

carrying out studies, projects and activities. The implementation of phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific has already demonstrated the potential benefits of closer collaboration in focusing development assistance and minimizing the duplication of activities.

III. IMPLEMENTATION, PRIORITIES AND TIME-FRAME

Implementation

36. Just as coordination and cooperation will be key factors in the effective implementation of plans and programmes at the national level in overcoming shortfalls in the infrastructure sector, they are particularly necessary among agencies and organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, that are active in providing assistance to countries.

Priorities

37. The action plan promotes an integrated approach to addressing the issues of infrastructure development. Its 12 recommendations, 40 proposals for action at the country level and supporting regional action are, however, not comprehensive: they represent priority activities which together will significantly enhance the performance of the infrastructure sector. They will also reduce the investment "gap" by increasing output from existing infrastructure and demonstrating to potential donors the earnest efforts being made to create the right investment climate. In developing the action plan, special consideration has been given to the maximum utilization of available regional resources for the benefit of capacity-building.

38. Further delineation of these priorities within the overall framework of the action plan will follow the formulation of specific programmes and projects for implementation. Detailed priority-setting at the national level, and perhaps with regional assistance, will depend on a critical perception of the major constraints and shortcomings within the prevailing political and social context. Not all the recommendations will apply equally to all countries.

Time-frame

39. Preferably, action in implementation of the plan should begin immediately. It is, however, recognized that the proposed removal of the deeply rooted institutional obstacles to infrastructure development is not just a technical issue but involves a re-education process that will touch upon many sensitive areas. In addition, the lead time and scale of infrastructure projects dictate that, for the programme to be implemented in full, the concerted, coordinated efforts of countries and regional institutions will have to be brought to bear over the coming years through and beyond the new century.

50/3. Participatory human settlements development³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 268 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 on shelter strategies towards the year 2000,

Recognizing the role of the Governments as facilitators of a comprehensive shelter delivery system with multisectoral participation, including the promotion of housing as a means of social intervention and a catalyst for economic activities and solution of problems of the low-income groups,

Convinced that sustainable development policies must, inter alia, address integrated concerns of the environment, including energy, water resources management and waste disposal, and human settlements,

Realizing that human settlements policies must be broad-based and form an integral part of development programmes and macroeconomic policies and that these programmes and policies have deep social implications,

1. *Adopts the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization prepared by the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok on 1 and 2 November 1993, as a blueprint for urban development and improved urban management;*

2. *Urges members and associate members to encourage the active involvement of non-governmental and community-based organizations in the policy and strategy formulation process and in the implementation of shelter projects;*

3. *Further urges members and associate members to establish national- and local-level urban forums composed of representatives from the relevant departments and different levels of government, as well as the private sector, community associations and non-governmental organizations, to institutionalize the process of cooperation and collaboration in the formulation of urban action plans;*

4. *Calls upon members and associate members to involve all actors concerned with human settlements issues in their preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to be convened in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996;*

5. *Requests members and associate members to explore the possibility of including, as part of their respective educational curricula, the subject of human settlements;*

6. *Expresses support for:*

(a) Increased responsibilities to local governments in infrastructure construction and maintenance;

³ See para. 328 above.

(b) Adoption of a public housing finance system to which low- and middle-income families would have access in order to improve their homes;

(c) Expansion of the scope and coverage of community-based housing finance systems targeted at poor families;

(d) Monitoring at regular intervals of shelter sector performance through the housing indicators programme developed by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the World Bank;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to monitor and review the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization on a biennial basis.

758th meeting
13 April 1994

50/4. Regional preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995: Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, 1994⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/108 of 20 December 1993 on implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, and other relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolutions 44/77 of 8 December 1989, 46/98 of 16 December 1991 and 47/95 of 16 December 1992,

Recalling also Commission resolution 46/6 of 13 June 1990 on the integration of women in all aspects of development, in which the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to convene in 1993 a regional intergovernmental meeting on women in development to review the progress achieved in Asia and the Pacific in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and as a regional preparatory activity for the fourth world conference on women to be convened by the United Nations in 1995,

Recognizing with appreciation all preparatory activities undertaken by the Government of Indonesia for hosting the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, to be held in Jakarta from 7 to 14 June 1994 and those activities undertaken by the Government of China for hosting the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995,

Noting the various recommendations of the Commission regarding the time-frame, provisional agenda and preparatory activities for the Ministerial Conference,

Considering the importance of improving the status of women in the family and society and enhancing their participation in development in all sectors and at all levels of activity at national, regional and global levels,

Also considering that the Asian and Pacific region is the home of the largest percentage of the world's population and consequently of the world's women, and that it has a rich variety of religions and cultures as well as levels of economic development,

Reaffirming the important role of the Commission in coordinating regional activities in the field of women in development and as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region,

Reiterating its invitation to all members and associate members to participate in the Ministerial Conference,

1. *Calls upon* members and associate members to undertake the necessary review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and prepare country reports which would serve as input for the regional and global review and appraisal of the Strategies;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that:

(a) The draft plan of action, the most important basic document for the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, is concise but comprehensive, identifies critical areas of concern to most countries in the region, lists measurable goals and strategic objectives to be achieved, as well as actions to be taken by Governments, non-governmental organizations, regional and international organizations and institutions;

(b) The preparation of the draft takes fully into account the views and concerns expressed by Governments, as well as the consensus reached on related matters, in the relevant forums of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies in the region, and also takes into consideration the views of experts expressed in the Expert Group Meeting on Women in Development held in Bangkok in February 1994, as well as the recommendations of the Asian and Pacific Symposium of Non-governmental Organizations on Women in Development, held in Manila in November 1993;

3. *Urges* members and associate members to ensure that they are represented at the highest levels at both the Meeting of Senior Officials on Women in Development and the Ministerial Conference;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to present the regional action proposals emanating from the Ministerial Conference as the main Asian and Pacific

⁴ See para. 347 above.