ASIAN POPULATION STUDIES SERIES
NO.115

# Report of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference

**19-27 August 1992**
**Bali, Indonesia**



A X(5-012):312
Uni
1992 No.115

UNITED NATIONS NATION UNIES

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ST/ESCAP/1198

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# Contents


| | | Page |
|---|---|---|
| **Report of Meeting of Senior Officials** | | |
| I. | Organization | 1 |
| II. | Demographic situation and outlook | 6 |
| III. | Population, environment and development | 8 |
| IV. | Metropolitan growth and urbanization and their implications | 11 |
| V. | Developing more effective family planning/family health and welfare programmes | 14 |
| VI. | Policies and programmes for fully involving women in the development process | 17 |
| VII. | Human resources development and poverty alleviation issues | 20 |
| | A. Population and human resources development | 20 |
| | B. Population and poverty alleviation | 23 |
| VIII. | Internal and international migration and their implications for socio-economic development policy | 25 |
| IX. | Mortality and fertility transitions in Asia and the Pacific and their consequences | 27 |
| X. | Population ageing and its economic and social implications | 30 |
| XI. | Population data and information issues | 32 |
| XII. | Policy formulation and implementation issues | 35 |
| XIII. | Other matters | 38 |
| XIV | Adoption of the report | 38 |
| **Report of the Meeting of Ministers** | | |
| I. | Organization | 39 |
| II. | Review of policy formulation and implementation issues | 43 |
| III. | Adoption of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development | 47 |
| IV. | Other matters | 47 |
| V. | Adoption of the report | 47 |
| **Annex: The Bali Declaration** | | 48 |

# Report of the Meeting of Senior Officials

## I. Organization

1. The Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference was held in Bali, Indonesia from 19 to 27 August 1992. It was organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The host facilities were generously provided by the Government of Indonesia.

2. In its resolution 74(XXIII) of 17 April 1967 on regional cooperation in the field of population, the Commission decided "to establish the Asian Population Conference as a statutory organ of the Commission, to be convened every ten years synchronizing with the decennial population and related censuses, for the consideration of all aspects of population questions and of their impact on economic and social development". The Committee on Population at its second session, held in December 1978, recommended to the Commission that it should thereafter be referred to as the Asian and Pacific Population Conference. The Commission, at its thirty-fifth session, held in March 1979, endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on Population. The Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference was held in compliance with these decisions.

### Purpose of the Conference

3. The Conference was convened to provide a forum at which the Governments of countries and areas of the Asian and Pacific region would review and appraise population trends and policies in the region. The Conference would also enable those Governments to obtain a clearer picture of the strategic value of formulating multidisciplinary policies and programmes, the need to integrate research and evaluation into programme planning and implementation, and the role of population data and information in the formulation of policies and the implementation of programmes. Furthermore, the Conference would draw attention to the major contributions that regional cooperation and mutual efforts, including exchange of information and experience, could make to national development planning, particularly in the field of population. Therefore, the theme chosen for the Conference was "Population and sustainable development: goals and strategies into the twenty-first century".

## Participation

4. The Meeting of Senior Officials of the Conference, held from 19 to 24 August 1992, was attended by the following members and associate members of the Commission: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

5. Representatives of the Holy See, Sweden and Syrian Arab Republic also participated.

6. Representatives of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development, and the Economic Commission for Africa attended in a consultative capacity.

7. Representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labour Organisation, the Food Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the World Health Organization attended as observers.

8. One intergovernmental organization was represented: the International Organization for Migration. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: International Alliance of Women, International Planned Parenthood Federation, International Council on Management of Population Programmes, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, Population Council, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, Worldview International Foundation, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception, Centre for Development Studies, Family Health International, Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, Johns Hopkins University, Population Communications International, Population Institute, South Pacific Alliance for Family Health, Tribhuvan University and Unniti Foundation.

## Inauguration of the Meeting of Senior Officials

**9.** His Excellency, the Minister of State for Population and Environment, Mr Emil Salim, inaugurated the Meeting of Senior Officials on 19 August 1992. In his address, he emphasized the importance of the Conference and noted that the Asian and Pacific region was home to the majority of the world's population. The region possessed one of the world's oldest civilizations and had experienced the most rapid rates of change in all aspects and dimensions of life. The population problems of the region had national as well as global ramifications; population policies should therefore also refer to the global constellation of population problems. He stressed that the adoption of a participatory approach to cover the broadest possible range of issues would be most appropriate for reconciling population concerns, environment factors and development objectives.

10. The Meeting of Senior Officials was addressed by the Secretary-General of the International Conference for Population and Development to be held in 1994 and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), who noted that the Asian and Pacific region had consistently led the way in incorporating population factors in development planning, adopting population policies, and implementing national family planning programmes. Governments in the region had been the first to recognize the policy implications of the association between population and the environment. She cautioned, however, that the persistence of poverty would remain the single most important policy issue in the region, and the key to many other issues such as population growth, social underdevelopment, economic stagnation and environmental deterioration. She emphasized the need to improve women's status to reduce maternal mortality and improve reproductive health and to facilitate reproductive choice. She also elaborated on the policy agenda for the future, observing that, since the Asian and Pacific Population Conferences had come to symbolize leadership in the field of population and development, the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference would no doubt be equally significant in that regard.

11. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP observed that there had been a revolution in thinking about population issues and many achievements to be proud of since the first Asian Population Conference, held at New Delhi in 1963. Many Governments in the region had taken

determined action to attain their goals by launching ambitious population programmes. As a result of those initiatives, the average population growth rate for Asia and Pacific was currently only a little over 1.7 per cent per year, which was more than 30 per cent lower than the rate in the early 1960s. She noted the lower fertility and mortality rates in the region and drew the attention of the meeting to the importance of metropolitan growth and urbanization, observing that by the year 2000 the region would have more than a hundred "million-plus" cities, compared with only 25 such cities in 1950. She also emphasized the continuing importance of family planning and family welfare programmes, and observed that there was a need for policies aimed at fully involving women in the development process, improving human resources development and alleviating poverty. She noted that ESCAP was reorienting its programme to give increased focus to poverty alleviation. She also noted that ageing would be an important issue in the future and Governments would need to take measures to become more self-reliant in creating and using their own knowledge bases. She assured the meeting that the secretariat stood ready to fulfil the mandates that would emerge from the Conference and would continue to assist Governments as they strove to attain their population and development goals.

## Organization of the Meeting of Senior Officials

12. Mr M. Alwi Dahlan, Assistant Minister of State for Population, State Ministry of Population and Environment, Government of Indonesia, was elected Chairperson of the Meeting. In his statement, he emphasized the need for the Meeting to make strategic recommendations for the consideration of the Meeting of Ministers on 26 and 27 August 1992. Noting that the Conference would be the last such regional meeting of the century, he said that the Conference would have to anticipate the future, formulate model development strategies that would be able to support future generations, and explore new concepts beyond the traditional area of population. The following were elected Vice-Chairpersons: Mr Mahbub Ahmad, Additional Secretary-in-Charge, Ministry of Population Welfare, Pakistan; Mr Shigemi Kono, Director-General, Institute of Population Problems, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Japan; and Mr Fuimaono Poloma, Secretary, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications, Samoa.

13. Dr Raj Karim, Director-General, National Population and Family Development Board, Malaysia, was elected Rapporteur.

14. The Meeting also appointed an open working group to facilitate the drafting of a possible declaration on population and sustainable development for the consideration of the aforementioned Meeting of Ministers.

## Agenda

15. The Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Demographic situation and outlook.
5. Population, environment and development.
6. Metropolitan growth and urbanization, and their implications.
7. Developing more effective family planning/family health and welfare programmes.
8. Policies and programmes for fully involving women in the development process.
9. Human resources development and poverty alleviation issues:
   (a) Population and human resources development;
   (b) Population and poverty alleviation.
10. Internal and international migration and its implications for socio-economic development policies.
11. Mortality and fertility transitions in Asia and the Pacific and their consequences.
12. Population ageing and its economic and social implications.
13. Population data and information issues.
14. Policy formulation and implementation issues.
15. Other matters.
16. Adoption of the report.
17. Closing of the Meeting.

# II. Demographic situation and outlook

16. The Conference had before it document E/ESCAP/POP/SFAP/1 on the demographic situation and outlook in the region. It highlighted the status of the countries of the region in relation to the population growth targets and goals set out in the Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development, adopted by the Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held at Colombo in 1982.

17. The Call for Action ESCAP members and associate members to reduce birth rates and death rates as early as possible and to attain replacement level fertility by the end of the century. However, the current United Nations medium-variant projections indicated that the majority of ESCAP countries would not attain replacement fertility before 2015. Mongolia and most countries in South Asia were expected to achieve replacement fertility only after 2025.

18. The Call for Action enjoined countries in which mortality remained high to attain a minimum of 55 years of life expectancy at birth and an infant mortality rate of less than 100 per thousand live births by the end of the 1980s. The Conference expressed concern that, according to World Population Prospects 1990,[1/] by the beginning of the 1990s seven countries were still short of the goal of increased life expectancy. However, most countries, except for Cambodia and a few in South Asia, had attained the target infant mortality rate and the others might do so in the foreseeable future.

19. The Conference recognized that much of the urban growth in the region had occurred spontaneously or as an unanticipated effect of economic development policies. As a consequence, the urban population in Asia was disproportionately concentrated in the largest cities, frequently in "mega-cities" with populations exceeding eight million.

During the 1990s, four fifths of population growth in the region would occur in urban areas. Soon after 2010 the absolute size of the rural population would start to diminish. Most rural-urban migration in countries of the region did not consist of a single, permanent move to an urban area, but involved repeated, seasonal, or circular migration.

