

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/140 of 8 December 1988 on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1988/73 of 10 March 1988 on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region,

Welcoming the designation, by the Executive Secretary, of the Social Development Division of the secretariat as a regional focal point on human rights,

Requests the Executive Secretary to pursue, within existing resources, the establishment of a depository centre for United Nations human rights materials, the functions of which would include the collection, processing and dissemination of such materials in the ESCAP region.

693rd meeting
5 April 1989

45/3. Regional support for International Literacy Year³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

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

Recalling Commission resolution 266 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on International Literacy Year,

Recalling also its resolution 274 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region,

Noting the emphasis placed on literacy and basic education as critical components in human resources development, and particularly noting the recommendations contained in the Jakarta Plan of Action regarding literacy and basic education for all,

Welcoming with appreciation the decision of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Bank to convene the World Conference on Education for All - Meeting Basic Learning Needs, at Bangkok in 1990,

1. *Urges* all members and associate members to participate actively in the World Conference;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to lend active support and, as far as possible, provide substantive inputs to the World Conference;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, as well as on action being taken by members and associate members in implementation of Commission resolution 266 (XLIV).

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45/4. Integrated programme on rural development⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its earlier resolutions 161 (XXXII) of 31 March 1976 and 172 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977 in which it expressed grave concern at the problems of rural poverty and called for the promotion of growth with social justice in the region through mutual co-operation between Governments and the United Nations agencies,

Recognizing the serious efforts made by the Governments of the developing countries of the region, the support of the international community and their accomplishments in redressing rural poverty,

Convinced of the need for Governments to continue their efforts to focus on alleviation of rural poverty through the active participation of the beneficiaries themselves in the planning, implementation and evaluation of such activities to ensure the relevance of programmes and equitable sharing of benefits,

Also convinced of the continued need for the international community to supplement the efforts of the developing countries of the region,

Recognizing the need to focus urgent attention on areas such as employment generation, including self-employment opportunities, development of rural women, promotion of people's participation, monitoring and evaluation,

Expressing concern over the continued plight of millions of rural poor in the region, including in particular in the least developed countries, who have not been adequately reached by the fruits of development,

Expressing appreciation of the assistance provided by the United Nations agencies, including in particular the members of the Interagency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific and the Committee itself to the developing countries of the region in the alleviation of rural poverty,

Taking into account the recent review of integrated rural development strategies undertaken by experts designated by a number of developing member Governments at Suwon, Republic of Korea and their reaffirmation of the Interagency Co-ordinated Plan of

³ See paras. 499-502 above.

⁴ See paras. 265-271 above.

Action on Integrated Rural Development in the ESCAP Region,

1. *Invites* member countries to accord increased priority in the allocation of resources to rural poverty alleviation programmes, as well as make greater efforts to distribute resources equitably in the rural areas;

2. *Also invites* the international community, in particular developed countries and the international funding agencies, to increase substantially their assistance to developing countries of the Asian and Pacific region in implementing integrated rural development activities for the alleviation of rural poverty;

3. *Requests* the United Nations agencies to further collaborate in providing assistance to the developing countries in poverty alleviation programmes in rural areas;

4. *Invites* the participating countries and organizations to co-operate actively in and to increase their assistance towards the implementation of the interagency programme on integrated rural development;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, within existing budgetary resources:

(a) To further strengthen and implement the Interagency Co-ordinated Plan of Action on Integrated Rural Development in the ESCAP Region;

(b) To hold periodic consultations with member countries to assess their needs for their poverty alleviation programmes for the disadvantaged groups;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

693rd meeting
5 April 1989

45/5. Fulfilling the objectives of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in the ESCAP region⁵

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987 in which, *inter alia*, it was decided to designate the 1990s as a decade in which the international community, under the auspices of the United Nations, would pay special attention to fostering international co-operation in the field of natural disaster reduction,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 43/202 of 20 December 1988 in which,

inter alia, the Secretary-General was requested to further strengthen co-ordination within the United Nations system in order to ensure better preparation for the Decade,

Recognizing that natural disasters, such as windstorms (cyclones, typhoons), floods, droughts, locust infestations, tsunamis, earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions and other calamities of natural origin are a cause of common concern in the ESCAP region,

Also recognizing that the tremendous destruction of human resources and property triggered by natural disasters represents a great loss to countries of the region and deprives developing countries of resources which could otherwise be mobilized for economic and social development, thereby further impeding their development process,

Further recognizing that the primary responsibility for defining the general goals and directions of efforts undertaken in the framework of an international decade for natural disaster reduction and for implementing the measures that would result from its activities lies with the Governments of the countries concerned,

Emphasizing that a concerted effort, both national and international, is essential in mitigating risks arising from natural disasters, as well as co-ordinating disaster relief, preparedness and prevention,

Bearing in mind the inter-sectoral character of natural disaster reduction work,

Taking note of the secretariat's work on prevention and mitigation of natural disasters in such fields as establishment of early warning systems, risk analysis in collaboration with the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee and Panel on Tropical Cyclones, and other concerned international organizations, including the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

1. *Invites* the Governments of its members and associate members to accord priority to activities related to natural disaster reduction and mitigation in their national development plans;

2. *Urges* the Governments of its members and associate members to designate the appropriate mechanisms to implement, co-ordinate and monitor activities related to natural disaster reduction with a view to achieving the goals of the Decade;

3. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary, in co-operation with the member Governments and the concerned international organizations, to promote and support co-operative efforts for attaining the objectives of the Decade as contained in General Assembly resolution 42/169;

4. *Further calls upon* the Executive Secretary to set up within the secretariat appropriate arrangements for interdivisional co-ordination and consultation to ensure that the intersectoral character of natural disaster reduction is reflected in all concerned programme activities of the Commission;

⁵ See paras 390-392 above.