

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

46/1. Strengthening the population activities of the Commission in the 1990s¹

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia
and the Pacific,*

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/91 of 26 July 1989 on the convening of an international meeting on population in 1994, in which the Secretary-General was requested to ensure that the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, other bodies of the United Nations system and other international organizations make a substantive contribution to the international meeting on population,

Noting recommendation 52 of the Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development, adopted at the Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference, in which the secretariat is called upon to provide support to members and associate members of the Commission in the implementation of the recommendations of that Conference and to undertake periodic review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the objectives of the Call for Action,

Aware of the review and appraisal of the Call for Action undertaken by the secretariat in 1988, which presents strategies for further implementation of the recommendations of the Call for Action,

Recalling its decision to hold the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference at Jakarta in 1992 to review the changes in the population situation that occurred during the 1980s and highlight the perspectives of population policies and programmes during the 1990s in Asian and Pacific countries,

Having deliberated on the issue paper "Population policies and programmes in the 1990s: trends and prospects", endorsed by the Commission at its forty-fifth session, which highlights past trends in policy formulation and programme development and the future prospects for multi-sectoral approaches to population issues,

Stressing the role of the Commission in the field of population in the attainment of the goals and objectives of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, and beyond,

Re-emphasizing the crucial importance of the success of population policies and noting the relative success of the population programmes of many members and associate members, and some stagnation in the efforts of others, as well as the need to maintain

the strategies of quantitative success of the programmes and, where necessary, to restructure them from quantitative to qualitative aspects of population with special emphasis on the welfare of families, especially mothers and children,

Recognizing the extra demand and the Commission's limited resources in the areas of technical assistance, training, research and information in the field of population,

1. *Urges* the members and associate members to maintain and strengthen the present efforts in the areas mentioned in the last preambular paragraph of the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convey to the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the Asian Development Bank the desire of the Commission for additional resources in support of the population programme of the secretariat within existing budget levels;

3. *Invites* donor countries and agencies within and outside the region to support the Commission's efforts to provide greater assistance to the members and associate members for the implementation of their population programmes;

4. *Also invites* members and associate members of ESCAP to participate actively in the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference scheduled to be held in 1992, as well as in the international meeting on population to be held in 1994, so as to meet effectively the challenges facing Asia and the Pacific in the field of population in the coming decade;

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

*708th meeting
13 June 1990*

46/2. Urbanization strategies in the ESCAP region - Towards environmentally sound and sustainable development and management of urban areas²

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia
and the Pacific,*

¹ See paras. 501-508 and 528-531 above.

² See paras. 278-280 and 290-291 above.

Recalling the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, which was welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/187 of 11 December 1987, in which it was recommended that countries should adopt integrated and explicit national settlements strategies and policies,

Also recalling United Nations Commission on Human Settlements resolution 12/18 of 2 May 1989, in which the Commission stressed that integrated planning and management of human settlements could be a powerful instrument for achieving sustainable development,

Recalling further resolution 268 (XLIV), adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on 20 April 1988, on shelter strategies towards the year 2000, in which the Commission expressed deep concern at the spread of slums and squatter settlements lacking social services and infrastructure,

Deeply concerned at the alarming rate of urbanization in the Asian and Pacific region, and the likelihood that the expanding urban population in developing countries of the region may have to live and work in deplorable conditions,

Concerned at the concentration of urban growth in major cities of the region, generating acute problems of transport congestion, health and sanitation, drug abuse, and a growing backlog in provision and delivery of urban infrastructure, housing and social services, which cause environmental degradation, and create disparities in the quality of life, access to services and productive resources between these cities and the smaller urban and rural centres,

Recognizing, however, that urbanization offers unprecedented opportunities for economic growth and equitable provision of socio-economic benefits among subnational areas of the countries, if rationally distributed between mega-cities, secondary cities, small towns and rural centres,

Taking note of the recommendation made by the Committee on Industry, Technology and Human Settlements, at its first session held in 1989, concerning the formulation of national urbanization strategies, better urban planning and management of the urban environment, and development of urban local management capabilities,

Also taking note of the close co-ordination required with the activities of other relevant agencies, in particular the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Encouraged by the promotion of regional co-operation between urban local governments and non-governmental organizations in urban development and management through the activities of the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET), which was established in Nagoya, Japan in 1987 and adopted its charter in Shanghai, China in 1989,

1. *Urges* all members and associate members to formulate and implement strategies for urbanization, urban development planning and management, with a

view to managing population growth in major cities and better population distribution in the secondary towns and rural centres, and to take both remedial measures which would seek to mitigate existing problems and preventive measures designed to anticipate and avoid future problems by evolving selective and contextually suitable strategies and adopting participatory approaches that would ensure balanced and environmentally sound and sustainable development of human settlements;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on the state of urbanization in the region and develop a regional plan of action to assist members and associate members in addressing the social, environmental and other problems and the potential presented by rapid urbanization;

3. *Decides* to convene in 1992, subject to the availability of resources, a regional conference on "Urbanization strategies in the ESCAP region - Towards environmentally sound and sustainable development and management of urban areas", with special reference to urban planning, development and management, which would review the state of urbanization in the region, consider the regional plan of action and develop a framework for the formulation of national action plans;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to assist developing countries of the region in their efforts towards the formulation and implementation of strategies for urbanization, as a follow-up of the regional conference;

5. *Invites* potential donor Governments and organizations to provide the necessary extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-ninth session in 1993 on the implementation of the present resolution.

708th meeting
13 June 1990

46/3. Priorities and operation of ESCAP³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Reaffirming the important role of ESCAP in promoting economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific and in initiating and strengthening co-operation in these fields within this region and with other countries,

Noting that it is necessary to respond to dynamic changes in global and members' economic and social structures and, in this context, that ESCAP needs to reflect and adapt to these changes,

Cognizant of its responsibility to address priorities for the work programme emerging from changing needs of members,

³ See paras. 646, 648-650 and 657 above.