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.XIII.4.

20. The Conference observed that ongoing fertility trends portended the virtual convergence on the two-child family norm in all ESCAP subregions. The "reproductive revolution" could be expected to run its course as the influence of social and economic conditions became less and less favourable for large families. Among urban communities there would probably be a significant expansion in the number of one-child families, and of permanent childlessness resulting from smaller proportions of women marrying and an increasing preference among some couples to remain childless. However, in those countries with large proportions of farming families, some couples would want to have at least three children. None the less, with increasing urbanization, that desire would probably decline in importance at the national level.

21. Some important uncertainties remained, particularly the timing of the convergence on the two-child family norm. This uncertainty was perhaps greatest for those countries that had decreased their fertility through strong incentives as well as disincentives.

22. There were also uncertainties relating to mortality. During the past few decades, mortality had either declined very slowly or stagnated. Further increments in life expectancy in the region would be hindered by the rapid spread of the acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome (AIDS) in certain countries of the region. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that large numbers of people in some countries of the region had been infected with the human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV). Those numbers could easily triple by the year 2000. While corresponding rates in other Asian and Pacific countries were as yet relatively low, the Conference foresaw that the disease could expand swiftly in view of the lack of appropriate information and education, and the current inadequacy of health services for coping with the AIDS pandemic.

23. The Conference expressed concern that morbidity and mortality rates could also increase in the face of rapid environmental degradation. Environmental problems of various kinds, such as soil erosion, salinization and waterlogging of irrigated land, air and water pollution, flooding, acid rain and increased ultraviolet radiation, were leading to increased risks to health and serious cut-backs in food production at a time when population growth continued.

24. The Conference considered other population issues. Although many countries had experienced significant fertility declines, there were tremendous intra-country variations in fertility levels, a situation that required attention. Another issue concerned the timing of marriage and child-bearing, because that had played a critical role in the demographic situation of countries and could not be ignored. The proportion of women under 20 years of age bearing children had increased markedly. Another issue was the age structure of countries in which the demographic transition was nearing completion; it was changing rapidly from that of a young-age structure to a middle-age structure. Referring to the preliminary results of the 1990 round of population censuses, the Conference noted that there was an increasing number of single-parent families and single persons in the population. The relationship between maternal mortality and high fertility remained an important and urgent concern. The tremendous rise in abortions, even in countries in which abortion was illegal, indicated that family planning programmes were failing to address the problem of difficult-to-reach disadvantaged women who needed contraceptive services but were not getting them. The Conference recognized that there was great diversity among countries in terms of the manner and pace in which demographic goals were being achieved. Merely subscribing to demographic goals was no guarantee that they would be achieved; countries would have to undertake sustained efforts to realize such goals. It also noted that the primacy of metropolitan area growth was still very much a phenomenon of the region's urbanization process.

# III. Population, environment and development

25. The Conference had before it document E/ESCAP/POP/SFAP/2 on population, environment and development. It reviewed the current understanding of the interrelationships between population, environment and development. There was an increasing recognition that those inter-relationships were complex, and that an understanding of those inter-relationships was important for achieving sustainable development. However, that understanding was in a nascent state, consisting either of simplistic notions about population size putting pressure on the

environment and on development, or of logically derived abstract models not substantiated by empirical evidence.

26. At the current level of understanding there was a tendency towards confusion and non-action at the policy and programme levels. There was also a lack of consensus among the countries about the modalities for attaining sustainable development. That lack of agreement jeopardized development cooperation.

27. The reasons for the gaps in understanding were: (a) an inability of various disciplines to expand to multi-disciplinary analytical frameworks, and (b) inadequacy in the planning cells of various government departments, including ministries of planning, as a result of overall employment training and incentive policies that tended to constrain creativity, continuity and dedication.

28. The Conference recognized the need for a well-coordinated and massive effort to improve the understanding of the aforementioned interrelationships and to ensure that the formulation of integrated policies, strategies and action plans for sustainable development would be based on such understanding. Specifically, it emphasized the need for: (a) creating an information base at the national, regional and global levels to meet the need for comprehensive and yet simplified analytical models, (b) establishing expert groups or task forces to develop such databases and formulate appropriate empirical planning models, (c) carrying out country-specific case studies to demonstrate what environmentally sound and sustainable development strategies meant in real terms within a given ecosystem, and (d) obtaining adequate resources for all of the above.

29. The Conference commended the secretariat on addressing the complex issue of the interrelationships between population, environment and development, and recommended that it should structure further research around areas already agreed on at various international forums. The Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development should include UNFPA as a member. The coordinating mechanism initiated by ESCAP through that Committee should be expanded and strengthened and the Committee should focus on population concerns.

30. The Conference noted that understanding the interdependence between people, their development activities and the environment was of

crucial importance. While recognizing the right of men and women alike to determine the size of the family, the right to further the interests of the communities to which they belong and other rights and taking into account the intensive debate on the nature of the interaction between population, environment and development, the Conference emphasized the need for undertaking action, guided by available knowledge and information, without undue concern about erring. It also emphasized the need for wider participation in efforts to improve understanding of the issues and ensure popular support for informed policies and programmes.

31. The Conference noted that in many countries high population growth and density had caused various environmental problems, such as land degradation, deforestation, air and water pollution, threats to biological diversity from habitat destruction and rising sea-level due to the so-called greenhouse effect. In some countries, the extension of human settlements into marginal and vulnerable areas, especially along rivers and sea-coasts, had led to colossal losses of life when natural calamities occurred. The Conference expressed concern about population size in relation to resources, as well as the economic difficulties faced in adopting high-technology measures for pollution control.

32. The Conference also expressed concern about the deterioration of environmental quality resulting from the recent rapid economic development in some countries. The following serious problems were noted: continuing depletion and degradation of vital natural resources, the persistence of poverty among the rural population and a growing rural-urban income gap, increasing and competing demands for land, water and forests by the non-agricultural sectors and growing urban population, and deteriorating environmental quality owing to unregulated industrial and urban growth.

33. To overcome those problems, the development plans formulated in several countries included the following measures: enforcing the Polluter Pays Principle, and improving environmental organization, administration and management, as well as appropriate laws and effective law enforcement.

# IV. Metropolitan growth and urbanization and their implications

34. The Conference had before it document E/ESCAP/POP/SFAP/3 on metropolitan growth and urbanization and their implications, and the report of the Pre-conference Seminar on Migration and Urbanization: Interrelationships with Socio-economic Development and Evolving Policy Issues, which was held at Seoul in 1992.

35. In reviewing the situation in the region and assessing the prospects for the future, the Conference drew attention to various emerging issues relating to urbanization and metropolitan growth; it indicated the policies and strategies pursued by Governments, noting the successes and shortcomings of those policies and strategies.

36. The pace of urbanization had continued during the past decade; the urban population of the ESCAP region had increased to more than 1 billion, or over 32 per cent of the region's total population. There were wide disparities between countries and the pace of metropolitanization was accelerating in many of them. In 1950 there had been only 25 million-plus cities in the region, but by the year 2000 the number would be 105. In most countries, large cities would grow faster than small ones. The share of such cities as a percentage of the total urban population was expected to increase from over 26 per cent in 1950 to over 31 per cent in 2000.

37. The Conference noted that the macro picture of the region did not reveal the great diversity in the level and pattern of urbanization, and therefore generalizations should be made with caution. Nevertheless, the region did have some common features that deserved attention and action.

38. In countries which were predominately rural, the problem of the severe strain on the urban infrastructure and environment caused by rural-urban migration would have to be tackled with appropriate measures.

39. Very often a negative view of urbanization had been taken, and its positive role in generating economic growth and social change had been overlooked. A positive view would look beyond the cities and metropolitan areas and consider the relationship between rural development and urbanization in terms of not only slowing down the tempo of migration to

the cities, but also reducing the rural-urban disparities in the standard of living. The social costs of urbanization and environmental protection should also be taken into account.

40. The Conference observed that, in several countries of the region, social welfare policies, such as free medical services, free education and a range of consumer subsidies, including subsidized transport, had played an important role in reducing rural-urban disparities, resulting in a slower pace of urbanization.

41. In the larger countries of the region, urbanization strategies were directed at speeding up overall economic growth and modernization, protection of the ecosystem and the balanced development of subnational areas.

42. In the recent past several countries had introduced economic liberalization policies, which had implications for the future pattern of metropolitan growth and urbanization. When cities were open to foreign investment, metropolitan growth would likely be influenced by international forces.

43. High technology communication networks and transport would also have an impact on the pattern of metropolitanization in the future. Such developments might help to decentralize urban growth. On the other hand, the use of high technology could result in increasing concentrations in metropolitan areas.

44. In view of the diversity of the demographic situation of the countries of the region, in particular the absolute size of the total population as well as the urban population of smaller countries, especially the island countries, mechanical specification of city size and adherence to cut-off points were unrealistic. The primacy of cities in the overall urban context and not the absolute size of the city would be more relevant.

45. For most countries in the region, importance must be given to the basic needs of the urban poor, who were largely an extension of the rural poor. Measures for alleviating poverty would have to be adequately considered in discussions of urbanization strategies. In several countries, the slum population constituted a very disturbing proportion of the population of metropolitan cities, a situation that highlighted the need for effective programmes for poverty alleviation in slum areas.

46. The Conference noted with concern that the growing threat to the environment and urban infrastructure posed not only by rural-urban migration but also by the high rate of natural increase in the urban population required effective monitoring of trends and family planning strategies which took into account the impact of population.

