

(d) To ascertain from United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, by 30 September 1999, the state of Y2K readiness in the region in their respective areas of competence.

*11th meeting
28 April 1999*

55/4. Towards a society for all ages: Macau Declaration and Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/5 of 16 October 1992, the annex to which contained the Proclamation on Ageing, in which the Assembly decided to observe the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/141 of 21 December 1995 on the International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages, in which the 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,

Mindful of General Assembly resolution 53/109 of 9 December 1998, in which the Assembly urged that the issue of older persons be mainstreamed into the work of the United Nations and national socio-economic programmes and plans, as appropriate,

Recalling Commission resolution 54/5 of 22 April 1998, in which the Executive Secretary of ESCAP was requested to convene a regional meeting to formulate a plan of action on ageing for Asia and the Pacific, to report to the Commission in 2000 on progress in the implementation of the plan of action and to recommend further action and initiatives to achieve the goals and targets contained therein,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region,

Recognizing the need to enhance awareness of the complexity and the serious challenge that the rapid ageing of populations is posing to all societies in the region, to have a policy framework for the protection of older persons, to promote the contribution that they can make to society, and to integrate them into mainstream development,

Noting with appreciation the successful launching of the International Year of Older Persons in various countries in the region, the activities being undertaken to promote the theme of the Year, namely, "Towards a society for all ages", and efforts towards the establishment or strengthening of national policies for older persons,

Mindful of the necessity to integrate older women into development, to include a gender dimension in the preparations for the Year, and to strengthen the role of the family as the traditional provider of support to older persons,

1. *Endorses* the Macau Declaration and Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific, adopted on 1 October 1998 by the Regional Meeting on a Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific;

2. *Urges* all members and associate members to take early and effective action to implement the Plan of Action and to continue to give full support to the implementation of relevant regional mandates and resolutions of the General Assembly concerning older persons;

3. *Calls upon* members and associate members that have not yet done so to set up and strengthen national mechanisms on ageing, *inter alia*, to enable them to coordinate the observance of the International Year of Older Persons 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;

4. *Urges* members and associate members to pay attention to older persons in severe poverty and enable them to have access to basic health services in accordance with national priorities;

5. *Calls upon* all sectors of civil society, non-governmental organizations and private organizations to assist in the effective implementation of the Macau Declaration and Plan of Action and their respective national plans of action on older persons;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the valuable role of the media in the preparations for the Year and in raising awareness of it, and encourages the media, consistent with freedom of expression, to present non-stereotyped images of older persons;

⁴ See paragraph 191 above.

7. *Welcomes* the initiatives and activities relating to older persons undertaken by members and associate members, the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, as well as other members of civil society and the media, to generate greater awareness, networking, and policy and programme development for older persons and to support regional and national efforts in observance of the Year;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To provide full support and assistance to members and associate members in the immediate implementation of the Plan of Action, including the provision of technical assistance, in the establishment of specific time-bound national goals, targets and policies on ageing and the coordination of regional and subregional activities;

(b) To report to the Commission in 2000 on the observance of the Year and on progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action 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;

(c) To report to the Commission, on a regular five-year basis, on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Plan of Action;

(d) To continue to provide support and technical assistance to members and associate members, as well as other actors, in the commemoration of the Year, bearing in mind its goals and objectives, and to consider the means of enhancing national and regional initiatives for older persons;

(e) To continue to facilitate the exchange of national experience and information and to collect, analyse and disseminate data, publications and other materials concerning older persons, including the utilization of the Internet, electronic facilities and other means, within existing and available resources.

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