

4. Give special attention to overcoming the development constraints faced by the Pacific island countries by fostering and strengthening economic and technical cooperation among the countries and areas of the subregion, and between the subregion and other ESCAP members and associate members.

5. Identify technical assistance and other activities to be implemented for the benefit of the subregion.

6. Establish liaison with other agencies, organizations and bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels and take into account their relevant recommendations.

7. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate activities with them.

8. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time.

The Special Body shall meet once every two years and report to the Commission.

48/3. Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling all General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions on disability matters, including General Assembly resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and resolution 37/53 of 3 December 1982, on the implementation of the World Programme of Action, in which, *inter alia*, it proclaimed the period 1983-1992 the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons,

Recalling also Commission resolution 207 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, concerning effective implementation and follow-up of the objectives of the International Year of Disabled Persons, "Full participation and equality",

Mindful that the risk of disability increases with age and that, with the expected rapid ageing of the societies in the region, the number of disabled persons will increase substantially,

Recognizing that while the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons has increased awareness of disability issues and has facilitated considerable progress in the prevention of disability and the rehabilitation of disabled persons in the ESCAP region, progress towards improving the situation of disabled persons has been uneven, particularly in the developing and least developed countries,

Noting that the Expert Group Meeting to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons in the Asian and Pacific Region, held in August 1991, and convened by ESCAP, recognized that there was a need for a second decade of disabled persons to consolidate the gains achieved thus far in the ESCAP region,

Noting further that the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held in October 1991, expressed support for the declaration of a second decade of disabled persons,

1. Proclaims the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, with a view to giving fresh impetus to the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons in the ESCAP region beyond 1992 and strengthening regional cooperation to resolve issues affecting the achievement of the goals of the World Programme of Action, especially those concerning the full participation and equality of persons with disabilities;

2. Requests the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to endorse the present resolution and to encourage, at the global level, support for its implementation;

3. Urges all member and associate member Governments to review the situation of disabled persons in their countries and areas, with a view to developing measures that enhance the equality and full participation of disabled persons, including the following:

(a) Formulation and implementation of national policies and programmes to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in economic and social development;

(b) Establishment and strengthening of national coordinating committees on disability matters, with emphasis on, *inter alia*, the adequate and effective representation of disabled persons and their organizations, and their roles therein;

(c) Provision of assistance, in collaboration with international development agencies and non-governmental organizations, in enhancing community-based support services for disabled persons and the extension of services to their families;

(d) Promotion of special efforts to foster positive attitudes towards children and adults with disabilities, and the undertaking of measures to improve their access to rehabilitation, education, employment, cultural and sports activities and the physical environment;

4. Urges all concerned specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system to undertake an examination of their ongoing programmes and projects in the ESCAP region, with a view to integrating disability concerns into their work programmes systematically and supporting national implementation of the present resolution;

³ See paras. 536 above.

5. *Calls upon* non-governmental organizations in the field of social development to utilize their experience and expertise in strengthening the capabilities and activities of organizations of disabled persons;

6. *Urges* organizations of disabled persons to cooperate with government agencies in strengthening means by which citizens with disabilities may realize their full potential, and to strengthen linkages among disabled persons in developed and developing countries to enhance their self-help capacity;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to assist, subject to available financial resources, member and associate member Governments in the following:

(a) Developing and pursuing national programmes of action during the forthcoming Decade;

(b) Formulating and implementing technical guidelines and legislation to promote access by disabled persons to buildings, public facilities, transport and communications systems, information, education and training, and technical aids;

8. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission biennially until the end of the Decade on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution and to submit recommendations to the Commission, as required, on action to maintain the momentum of the Decade.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

48/4. Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, 1992⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling resolution 74 (XXIII) of 17 April 1967 on regional cooperation in the field of population, in which the Commission established the Asian Population Conference as a statutory organ of the Commission, to be convened every ten years, for the consideration of all aspects of population questions and of their impact on economic and social development,

Noting the various recommendations of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, made in consultation with representatives of selected Governments in the region, the United Nations Population Fund as a joint sponsor, specialized agencies and others, at the first and second sessions of the Committee convened in 1990 and 1991 respectively, to make preparations for the Conference,

Considering the overriding importance of population in the sustainable economic and social development of countries and areas in the Asian and Pacific region,

Stressing the important role of the Commission in the field of population and as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region,

Noting recommendation 52 of the Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development, adopted at the Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held at Colombo in 1982, in which the secretariat was 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,

Recalling its decision to organize the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference as a ministerial meeting jointly with the United Nations Population Fund in order 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 countries and areas of Asia and the Pacific,

Reiterating its invitation to all member and associate member Governments to participate in the Conference, which will be held in Bali, Indonesia, from 19 to 27 August 1992,

1. *Calls upon* member and associate member Governments to undertake the necessary review and appraisal of population trends and policies in their countries and areas so that they will be in a position to report to the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference;

2. *Urges* member and associate member Governments to participate fully and enthusiastically, at the ministerial level, in its deliberations, which are aimed at determining goals, strategies and directions for the achievement of sustainable development in the twenty-first century;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake the necessary follow-up activities based on the recommendations of the Conference and provide the necessary assistance to the member and associate member Governments in their implementation of those recommendations, subject to available financial resources;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to present the findings and recommendations of the Conference as the main Asian and Pacific regional input to the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in 1994.

739th meeting
23 April 1992

⁴ See paras. 510 above.