47. A comparatively new phenomenon in an increasing number of countries of that region was the growing quantum of female migration, including migration of single women. A better understanding of the demographic, economic and social implications of such migration was needed.

48. The management of metropolitan cities was another important issue that deserved high priority. In several countries, the rate of growth of large cities had slowed down. Small cities were suffering from stagnation and obsolescence while medium-size cities were growing rapidly. To achieve balanced urbanization, keeping in mind the objective of reducing rural-urban disparities and regional disparities within countries as well as the need to protect the environment, innovative and specific strategies for improved management of metropolitan cities would need to be formulated.

49. Growing environmental degradation posed two sets of problems: environmental problems in existing metropolitan cities, in particular, problems related to slums, substandard living arrangements and unhygienic sanitation; and the need to ensure that future urbanization strategies would not permit the continuation of unhealthful trends.

50. A narrow demographic view of the process of metropolitanization would prevent Governments from visualizing the whole range of economic, social and political forces that influenced the pattern of urbanization. Therefore, realistic strategies for balanced urban development should take a holistic view of those forces.

51. The Conference took note of recent United Nations projections on urban population that showed that the world would become urban in the early decades of the twenty-first century. Most of the developing countries in the ESCAP region would join the ranks of "urban countries" within a few decades. Planners and policy makers would therefore have to prepare themselves to face the challenges of urbanization, which would be a major demographic issue and would require appropriate population, environment and development policies.

# V. Developing more effective family planning/ family health and welfare programmes

52. The Conference had before it document E/ESCAP/POP/SFAP/4 on developing strong family planning programmes in the 1990s and the twenty-first century. The document reviewed the achievements and shortcomings of the family planning programmes of countries and areas in the Asian and Pacific region, and considered strategies for their future direction.

53. The Conference noted that family planning programmes had played an extremely important role in reducing population growth rates in several large Asian countries, particularly in China, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, as well as in several smaller countries. Nevertheless, rapid population growth remained a central policy concern of several countries in the Asian and Pacific region. The implementation of successful programmes had failed owing largely to country-specific social, economic and political factors. Small island countries had special difficulties in formulating and implementing programmes.

54. Sustained and successful family planning programmes, required: (a) strong political commitment and public support, (b) well-coordinated national strategies and programmes, (c) availability of adequate resources and an effective distribution system, (d) involvement and participation of men as well as women, (e) strong emphasis on the quality of services, (f) effective family planning and maternal and child health (FP/MCH) programmes and services; (g) community awareness and participation at all levels in the formulation and implementation of programmes, and (h) national and international cooperation.

55. In most countries, family planning programmes had traditionally been implemented through approaches to individual couples. Although that strategy had proved successful in several East and South-East Asian countries and areas, it had very limited impact in the large and predominantly rural countries of South Asia. A different and potentially more beneficial approach would be through the implementation of community-based family planning programmes, which could take account of local conditions and sensitivities. In some countries, without a societal

change in attitudes towards family size, widespread acceptance of family planning was unlikely. Changes in attitudes were much more likely if family planning was accepted and promoted by local community leaders. Because family planning was a private matter, it might be necessary to conceptualize family planning in a context broader than simply the provision of birth control, to highlight its relevance to communal life. Ideally family planning services should be provided as part of an integrated package of health, education and welfare services and other development measures.

56. In countries that had achieved their target fertility levels, the emphasis of population policy had shifted away from concerns related to population growth to issues of human resources development and the quality of life, particularly for the underprivileged groups. Population policy was also giving added recognition to planned parenthood as a means of improving the quality of life. In particular, there was concern that the position of women should be improved, to protect the integrity of the family unit and to alleviate extreme poverty.

57. The Conference emphasized that new family planning programme initiatives were needed for the 1990s and beyond to take account of two quite different circumstances: first, high population growth rates persisted in some countries, and current programme strategies had made only limited progress, and second, in countries that had succeeded in lowering their rate of population growth, there was a need to reorient programme strategies.

58. While strategies to target individual couples would still play a vital role in family planning programmes, community-oriented approaches should also be encouraged in the poorer developing countries where continued rapid population growth exacerbated many other endemic problems. In such countries, there was a need to motivate couples to adopt family planning and birth spacing, and to provide a regular service of voluntary, safe and acceptable contraceptive methods. Couples and individuals should have the right to decide what method of contraception to use. Awareness drives and community campaigns could help to create a better understanding of the benefits of small families and thereby increase motivation for family planning.

59. The Conference urged that proper emphasis should be placed on the benefit of child-spacing, particularly among younger women, and that it was necessary to ensure that birth-spacing contraceptive methods were always

available and offered. The provision of services to young people needed to be improved to eliminate resort to abortions, and to minimize the incidence of illegitimate and unwanted births.

60. The Conference further urged that new innovative programmes should be developed to reach young working women, particularly at their work-places. Special efforts were needed to establish services for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Fresh attempts should also be made to involve men by strengthening information, education and communication (IEC) programmes and improving the availability of "male" methods through more vigorous research. In each of these areas there was potential to gain from the experiences of non-government organizations (NGOs). The NGOs should continue to work with Governments and encourage wider application of innovative approaches and methods. Regular exchanges of ideas and experience between Governments and NGOs should be encouraged in order to improve the range, quality and effectiveness of available services.

61. The Conference recognized that improved primary health care, MCH and family planning services would result in lowering the marked disparities in infant and maternal mortality. Sustained efforts, particularly IEC campaigns, were required to ensure an acceptable standard of reproductive health, and to enable all couples and individuals to control their reproduction, enjoy a healthy and safe sexual life without the fear of contracting HIV/AIDS, and ensure the survival of infants and children as well as the safety of mothers' during pregnancy and delivery and after delivery.

62. The Conference recommended that training for FP/MCH workers at all levels should be strengthened and training materials and methodology improved. Further efforts were required to strengthen the existing system of management information systems (MIS) for monitoring and evaluating family planning programme performance. Research on fertility, family planning, health and other demographic issues was crucial for keeping policy makers and planners informed about current and prospective population trends.

63. The Conference had before it document E/ESCAP/POP/SFAP/5 on policies and programmes for fully involving women in the development process.

# VI. Policies and programmes for fully involving women in the development process

64. The Conference recognized that women's status affected their demographic behaviour and the achievement of population goals and that those in turn had an impact on the improvement of women's status and their participation in the development process. Women's status, as reflected in their legal rights, age at marriage, education, health, employment, position in the household and family decision-making power affected demographic variables such as fertility, life expectancy and infant and maternal mortality. Rapid population growth placed a tremendous burden on a country's material resources and services. Under the increasing competition for scarce resources and services associated with population growth, women, who were already disadvantaged, might suffer even greater disparities and lower status.

65. Although women had made significant advances in some countries, overall progress had been modest. Their combined reproductive and productive roles continued to consign them to subordinate positions in all spheres of development. Despite this situation, the Conference recognized the important role played by women in sustainable development and family welfare, and urged that policies be formulated to ensure distributive justice in targeting women, equally with men, as participants in, and beneficiaries of, development. In view of the multiple roles of women and the fact that their needs were not always the same as those of men, development planning should take into account the needs, role and status of women.

66. The Conference noted with concern that women's share in formal employment was much smaller than that of men in most countries of the region. Moreover, women had yet to be integrated into all occupations and sectors and to obtain conditions of work comparable with those of men. Women were often paid less than men for the same work. Women's responsibilities in the household made it difficult for them to work in the formal economy. The Conference felt that men and women should be encouraged to share household responsibilities, and attention should be given to improving the employment and earnings of women in the formal economy.

67. The Conference observed that women's employment was likely to reduce the current rates of fertility and mortality in the region. Employment would also enable women to become more independent, respected and self-sufficient members of society. Women working in the modern sector tended to marry later and have smaller families than women doing domestic and agricultural work. It had been shown that the resulting higher income improved children's survival rates, as women tended to spend a relatively high proportion of their income on food and basic needs for their children. Moreover, as women's earnings improved, it could be expected that their aspirations would expand, and the opportunity cost of bearing and caring for children would rise, and dependence on children for support would lessen.

68. The Conference observed that poverty was closely linked to rapid population growth and that those issues needed to be tackled together. Poverty among women, a product of their low status, played a major role in their reproductive behaviour. Poverty alleviation was, therefore, an important factor in the achievement of population goals and policies.

69. It observed with concern that malnutrition was far more prevalent among females than males in a number of countries in the region owing to gender discrimination in the allocation of food as well as health care and education. In many countries, a strong preference for male children diminished the "value" of females, even to their own mothers. The poor nutritional status of women was also due to the practice of feeding men and boys before women and girls, and serving nutritious food to male members of the family rather than females.

70. Females in the ESCAP region were at a disadvantage in education as measured by either years of schooling or enrolment rates. In many countries in the region, particularly in South Asia, girls worked for many hours each day: they assisted their mothers in tending siblings, collecting water and firewood, weeding and watering the fields, or selling wares in the market-place. The physical demands of child-bearing and child care made it more difficult for women and girls to seek education and training away from the home, particularly if child-bearing began in their teenage years. As a result, women's productivity was depressed well below potential levels. The Conference emphasized the need for opportunities to be given for girls to remain in school.

71. It recognized that women's health was closely related to their status. High rates of maternal mortality and morbidity were common where women were socially, economically or politically disadvantaged. The Conference was informed that the highest number of maternal deaths occurred in Asia, especially in South Asia. High maternal mortality to some extent was related to high fertility and availability of FP/MCH services.

72. The Conference was also informed that women of the region were vulnerable to AIDS or HIV infection because of their subordinate position in the family and society. Their low status restricted women's ability to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases and hindered their access to health care and other services.

