

*Observing* that a large number of countries in the region have made great strides towards implementing the recommendations of the Bali Declaration and the Cairo Programme of Action, and that data on resource flows indicate that they have been meeting their part of the financial commitments,

*Noting with concern* that there is a considerable shortfall in the proportion of the resources expected to be made available by the international community for the implementation of the Bali Declaration and the Cairo Programme of Action,

*Recalling* its resolution 74 (XXIII) of 17 April 1967 on convening the Asian and Pacific Population Conference every ten years,

*Anticipating* the guidance to be provided by the General Assembly at its special session to be convened in 1999 to review progress in the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action,

1. *Endorses* the report and key future actions of the High-level Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and to Make Recommendations for Further Action;

2. *Urges* the countries in the Asian and Pacific region to continue making all possible efforts to mobilize adequate domestic resources for the provision of comprehensive health care, reproductive health, including family planning services, and other social development programmes, even though many of these countries are currently facing financial constraints;

3. *Further urges* these countries to make adequate use of the modalities of South-South cooperation with a view to ensuring optimum use of the human and financial resources already available within the region;

4. *Calls upon* the international community, including international organizations, bilateral agencies, foundations, non-governmental organizations and the rest of civil society to increase support substantially to meet the urgent and pressing needs of the Asian and Pacific region in population and development, and to provide additional resources, as a temporary measure, to the social sector, including resources for poverty alleviation in those countries which are facing a major economic crisis;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system:

(a) To support the efforts of the Fund towards ensuring the availability of resources to achieve the internationally agreed goals of both the Bali Declaration and the Cairo Programme of Action;

(b) To take appropriate steps to reorient the Asian and Pacific regional programme on population and sustainable development in accordance with the key future actions recommended by the High-level Meeting, with a view to providing assistance to developing countries and areas in the region, paying special attention to least developed countries, in response to the challenges that they face and to the need to strengthen national capacity to implement these key future actions in an effective and coordinated manner;

(c) To report on the implementation of the present resolution at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, which is planned for the year 2002.

*10th meeting  
22 April 1998*

#### **54/5. International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages<sup>5</sup>**

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 47/5 of 16 October 1992, the annex to which contains the Proclamation on Ageing, in which the General Assembly decided to observe the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons and urged the international community, *inter alia*, to promote intraregional and interregional cooperation and exchange of resources for programmes and projects on ageing, including those for lifelong healthy ageing, income generation and new forms of productive ageing,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 50/141 of 21 December 1995 on the International Year of Older Persons, in which the General Assembly invited the regional commissions, within the existing mandates, to bear in mind the goals of the Year when convening regional meetings in 1998 and 1999 at which to mark the Year and formulate action plans on ageing for the twenty-first century,

*Bearing in mind* General Assembly resolution 49/162 of 23 December 1994 on the integration of older women in development,

*Recalling* Commission resolution 51/4 of 1 May 1995 endorsing the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, in which, *inter alia*, the Commission called for measures to bring the active elderly into the economic and social mainstream and to meet the basic needs of rural and urban elderly who lack social security,

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<sup>5</sup> See para. 207 above.

*Recognizing* the complexity of the issues related to the rapid ageing of populations and the serious challenge it is posing to all societies, the need to undertake lifelong preparation for old age and to have a policy framework for the protection of older people, including social security, income generation, health maintenance and continuing skill development, as well as for the promotion of the contributions that older persons can make to society,

*Noting with appreciation* that preparations for the International Year of Older Persons have been initiated and coordinating bodies on ageing established in various countries in the region with the objective of formulating national policies for older persons and coordinating activities in support of the Year,

*Reaffirming* its commitment to according priority to the fulfilment of the goals and targets contained in the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted by the World Assembly on Ageing in 1982, the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action for Social Development and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region,

1. *Urges* all members and associate members to take early and effective action to implement General Assembly resolutions concerning older persons and make preparations for the International Year of Older Persons, bearing in mind the goals and objectives of the Year;

2. *Calls upon* members and associate members which have not yet done so to set up and strengthen national mechanisms on ageing, *inter alia*, to enable them to coordinate preparations for and observance of the Year and to set specific time-bound targets on ageing and related issues, in the light of the needs and aspirations of older persons, in keeping with indigenous traditions and their milieu;

3. *Also calls upon* all concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society to enhance their efforts to generate greater awareness of issues relating to ageing and older persons and to support regional and national initiatives in observance of the Year;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To provide continuing assistance to members and associate members in preparing for and commemorating the Year, including the provision of technical advice and the coordination of regional and subregional activities;

(b) To promote an integrated, intersectoral approach and ensure effective coordination of the activities of all concerned United Nations bodies and private voluntary and community-based organizations for the benefit of older persons and in support of the Year;

(c) To convene a regional meeting to formulate a plan of action on ageing for Asia and the Pacific, as called for in General Assembly resolution 50/141, and to consider the means of enhancing national and regional initiatives for older persons;

(d) To continue to facilitate the exchange of national experiences and information and to disseminate data and materials concerning older persons;

(e) To report to the Commission in 2000 on the observance of the Year and on progress in the implementation of the plan of action on ageing for Asia and the Pacific and, on the basis of consultations with members and associate members, to recommend further action and initiatives to achieve the goals and targets contained therein.

10th meeting  
22 April 1998

#### 54/6. Strengthening the role of the family in social development<sup>6</sup>

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

*Recalling* its resolution 47/13 of 10 April 1991 on the International Year of the Family in which it reiterated the importance of the family as the basic social unit for socio-economic development and the need for all governments to devise policies specifically in support of national development objectives regarding the family,

*Acknowledging* that the International Year of the Family (1994) was proclaimed by the General Assembly with the following major goals: to encourage the participation of families in attaining the fundamental human development aims of reducing poverty and providing the basic services for health, nutrition, education, shelter and employment opportunities, to formulate policies sensitive to family issues and help improve national capacity to monitor the implementation of those policies, and to encourage governmental, non-governmental and national and international organizations and agencies to assess how their decisions and actions affect families,

*Recalling* its resolution 51/4 of 1 May 1995, endorsing the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, which had been adopted on 16 October 1994 by the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, and in which governments were urged to help provide an environment supportive of strengthening the institution of the family and mutual respect within the family,

<sup>6</sup> See para. 207 above.