete action, as adequate and secure shelter is a basic human need and is vital to the fulfilment of human aspirations,

Concerned about the present alarming situation in the region, in which, despite the efforts of Governments and international organizations, millions of people find themselves living either completely without shelter or in shelter unfit for human habitation,

Deeply concerned by the spread of slums and squatter settlements lacking social services and infrastructure, and the general deterioration of the quality of life in rural settlements,

Recognizing that this lamentable situation can adversely affect the social, economic and political stability of countries,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Committee on Industry, Technology, Human Settlements and the Environment, at its tenth session, on the strategy for shelter up to the year 2000,

Encouraged by the initiatives taken in several countries of the region, such as preparing national shelter strategies and promoting other activities designed to achieve the goal of shelter for all by the year 2000,

1. Urges again all members and associate members to commit themselves to the objectives of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

2. Invites members and associate members to adopt and implement shelter strategies in accordance with the guidelines for national action contained in section I of the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/191, which will enable the mobilization of all forces and resources in the countries for the attainment of the objectives of the Strategy;

3. Also invites members and associate members in a position to do so, and concerned donors and international organizations, to provide additional financial resources to assist developing countries in the formulation and implementation of shelter strategies;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to encourage and assist, within available resources, the members and associate members in the formulation of shelter strategies and take other measures that will facilitate exchange of information and experience in accordance with the guidelines for international action contained in section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 42/191;

5. Also requests the Executive Secretary to place the subject "Shelter strategies towards the year 2000" as an item on the agenda of the sessions of the Commission in alternate years beginning from 1990, so as to review the progress towards the goal of shelter for all by

^{5/} See paras. 337-339 above.