73. The Conference urged that population programmes and policies should aim to advance the status of women. Currently, most family planning acceptors in the region were women because contraception was considered a responsibility of women. It was important that better family planning methods for men be developed and greater efforts be undertaken to encourage men to favour family planning and join in contraceptive use decision-making. Women's choice of contraceptive methods was strongly influenced by many factors over which women had little control, such as national population policies, international contraceptive-aid policies, cultural taboos, the dominant role of men in family decision-making, and the economics of the production and distribution of contraceptives.

74. The Conference expressed concern that women's legal status in the countries of the region was not equal to that of men, because discriminatory legislative provisions in the social, economic and political spheres prevailed. In some countries, although progress had been made to ensure the gender neutrality of legislation, neutral implementation and enforcement of such legislation was still lacking. Regarding family laws and practices, women needed to move away from traditions of early marriage and to have and exercise the right to marry according to the exercise of their own free will. Giving women rights over property and inheritance, and abolishing such cultural practices as dowries, preferential treatment of sons, and double standards in marital infidelity would contribute to raising women's status and reducing and eliminating practices resulting in higher than normal sex ratio disparities.

75. Many countries of the region had formulated policies and programmes for women or had established government units to promote women's role and status. Nevertheless, the Conference urged that measures should be taken to raise the policy makers' and planners' awareness" of the important contributions of women in all spheres of activity. Gender-based analysis and a better understanding of women's roles were necessary for the adoption of an effective development plan that incorporated gender concerns.

# VII. Human resources development and poverty alleviation issues

## (A) Population and human resources development

76. The Conference had before it document E/ESCAP/POP/SFAP/6 on population and human resources development.

77. It recognized that the implications of demographic change for human resources development were more complex than the mere effect of the increase in population on demand for employment, education, health and other services. Reduction in infant mortality, for example, could help to lower health-care costs, thus producing savings or freeing funds for other human capital investments. When such a reduction was brought about by improved birth-spacing, a human capital benefit manifested itself in the form of an increase in the number of surviving, better nourished children, who also performed better in school.

78. Human resources development in the region had been intimately tied to population dynamics. The Asian and Pacific region had recently undergone a dramatic demographic revolution that paralleled its spectacular economic growth. In East Asia and much of South-East Asia, population growth rates had decline very rapidly in the past quarter century. That trend had important implications for intensifying human capital development. During the later stages of the demographic transition, the labour force would continue to grow for some decades after fertility declined, causing the aggregate labour force participation rate to rise. Those events would contribute to development by enabling per capita income to rise as

workers constituted a larger share of the population. Part of that effect would come from a favourable change in the age distribution, and part from the rise in the participation of married women in labour markets as their time devoted to child-bearing declined. In addition, households and countries would be likely to find it easier to set aside resources for accumulation when the "dependency burden" declined.

79. Despite the burden of rapid population growth which constantly increased the size of the target population, in recent decades Asian countries had made considerable progress in expanding educational systems to cover the population more effectively. However, some countries had lagged behind and many had failed to reach the UNESCO Karachi Plan target of universal primary school education by the year 1980. More could have been achieved in many countries if population had not been growing so rapidly.

80. The Conference stressed that rapid population growth was not an insuperable obstacle to achieving higher levels of education among the population, provided that Governments gave high priority to educational expenditure. However, military budgets and a wide range of other competing claims on government funds significantly retarded progress in reaching the goals of a highly educated and healthy population. One element of great concern was the poor quality of education and health services in less developed countries of Asia, where quantitative expansion often disguised declines or continuing serious shortfalls in quality. The effects of poverty could not readily be disentangled from those of rapid population growth in explaining continued deficiencies in school systems; it was precisely in the poorest countries that the demographic obstacle to the expansion and upgrading of school systems tended to be the most severe.

81. Delays in achieving universal primary education, or in improving the quality of primary education, especially in rural areas, owing to rapid population growth, might be a factor reinforcing inequality in society. That might be especially so with regard to access to better-paying jobs for which education served as a screening device. Even a Government that tried to channel its limited resources for human resources development to poor and disadvantaged groups might well favour the politically more visible urban poor, and therefore underinvest in rural education.

82. Female education was particularly important for speeding up the process of economic growth and improving human capital. Female education was important in lowering infant mortality, increasing the quality of child-bearing, increasing the likelihood that women would work outside the home, and increasing the use of family planning and hastening fertility decline. Countries that failed to achieve high levels of female education were seriously damaging their prospects for economic and social development.

83. Demographic factors were very important in the growth of the labour force. In many countries that growth was primarily derived from the ever-increasing size of younger cohorts. A decline in fertility would lead to a slackening of entrants to the labour force after around a 15-year lag. That would not have an immediate impact on the overall growth of the labour force, but it would greatly affect its age structure.

84. The Conference was informed that the educational composition of the labour force had been changing sharply in most Asian countries. Where education had been expanding over time, there would be major differences in the educational level and literacy of the younger groups within the labour force compared with that of older workers. In most Asian countries, the history of educational expansion was such that the better-educated workers were heavily concentrated among the younger age groups and uneducated workers among the older age groups. That had important implications for human resources planning, given the relative immobility of older workers and the particular difficulty of retraining uneducated workers that were already in middle age.

85. Apart from nutritional, social and economic factors, the Conference felt that demographic factors had considerable implications for health. Rapid population growth and its consequences on the size, age and sex composition and geographic distribution of the population would impinge on the availability of health services. The size of the population in relation to available food supply, shelter and resources determined the degree to which a society could meet basic needs, which in turn determined health. The age and sex composition of a population also influenced the overall incidence of sickness, the specific types of health problems and demand for specific health services. At the household level, reproductive factors such

as parity and birth interval were related to health, especially of the mother. High parity, implying more births at an older age and at closer intervals, could adversely affect the health of the children of the household by prematurely interrupting breast-feeding, reducing food supplementation and child-care time. Close birth intervals could also compromise maternal nutritional status during pregnancy.

86. High mortality and morbidity levels had unequivocally serious welfare implications, by shortening the life-span, detracting from people's enjoyment of life and reducing labour productivity. Efforts to reduce mortality levels would make a major contribution to human resources development, but also would lead to faster population growth, which posed problems for human resources development. The way out of this dilemma was to combine efforts to improve health and lower mortality with efforts to lower fertility, so that a balance could be established at low rates of population growth.

### (B) Population and poverty alleviation

87. The Conference had before it document E/ESCAP/POP/SFAP/7 on population and poverty alleviation.

88. The Conference recognized the close interconnectedness between the issues of population growth, poverty alleviation and human resources development. Policies and programmes for alleviating poverty, reducing fertility and population growth, and promoting human resources development should be harmonized with those aimed at the attainment of sustainable development.

89. The Conference noted the measures that had been taken and the progress that had been made in the region to reduce population growth and alleviate poverty. However, the number of people living below the poverty line had increased in several countries, especially where fertility and population growth rates remained high or had not declined significantly. It noted with concern the persistence of the vicious cycle of large family size, poverty and environmental degradation. Political will and commitment were crucial for the planning and implementation of integrated programmes and strategies to resolve those problems.

90. A comprehensive plan was required to address that set of problems. Such a plan should include measures to augment domestic human capital, guaranteeing every person equitable access to minimum basic social services, and to expand productive economic opportunities for the poor and disadvantaged.

91. Public policies directed towards enabling the poor to meet their basic needs were essential for ensuring a sustained decline in fertility rates and the stabilization of population growth rates at low levels. Those policies should give priority to programmes such as the delivery of primary education, basic health care services, family planning, housing, nutrition, water and energy resources.

92. Policies were needed that involved a long-term commitment to improving living conditions and augmenting of human capital among the poor so that the poor could take advantage of opportunities for productive income-earning that were created by the process of economic growth.

93. Existing family planning programmes needed to take into account the influence of behavioural, social and economic factors affecting the demand for children. Poverty alleviation strategies and employment generation programmes could then interact with, reinforce and heighten the relevance and effectiveness of family planning programmes.

94. The Conference urged that policies aimed at increasing the participation of the poor in economic development, making use of the most abundant asset of the poor (their labour), and reaching resource-poor areas should be given top priority.

95. Specific strategies were required that would aim at more equitable income distribution, providing some level of social security and resources for the poorest of the poor, who would otherwise be unable to respond to new opportunities.

96. Although the expansion of employment opportunities provided a major means of poverty alleviation, it was important to ensure that such expansion, especially in the informal sector, was accompanied by improvements in productivity levels, working conditions and living standards.

97. However, while providing economic opportunities for the poor, it was also necessary to pay special attention to their social needs including, among others, access to information and services relating in particular to FP/MCH, thus widening their choice and improving the health of women and children.

98. A number of countries in the region were undergoing rapid restructuring of their economies because of national and international factors that had ramifications in terms of income levels and income disparities, which needed to be understood more clearly. Furthermore, steps needed to be taken to minimize the adverse impacts those factors might have on the poor and the underprivileged.

99. Because the linkages between poverty alleviation and population factors were complex and not fully understood, more research on them was required.

# VIII. Internal and international migration and their implications for socio-economic development policy

100. The Conference had before it document E/ESCAP/POP/SFAP/8 on internal and international migration and their implications for socio-economic development, and the report of the Pre-conference Seminar on Migration and Urbanization: Interrelationships with Socio-economic Development and Evolving Policy Issues.

101. It recognized that the importance of population migration was in the following areas: (a) urban growth as a result of net rural-to-urban migration, (b) rural-to-rural movement in the case of the opening up of new agricultural land, where available, (c) movements of people among urban areas, and (d) movements from one country to another.

