

*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 ESCAP<sup>3</sup>

*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,

<sup>3</sup> See paras. 646, 648-650 and 657 above.

*Recalling* its resolution 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987 in which the Executive Secretary was requested, *inter alia*, to continue to pay special attention to the need to implement reorganization and rationalization programmes to improve the performance of the secretariat in the implementation of the programme of work and priorities, through suitable measures including evaluation, as well as the preambular paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 40/237 of 18 December 1985,

*Noting with appreciation* the efforts of the Executive Secretary to further improve the performance of the secretariat,

*Seeking* to enhance the capacity of ESCAP to carry out its mandate efficiently,

*Emphasizing* the need for the effective and efficient functioning of the intergovernmental structure of the United Nations and its secretariat support structures in the economic, social and related fields in order to further enhance international co-operation and efforts to promote development,

1. *Urges* members and associate members to address continuously priorities for the programme of work emerging from their changing needs;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to improve the administrative and operational functioning of the secretariat in the effective implementation of the programme of work and priorities emerging from the changing needs of the members;

(b) To continue to consult regularly with members, particularly through the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, to facilitate close interaction and exchange of relevant information between members and the secretariat for the effective implementation of the programme of work and priorities.

708th meeting  
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#### 46/4. Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries<sup>4</sup>

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 42/177 of 11 December 1987, 43/186 of 20 December 1988 and 44/220 of 22 December 1989 concerning the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held at a high level in Paris in September 1990,

*Recalling also* its resolution 271 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

*Expressing deep concern* at the continuing deterioration in the overall economic and social conditions in the least developed countries in spite of all the efforts thus far,

*Recognizing* that the Conference will provide an important opportunity for the international community to discuss and adopt an appropriate plan of action for the 1990s for the least developed countries,

1. *Urges* all Governments, intergovernmental and multilateral organizations, and others concerned to exert every effort to ensure the success of the Conference;

2. *Calls upon* all members and associate members in the Asian and Pacific region to participate actively in the Conference;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the work undertaken by the secretariat in preparation for the Conference;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take measures within available resources to enable the secretariat to be appropriately strengthened in its capabilities for review, follow-up and monitoring of the plan of action for the 1990s for the least developed countries, at the regional level;

5. *Invites* the member countries in a position to do so, other donor countries, multilateral funding agencies and financial institutions to provide extra-budgetary support to the secretariat in its efforts towards implementation of the new plan of action;

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

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13 June 1990

#### 46/5. Regional follow-up of the World Conference on Education for All - Meeting Basic Learning Needs<sup>5</sup>

*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,

*Further recalling* Commission resolutions 266 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on International Literacy Year, 274 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, 45/1 of 5 April 1989 on a regional social development strategy towards the year 2000 and beyond, and 45/3 of 5 April 1989 on regional support for International Literacy Year,

<sup>4</sup> See paras. 177 and 178 above.

<sup>5</sup> See paras. 434-435 and 438-440 above.