102. In referring to rural-to-urban migration, the Conference noted that urbanization was inevitable and consequently policies designed to restrict such movement were likely to be ineffectual. It recommended, therefore, that countries should strive for a balanced regional pattern of urbanization and plan to minimize the negative effects of urban growth.

103. Recognizing that freedom to move was considered a fundamental human right, the Conference observed that migration could lead to environmental problems. Those included the increasing population pressure on land in settlement areas, which could lead to severe deforestation and degradation of soils, and the increasing strain on infrastructure and services in urban areas.

104. Inter-urban migration was becoming significant in those countries of the region where development levels were highest and rural urban disparities were least. That situation could result in a deconcentration of urban populations once a certain level of development was attained, which would put pressure on new environments. Those flows clearly demonstrated the need to integrate population planning with the planning of transport and communication systems, road, rail and air, in overall development plans. For example, with modern transport systems long-distance commuting could substitute for migration.

105. Movements beyond national boundaries were becoming one of the most significant recent trends in the region that would promote profound change within countries. Those movements were mixing people of different backgrounds and cultures; they were diffusing new ideas throughout the region and, while stimulating development, were also creating stress within societies. Such movements were complex and encompassed migrants who ranged from families to contract labourers, students, highly skilled transients and asylum seekers.

106. Another significant trend was the movement of people to destinations within the ESCAP region, particularly to those countries and areas where the demographic transition had been completed, where there were acute labour shortages and where levels of development and wage structures were highest. There was a need for policy makers in the region to recognize those flows and to develop policies to monitor and protect the rights of the migrants in those flows.

107. Cities that were major financial, industrial, service and cultural centres, generated local and regional migration flows. Those population streams linked Asian and Pacific cities with urban centres in "core" developed countries. Hence, policy makers needed to consider regional perspectives in the formulation of policies, if those were to be effective. It

noted that those intraregional movements included increasing numbers of undocumented migrants; that situation required policies that catered for the interests of receiving countries, the interests of the sending countries and the interests of the migrants themselves.

108. Migration could have both positive and negative impacts. For example, intercountry flows of capital, or remittances from overseas workers, were important forces for change at local and national levels and were often seen to be positive for development. However, the exodus of male family members as overseas workers could cause seasonal and structural labour shortages in rural areas that could inhibit development. Hence, there were always costs and benefits to migration that policy makers needed to address in the design of effective policies, plans and programmes.

109. The Conference emphasized that women were migrating independently in increasing numbers both nationally and internationally. That phenomenon raised the important issue of their vulnerability to exploitation, particularly in the case of illegal international movements.

110. It further emphasized that there were weaknesses in many of the data sources for monitoring population movements. It stressed the need for intercountry cooperation in the exchange of information, and the development of consistent definitions of migration and migrants, to ensure that the countries of the region would have a comprehensive regional database on population mobility.

# IX. Mortality and fertility transitions in Asia and the Pacific and their consequences

111. The Conference had before it document E/ESCAP/POP/SFAP/9 on mortality and fertility transitions and their consequences in the region. In outlining fertility and mortality trends and their determinants, it observed that over the past 25 years substantial fertility declines had occurred in many Asian and Pacific countries and areas. However, there were sizeable variations in the timing of the onset of the fertility transitions and in the tempo and magnitude of intra- and inter- subregional changes. In East Asia, the fertility transition had been the most rapid, followed by that of

South-East Asia and the Pacific. By contrast, only limited fertility declines had occurred in parts of South Asia.

112. The main factors influencing rapid fertility decline in the ESCAP region were the increasing age at marriage, the education of women and the use of contraception within marriage. For countries to hasten fertility decline, their family planning and family welfare programmes should improve the status of women; lower infant, child and maternal mortality; promote better birth-spacing and breast-feeding practices; and improve the delivery of services by trained personnel and volunteers.

113. Similarly, during the last three decades, most countries of the region had experienced a steady decline in mortality and a rise in the expectation of life at birth.

114. The Conference expressed concern that, in some countries of the region, mortality rates, particularly those for infant and maternal mortality rates, were extremely high and life expectancy remained below 55 years. Even in countries where mortality had declined, there were subregional and subgroup variations in morbidity and mortality levels. Socio-economic conditions as well as the availability of and national investment in health care measures had an impact on morbidity, mortality and life expectancy.

115. The rapid decline in fertility and mortality had caught some countries unprepared for the consequent population age structure changes, which had a crucial impact on education systems, health care, labour force participation, ageing and other qualitative aspects of population development. Nevertheless, the gains from fertility decline would facilitate the development and improvement of the qualitative aspects of human resources as well as family and population development. Population and family planning/welfare policies and programmes should consider issues of population and sustainable development as well as focus on human development issues and future needs.

116. Changing patterns of disease and causes of death posed new challenges in many countries with regard to the provision of basic and specialized services delivered by trained personnel. The main challenges confronting most countries were: (a) a reduction in persistent inequalities in terms of access to good quality health services, (b) the management of chronic diseases, particularly measures for hastening the adaptation of

health care systems and their operation at an affordable cost, (c) the monitoring of infectious and parasitic diseases, and (d) the formulation of policies and the implementation of programmes to improve the quality of life.

117. The Conference emphasized the need for cooperation among members and associate members in the search for solutions to common problems that had emerged as a result of the demographic transition.

118. Several delegations expressed concern about the increasing number and proportion of single persons in the population and the postponement of marriage in some countries and recommended that policies concerned with the provision of incentives to encourage marriage and promote compatibility of women's employment with child-rearing should be considered and adopted. Those would include long parental leave from employment, improvement of child-care services and attitudinal changes regarding the stereotyping of male and female roles.

119. The Conference noted with concern that mortality and morbidity patterns were expected to change in the future in many countries owing to the increasing incidence and spread of the human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome (AIDS), which posed grave consequences for the health, well-being and productivity of national populations. Although the prevalence of HIV/AIDS was relatively low in Asian and Pacific countries, the Conference recognized that the disease could spread swiftly, affecting even seriously certain segments of the population in some countries of the region.

120. The Conference recognized the need to carry out more detailed studies on mortality and morbidity to gain a better understanding of the causes and differentials in mortality and morbidity trends and patterns through better quality data and improved vital registration and reporting systems. Those would facilitate policy formulation and the development of programmes for reducing morbidity and mortality levels, particularly among vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

# X. Population ageing and its economic and social implications

121. The Conference had before it document E/ESCAP/POP/SFAP/10 on the economic and social implications of population ageing in the region. It recognized that the World Assembly on Aging, held at Vienna in 1982, had drawn worldwide attention to the serious problems of population ageing in both developed and developing countries.

122. Asia would have more than 80 per cent of the elderly population in the developing world by the beginning of the twenty-first century. The level and pace of ageing, the social systems and stage of economic development, however, differed considerably across countries. Owing to the size of the elderly population and the growing proportion of the "old" (persons 75 or more years of age) in the population and the consequent lower level of economic development, ageing issues in developing countries were considered as having more serious social and economic implications than in the developed countries. The Conference recommended therefore that integral economic and social policies and programmes on ageing should be promoted, and advantage should be taken of the period prior to the onset of rapid population ageing to prepare for greater participation by the elderly in the national development process.

123. The Conference recognized that, while the proportion of the elderly remained low in many Asian and Pacific countries, the elderly were growing significantly in absolute numbers, a matter of concern in quite a few of them. It felt that, in the twenty-first century, more and more countries in the region would have an elderly (65+ years) population comprising at least 10 per cent of the total population and hence greater attention would have to be paid to population ageing in term of policies and programmes.

124. The Conference acknowledged that the trends and pattern in population movement had further added to the ageing of rural areas, as those who migrated to urban areas tended to be the young and able, leaving behind the elderly persons to attend to farming and other agricultural pursuits. That could have an adverse effect on agricultural production and thus would require policies and programmes to monitor

migration closely and redirect it by creating job opportunities and other incentives for the young to remain in rural areas. None the less, in some countries, there was a tendency for retired people to move away from urban to rural areas.

125. The Conference emphasized the need for policies and programmes to create awareness of the issues of ageing and provide the necessary incentives for families to continue providing support in the care and welfare of the elderly. In particular, there was a need to promote and instil moral and social values and to educate the young about the importance of caring for elderly relatives, in view of the fact that with industrialization, urbanization and rising education, children were becoming separated from their elderly parents as a result of increased rural-urban and international migration.

126. The Conference further recognized the need for, and importance of, community support, which should be strengthened through the formation of voluntary and mutual aid organizations. A comprehensive package of policies, programmes and incentives should be prepared to encourage communities to provide the necessary services for care of the elderly and integrating the elderly into all aspects of development. There was a need to create the necessary conditions for the elderly to continue to participate actively in the labour force. It discussed the establishment of appropriate home industries that enabled the elderly to work at their own pace to be set up in cooperation with relevant agencies in the public and private sectors. There was also a need for initiating training programmes that would improve the productivity of the elderly and their continued participation in the advancement of new technologies and industries.

127. The Conference urged that the "young old" should be utilized as a resource. It recommended that policies and programmes should be developed to encourage the contributions of the elderly in social and economic development. Community and family activities and programmes were of direct relevance in creating the necessary opportunities.

128. The Conference noted that the availability of housing for the elderly to enable them to reside with or live close to their family members was an important issue. Appropriate policies and programme to encourage such living arrangements should be given priority by all countries in the region.

Efforts should be made to promote family cohesiveness through the organization and implementation of family activities and life-long education programmes.

129. The Conference reiterated the need for appropriate policies and programmes to improve services continually for the care and welfare of the elderly. It felt that the rising cost of health care, particularly for the elderly, required that appropriate financial support, such as medical insurance and pension schemes for the elderly, should be implemented. That was particularly so as a large percentage of the population in developing countries was engaged in activities that provided little or no pension or social security benefits during old age. The longer life expectancy and differing needs of the female population required independent and special attention in terms of health care services. Appropriate training programmes should be developed for all care-givers in a society, including the family, to produce the necessary expertise to enhance the quality of life of the elderly and their families.

130. The Conference recognized the need for high-level governmental organizations and NGOs to deal specifically with issues related to ageing. Only then would the needs and issues related to the elderly be given the necessary priority and attention.

131. The Conference recommended that research should be focused on the elderly and that continuous information should be provided for policy and programme purposes to improve the quality of life of the elderly. In addition, specific micro-level studies might be required to meet country needs in that regard.

# XI. Population data and information issues

132. The Conference had before it document E/ESCAP/POP/SFAP/11 on population data and information issues. The document outlined the principal population data and information issues, including the collection, analysis and use of demographic data, and the effective use and dissemination of population information.

133. The Conference emphasized that population data collection and utilization were vital for formulating and implementing population policies,

monitoring and evaluation, and integrating population concerns into development. The growing awareness of, and necessity of addressing, the critical linkages among population, development and environment factors required greater attention to the collection of appropriate, adequate and timely data.

134. As a result of the growing demand for population data, data collection and dissemination activities had been expanded in many countries of the region. Notable progress had been made in collecting population-related data through censuses and household surveys. Several countries had made progress in the establishment of databases, data banks and MIS for programme monitoring and management at the subnational and local levels.

135. While on the whole the availability of population statistics had improved in quantitative terms, much remained to be done to improve the quality of the data. The majority of the civil registration systems of the region were deficient, despite the fact that many countries have had civil registration and vital statistics systems since last century. Similarly, there was a need for improving the quality and timely availability of the data from population censuses.

136. The Conference recommended that the systems of civil registration and vital statistics, which had been neglected in many countries, should be improved.

137. It noted that household surveys played an important role in meeting the demand for data arising from emerging issues and themes.

138. In confirming the central role of population data and information in the process of national development, the Conference noted with satisfaction the role being played by national population information centres and networks in the region in providing data and information support through the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network (Asia-Pacific POPIN). In referring to the report of the recently concluded Asia-Pacific POPIN Consultative Workshop, held in Bali, Indonesia from 16 to 18 August 1992, the Conference affirmed the useful role that the POPIN network had played in providing a framework for the exchange of population data and information among the 20 national POPIN centres and networks in the region. The Conference recognized the initiative,

principles and objectives of Asia-Pacific POPIN, and urged the ESCAP secretariat, UNFPA and other agencies to support its activities.

139. The Conference noted the implications of emerging population issues, such as the changing age structure of the population, population distribution and the relationship between population and resources, environment and sustainable development, on the field of information. In recognizing the multidisciplinary nature of the field of population, it also noted that population information networking needed to be expanded to other sectors and subregions so that they could acquire and share data and information more effectively. It recognized that intersectoral and subregional networking were useful means for sensitizing other sectors in order to enable Governments to achieve their population goals.

140. The Conference further noted the importance of applying new information technologies, such as microcomputers, CD-ROM and telecommunications, to the development of regional databases, country-specific databases and special indicator databases, and to the processing and analysis of population data and information. In endorsing the recommendations of the Asia-Pacific POPIN Consultative Workshop, the Conference recognized that the use of modern information-handling technologies should be promoted to improve the exchange of information among intersectoral and intrasectoral areas.

141. Population IEC and motivational activities would play a crucial role in bringing a diverse cross-section of policy makers, planners, programme managers, administrators, field workers and the general public to new levels of awareness about the implications of emerging population issues. Recognizing the wide variety of information forms and communication channels available for awareness creation and the delivery of motivational messages, the Conference urged that Governments should carefully examine their IEC programmes to ensure that they employed appropriate information-processing and repackaging techniques to achieve maximum results with their specific target audiences.

142. A major problem in improving the quality of data and in developing knowledge-bases was a lack of trained personnel in information, data analysis and processing. Human resources development should be an integral component of the solution to that problem. Sharing of country

experience in population data collection, processing and analysis was important and regional cooperation in those areas should be strengthened. Technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) was an effective means of helping Governments to become more self-reliant in the management of their population data and information resources in the region.

143. The Conference noted the importance of timely dissemination of reliable and up-to-date information in appropriate formats, such as publications, for the formulation of effective population policies and the implementation of efficient programmes. It also noted that the development of a national population information system was an effective means of organizing the data and information that constituted the national knowledge-base on population.

# XII. Policy formulation and implementation issues

144. The Conference had before it document E/ESCAP/POP/SFAP/12 on policy formulation and implementation issues, which gave an overview of the population profile in the Asian and Pacific region, tracing the evolution of policies, policy alternatives and programme approaches that would secure the future.

145. Explicit population policies in the region were based on the demographic factors of population growth, distribution, migration and structure. The content of the population policies in the countries and areas of the region included: (a) management of population growth: most countries were limiting growth while a few were maintaining the status quo or advocating pronatalist policies; (b) influencing population structure; (c) some balancing of population spatial distribution; (d) influencing international migration; (e) integrating family planning with other sectors, specifically health, education and rural development; and (f) effectively integrating population into development planning.

146. The Conference reviewed the FP/MCH programmes of the region and recorded the valuable lessons to be learned from the programme experience of various countries and areas in the region.

147. It emphasized the following emerging population issues: (a) population ageing, (b) migration and urbanization, (c) enhancing the role and status of women, (d) development with a human face, encompassing quality-of-life perspectives, poverty alleviation, environmental protection and sustainable development, and (e) the potential of NGOs to enhance the implementation of population programmes.

148. The Conference recognized that quality-of-life policy perspectives and socio-economic development approaches with a human face were central to the development and management of population and family planning policies and programmes. It discussed various programme implementation issues relating to population and family planning. The highlights were:

(a) For population policies of countries that had achieved or were about to achieve their demographic goals, there was a need to reformulate policies to sustain demographic achievement that was commensurate with their overall development objectives;

(b) Political commitment should be re-emphasized and sustained;

(c) Research and development should be strengthened;

(d) Dissemination of information about population policies should be carried out effectively;

(e) Integration of population into development planning should be further emphasized;

(f) Programme management and evaluation should be based on good MIS and operations research findings;

(g) Employment-generation policies should be strengthened since labour-force growth rates were considerably higher than the total population growth rates;

(h) Urbanization should be given further attention in view of its relationships with growing unemployment, poverty, squatter populations, industrialization and urban environmental quality;

(i) The organic link between women, population and development should be recognized as well as the need to integrate those for sustainable development; and

(j) The needs and expectations of the elderly and policy issues relating to ageing should be emphasized.

149. The Conference stressed that, in implementing family planning programmes, approaches that emphasized popular participation and community participation needed to be strengthened.

150. It noted that NGOs had played a pioneering role in assisting Governments in population policy formulation and FP/MCH programme implementation, and had a proven track record in tackling critical and sensitive areas using innovative and cost-effective approaches. NGOs should continue to assist Governments in formulating and implementing population and FP/MCH policies and programmes.

151. The Conference also discussed the following issues: the involvement of men in population programmes, reaching disadvantaged groups, the provision of good quality services for safe motherhood and the reproductive health needs of women, the provision of additional service delivery outlets for the convenience of working couples and individuals, and the adoption of policies and programmes to rejuvenate family values and the supports necessary to reduce social stress.

152. The Conference recognized that the Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations had called for a doubling of support to the population sector by the year 2000. The Conference discussed the issue of mobilization of resources within countries as well as through multilateral and bilateral sources and suggested that sustained efforts should be made to mobilize additional resources for programme implementation, recognizing that FP/MCH was among the low-cost means at the disposal of families and Governments for helping to reduce poverty and ignorance.

153. The Conference also discussed the role of the United Nations with regard to policy formulation and programme implementation issues that were becoming more diverse and complex, requiring flexible and innovative approaches in order to sustain the achievements made over the past three decades. In that context, the role of the United Nations, particularly ESCAP and UNFPA, should include:

(a) Playing a dynamic coordinating role in assisting ESCAP members and associate members in shaping future population policies and programmes;

(b) Assisting ESCAP members and associate members in upgrading technical, management and analytical skills through training and workshops, strengthening databases and enhancing their capacities to utilize research findings in the development of population policies and programmes;

(c) Promoting an integrated approach to development to ensure that the central role of population factors was given due recognition in policies and programmes;

(d) Strengthening appropriate institutional mechanisms and developing additional capabilities to respond to intersectoral and potential intergenerational impacts of population on development policies; and

(e) Mobilizing funds from international organizations and donor countries for implementing population and FP/MCH programmes.

# XIII. Other matters

154. The Conference noted that an open working group had been formed at the start of the meeting to prepare a draft declaration on population and sustainable development. The Meeting of Senior Officials endorsed the draft and recommended that it be presented to the Meeting of Ministers for possible adoption.

# XIV. Adoption of the report

155. At its concluding session, held on 24 August 1992, the Meeting of Senior Officials adopted the report.

# Report of the Meeting of Ministers

# I. Organization

1. The Meeting of Ministers of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference was held in Bali, Indonesia from 26 to 27 August 1992.

### Participation

2. The representatives of the following members and associate members of ESCAP took part in the Conference: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Marshall Islands, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

3. Representatives of the Holy See also attended the Conference.

4. The Conference was attended by representatives from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Population Fund.

5. Representatives of the following specialized agencies also attended: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Bank.

6. An observer from one intergovernmental organization participated in the Conference: the International Organization for Migration.

7. Observers from the following non-governmental organizations (categories I and II) participated in the Conference: the International Alliance of Women, International Federation of Red Cross, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the International Council on Management of Population Programmes, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and the Worldview International Foundation.

8. Observers from the following other organizations also attended the Conference: the Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception, the Centre for Development Studies, the Johns Hopkins University, Population Communication International, the Population Institute, the South Pacific Alliance for Family Health and Tribhuvan University.

## Inauguration of the Ministerial Meeting

9. His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr Soeharto inaugurated the Meeting of Ministers of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference on 26 August 1992. In his address, he noted that development was not merely a matter of dealing with economic growth and related issues, rather it concerned people and whether they could live decently and prosperously. He also noted that, if the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference were implemented, future generations in the region might have a better quality of life. He concluded with an appeal for countries to minimize the differences between them and focus on common perceptions, principles and the determination to achieve sustainable development and make the twenty-first century the Asian and Pacific century.

10. In his message, read by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, the Secretary-General of the United Nations noted that, since the time of the Third Asian and Pacific Conference, held at Colombo in 1982, a sizeable part of the region had come to be recognized as one of the most dynamic segments of the world's economy. The countries that had achieved the greatest progress were those that had developed effective approaches to population issues; that demonstrated the linkages between successful population policies and overall economic development.

11. In his own statement, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP referred to the success of Indonesia in tackling population problems and improving the quality of life of its people. Noting that the Conference would serve as the regional preparatory meeting for the International Conference on Population and Development to be convened by the United Nations in 1994, he drew attention to the central role played by the secretariat in initiating the debate on population and development issues in the region, providing the forum for developing countries in the region to address them and assisting those countries through its regional programmes, advisory

services, training and information dissemination activities. He also noted the important role played by UNFPA. He recognized that, despite the considerable progress achieved, not all countries had shared equally in the success. Highlighting some of the major issues still faced by those countries, he said that the population and development needs in Asia and the Pacific could and must be met without exhausting the region's natural resources or destroying its environment. He called on the Conference to create a new vision for the future, setting goals and outlining strategies that would give a clear mandate for a course of action to deal with population and sustainable development issues into the next century.

12. In her address, the Secretary-General of the 1994 International Conference and Executive Director of UNFPA noted that the Senior Officials Meeting had produced some excellent recommendations for the consideration of the ministers. Emphasis should be placed on social investment and the development of human resources; the key elements of that human-centred approach were maternal and child health care, family planning services, and attention to issues concerning the role and status of women, including education and employment. Even though fertility had declined considerably, population size and growth were still the major concerns. Although the private sector, including non-governmental organizations, was playing an important role in providing family planning services, the main responsibility for providing wider family planning services remained with Governments. Raising the role and status of women was a key to sustainable development. The mobility of people within and between countries was becoming an issue of critical importance. There was grave concern over the increasing spread of HIV (human immuno-deficiency virus)/AIDS (acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome); effective information, education and communication (IEC) programmes were required to control its spread. Additional resources were needed to meet the increased requirements of population programme implementation.

## Organization of the Meeting of Ministers

13. His Excellency Professor Emil Salim, Minister of State for Population and Environment, Government of Indonesia, was elected Chairperson.

14. The following were elected Vice-Chairpersons: His Excellency Mr Chowdhury Kamal Ibne-Yusuf, Minister of Health and Family Welfare,

Bangladesh; His Excellency, Pehin Dato Haji Awg Hussain bin Pehin Dato Awg Hj Mohd Yusof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Darussalam; Her Excellency Madame Peng Peiyun, Minister in Charge of State Family Planning Commission, China; His Excellency, Mr Elivel Pretrick, Secretary of Department of Human Resources, Federated States of Micronesia; Her Excellency, Mrs D.K. Tharadevi Siddhartha, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, India; Hon. Dato Napsiah bte. Omar, Minister of National Unity and Social Development, Malaysia; His Excellency, Mr Rana Nazir Ahmad Khan, Minister of State for Population, Forestry and Co-operatives, Pakistan; Honorable Mr Francis Komanirea, Minister for Health, Papua New Guinea; His Excellency, Dr Cielito Habito, Secretary for Socio-Economic Planning and Director-General, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines; Honorable Henchi Balos, Minister of Health and Environment, Marshall Islands; His Excellency, Mr Guennady G. Melikyan, Minister of Labour, Russian Federation; Honorable Toi Aukuso Cain, Minister of Women's Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications, Samoa; His Excellency, Mr Yeo Cheow Tong, Minister for Health, Singapore; Her Excellency, Mrs Hilda Lini, Minister for Health and Rural Water Supply, Vanuatu; His Excellency, Professor Mai Ky, Minister in Charge of Population and Family Planning of Viet Nam; His Excellency, Mr G. Zuunai, Chairman, Standing Committee in the Parliament for Population Policy and Health Problems and Social and Labour, Mongolia; His Excellency, Mr Ram Saran Mahat, Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission, Nepal; His Excellency, Mr Choi Chang Sik, Vice Minister of the Public Health, Democratic People's Republic of Korea; His Excellency, Mr Hiroyuki Sonoda, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Health and Welfare, Japan; His Excellency, Mr Hassan Sobir, Deputy Minister of Planning and Environment, Maldives.

15. Honourable Mr Min Tai-Hyung, Administrator, National Statistical Office, Republic of Korea, was elected Rapporteur General.

## Agenda

16. The Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Meeting of Ministers.

2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Review of policy formulation and implementation issues.
5. Adoption of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report.

# II. Review of policy formulation and implementation issues

17. The Conference observed that the Asian and Pacific region contained three fifths of the world's population. While there had been an appreciable decline in population growth since the Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference held at Colombo 10 years previously, growth had remained high at 2-3 per cent per year in a number of countries of the region. As such, replacement fertility could not be attained in the near future, particularly in most countries of South Asia.

18. Most countries had formulated population policies as part of their development plans, while some countries had just begun to formulate their population policies. The success of those population policies and programmes depended to a large extent on strong political commitment, programme efforts, community participation and involvement, and the accessibility and availability of family planning methods. A representative suggested that a regional reserve of contraceptives should be established to overcome any disruption of supply or unanticipated rise in demand. Non-governmental organizations had played a pioneering role in developing effective population policies and programmes.

19. The Conference highlighted the achievement of family planning and maternal and child health care (FP/MCH) programmes in initiating as well as sustaining fertility decline. A number of countries still had high fertility and low contraceptive prevalence rates. More concentrated efforts were needed therefore to increase the acceptance and improve the accessibility and availability of family planning services for those countries. For

countries in which programmes had achieved their demographic goals, programme efforts had begun to include social welfare goals, focusing on child and family development.

20. Over the last decade, most of the countries had attained a steady decline in mortality and an increase in life expectancy. However, those achievements had not been shared evenly among the countries of the region. While many countries had succeeded in reducing infant and maternal mortality rates, some still had unacceptably high levels. All countries of the region placed emphasis on the provision of basic primary health care for improving the quality of life of their people. Policies and programmes aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle through proper dietary habits, exercise and regular health screening were given high priority in some countries.

21. Industrialization was inevitably accompanied by urbanization and rural-to-urban migration. Rapid industrialization had led to a rise in the rate of urbanization, with population concentration being more pronounced in the metropolitan areas surrounding major cities. The trend towards urbanization was expected to continue into the twenty-first century. Rapid urbanization, coupled with high population concentration, would cause numerous problems, including aggravation of problems in the urban environment including poverty. Such problems were becoming more difficult to deal with effectively. According to one United Nations projection, by 2025, the Asian and Pacific region would have more than 50 large cities, each with a population of over 5 million inhabitants. Aspects of international migration also merited consideration for future regional cooperation. International migration trends and patterns should be closely monitored in development planning, as those problems transcended national and international boundaries. The small island nations faced special problems in that regard. In recognizing the likely influence of migration on the labour market and the economy in emigrant-recipient countries, the Conference recommended that steps should be taken to develop a planned approach to overseas emigration and the use of foreign exchange remittances, and to use the skills of returned migrants.

22. The Conference also noted the importance of the development and utilization of human resources in attaining sustainable development. Most countries were giving added importance to that issue. However, a high rate

of population growth and the youthful age structure that prevailed in many countries and areas of the region were seen as posing serious obstacles to the development of human resources and contributing to the persistence of poverty in many parts of the region. Alleviation of poverty was fundamental to the attainment of sustainable development. Policies and programmes aimed at alleviating poverty, reducing population growth, bringing about a balanced population distribution and improving human resources development should be in harmony with each other.

23. The Conference recognized that women were a key to sustainable development. High priority had been accorded by several countries to improving women's status and their participation in development. Promotion of literacy and education would empower women to play a more dynamic role in that process. There was a need to increase women's participation in the decision-making process. Various incentives and benefits, including a full range of opportunities for education and choice of employment, had been initiated in a number of countries in the region to enable women to play a more active role in development.

24. Population ageing was a major issue of concern in a number of countries, particularly in view of the rapidly increasing number and proportion of elderly persons. In some societies the elderly received respect from people in all walks of life. While emphasizing the importance of taking care of the elderly, the Conference observed that the younger generation should also be prepared and properly equipped for the time when they would become elderly. Moreover, efforts should be made to keep the elderly physically fit and mentally alert for as long as possible so that they could remain independent and carry on their normal daily activities with minimal assistance.

25. The Conference recognized the intricate and inseparable linkage between population, resources, environment and development. Mounting population pressure exacerbated the problems of poverty and contributed to environmental degradation in some countries and areas. At the same time, increasing consumption patterns and the misuse of resources were also important contributors to the deterioration of the environment. The need for bringing about a balance between population and resources was, therefore, imperative for the attainment of sustainable development. The Conference highlighted the necessity for formulating and implementing

integrated population and environmental policies. It noted the special problems related to the deterioration of the environment and the sustainability of small island countries.

26. Noting the importance of population censuses and surveys, the Conference stressed the need for collecting and analysing population data in a timely and disaggregated manner so that appropriate information could be effectively disseminated to users. It recognized the importance of networking and publications for that purpose. Population information played a dynamic role by focusing on emerging issues and their strategic implications. There was a need for policy- and programme-oriented research and the utilization of the findings for the formulation of policy and reorientation of population and development programmes. It strongly emphasized the importance of population education and IEC programmes for strengthening population HIV/AIDS/STD (sexually transmitted disease) programmes. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) could play an important role in assisting Governments to disseminate such information.

27. Population programmes had become more diverse and complex over time. While population programmes had achieved considerable success, much remained to be done, requiring huge inputs of resources, both human and financial. To sustain and strengthen those programmes required effective mobilization of additional resources which would have to be generated from Governments, NGOs, the private sector and external donors on an increasing and regular basis. The Conference urged donor Governments and agencies to increase their contributions to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to meet the increasing needs of population programmes in the Asian and Pacific region.

28. The technical assistance provided by ESCAP and other United Nations organizations and international agencies and the financial assistance provided by UNFPA had assisted countries in implementing their population and development policies and programmes. The Conference called upon ESCAP to continue to play a pivotal role in assisting member and associate members in that regard. It recommended that ESCAP fully incorporate the population dimension in the focus of the three thematic committees: regional economic cooperation, environment and sustainable development, and poverty alleviation.

# III. Adoption of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development

29. The meeting adopted the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development.

# IV. Other matters

30. A representative of a Pacific island country requested that the special needs for technical assistance of countries and territories in the Pacific should be considered and arrangements made, by strengthening the capability of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC), to render such assistance in population and related fields. The participants were informed that UNFPA had set up in Suva, a country programme technical support service team for Pacific island countries, and that team would work closely with all relevant regional bodies, including EPOC, in the delivery of technical assistance in population and development.

# V. Adoption of the report

31. At its concluding session, held on 27 August 1992, the Meeting adopted its report.

# Annex: The Bali Declaration

## I. Preamble

We, the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), having convened at the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in Bali, Indonesia from 19 to 27 August 1992, have reviewed the population situation and outlook and noted the substantial progress achieved by the countries of the region in responding to the Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development adopted by the Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference held at Colombo in 1982. We express concern that population issues remain among the most pressing challenges facing the region and, in addressing the theme of the present Conference, "Population and sustainable development: goals and strategies into the twenty-first century", we

**Recognize that:**

(a) Population factors play a decisive role in all human endeavours, especially in safeguarding the environment and the pursuit of sustainable development. Accordingly, population considerations must be fully integrated into all aspects of planning and policy-making;

(b) Sustainable development as a means to ensure human well-being, equitably shared by all people today and in the future, requires that the interrelationships between population, resources, the environment and development should be fully recognized, properly managed and brought into a harmonious, dynamic balance;

(c) Full consideration of population concerns is crucial to any strategy to achieve sustainable development and to give future generations an environmental legacy better than that received by the present generation;

(d) An integrated approach incorporating population, resources, the environment and development elements must be pursued, although understanding of the complex interrelationships between these elements is still at an early stage. To do otherwise would endanger the attainment of sustainable development and narrow the options available to future generations;

(e) Measures to improve the status, role and participation of women must be given high priority, both because women have a fundamental right to enjoy equality with men in all aspects of life and because women play a critical role in, and must fully participate in, the sustainable development process;

(f) The alleviation of poverty is fundamental to the achievement of sustainable development;

**Emphasize that:**

(a) Population problems have local, national, regional and global ramifications and must therefore be addressed at all these levels;

(b) Every country has its own specific array of population problems and policy objectives and has the sovereign right to pursue its own population goals, policies and programmes respecting the goal of global sustainable development;

(c) Dealing with population problems requires strengthening of social policies as well as regional and international cooperation; and

(d) Rapid population growth and the consequent changes in demographic structure and uneven population distribution are crucial factors that impose pressures and constraints on economic development efforts, the environment and natural resources as well as social conditions. However, these factors are often neglected in environmental and economic development strategies that regard population as a neutral factor rather than a dynamic variable requiring policy intervention;

**Affirm that:**

(a) In showing concern for human well-being, population policies should recognize that individuals are members of the family, community, society, State and global community, and they possess rights within those contexts;

(b) Population size, growth, distribution, structure, composition and mobility should be considered at all levels of planning and in the formulation of comprehensive population policies;

(c) Resolution of population concerns is central to achieving equitable and efficient development of human resources and alleviation of poverty;

**Note with appreciation:**

(a) The efforts and progress made by the countries of the Asian and Pacific region in demographic, social, economic and development spheres and the leadership exhibited by political leaders and parliamentarians in the formulation and implementation of national policies and programmes dealing with population and development issues and problems;

(b) The invaluable contributions of United Nations organizations, especially ESCAP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and other intergovernmental organizations and multilateral agencies in providing technical and financial support for population programmes in the Asian and Pacific region;

(c) The contributions of donor countries through bilateral development assistance programmes;

(d) The pioneering and significant contributions that non-governmental organizations have made to population efforts in the region;

**Keeping in mind:**

The provisions of the World Population Plan of Action adopted at Bucharest in 1974; the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, held at Mexico City in 1984; the Call for Action on Population and Development adopted at the Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held at Colombo in 1982; the Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations adopted at the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held at Amsterdam in 1989; Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992; and the deliberations of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia in 1992;

**Urge that:**

(a) All members and associate members of ESCAP make a firm political and financial commitment to incorporate population and environmental concerns fully in all national efforts to achieve sustainable development;

(b) All members and associate members of ESCAP establish a set of population targets in line with sustainable development goals, and initiate and implement policies and programmes to achieve those targets;

(c) The ESCAP secretariat accord high priority and take appropriate action to assist members and associate members in implementing their population, environmental and development policies, programmes and strategies;

(d) UNFPA strengthen its programme support and mobilize the needed resources to help the members and associate members of ESCAP in implementating their population policies, programmes and strategies;

(e) Other United Nations organizations, international agencies and non-governmental organizations support the members and associate members of ESCAP in implementing their population, environmental and development policies, programmes and strategies;

**Adopt:**

The following goals and recommendations for population and sustainable development into the twenty-first century.

# II. Population goals

Within the overall objectives of sustainable development, the goals of population policy should be to achieve a population that allows a better quality of life without jeopardizing the environment and the resource base of future generations. Population policy goals should also take cognizance of basic human rights as well as responsibilities of individuals, couples and families.

The population of countries and areas in the Asian and Pacific region amounted to 3.2 billion in mid-1992. Although there has been a significant decline in the rate of population growth over the past two decades and the current annual growth rate of 1.7 per cent is expected to continue to decline steadily, it is projected that 920 million people will be added to the region's total by 2010. The bulk of the increase will occur in South Asian countries and least developed countries, where annual population growth rates are not expected to fall much below 2 per cent. It is in these less developed countries that the problems of poverty are most acute, and pressures on the education, health and employment sectors are greatest.

Fertility, as measured by the total fertility rate, currently averages 3.1 children per woman in the Asian and Pacific region. However, there are substantial variations between and within the subregions of Asia and the Pacific. Fertility is lowest in East Asia, at 2.1 children per woman. It is highest in South Asia, at 4.3 children per woman. A similar marked disparity is exhibited in subregional levels of mortality. For example, infant mortality in South Asia, at 90 per 1,000 births, is more than three times the rate in East Asia, where it is 26 per 1,000 births.

In many countries of the Asian and Pacific region, urban populations are expanding at three or four times the rate of the national population. The region will witness a significant increase in the number and size of urban areas, particularly of "mega-cities" and other large metropolitan areas. Furthermore, new issues, such as environmental degradation, ageing, imbalanced population distribution and international migration, are emerging and require priority consideration.

To help reduce high rates of population growth, countries and areas should adopt strategies to attain replacement level fertility, equivalent to around 2.2 children per woman, by the year 2010 or sooner. Countries and areas should also strive to reduce the level of infant mortality to 40 per 1,000 live births or lower during the same period. In countries and areas in which maternal mortality is high, efforts should be made to reduce it by at least half by the year 2010.

# III. Recommendations

## A. Population, environment and development

### Issues

Among the ultimate objectives of sustainable development are to achieve a balance between human needs and aspirations in balance with population, resources and the environment and to enhance the quality of life today and in the future. There is an urgent need to bring into balance population dynamics, socio-economic development, the use of natural resources and environmental quality. Special attention should be paid to decreasing the demand for natural resources that is generated by unsustainable consumption and to using those resources efficiently, to minimize depletion and reduce pollution. Although consumption patterns are very high in certain parts of the world, the basic consumer needs of a large section of humanity are not being met.

In many countries and areas, high rates of population growth and concentration have caused environmental problems, such as land degradation, deforestation, air and water pollution, threats to biological diversity from habitat destruction and rising sea level due to the greenhouse effect. In some countries, calamities and associated loss of life have followed the extension of human settlements into marginal and vulnerable areas, especially along rivers, coasts and foothills.

### Recommendations

(1) More research needs to be undertaken to improve understanding of the complex synergy between population, resources, environment and development. Moreover, this knowledge must be used in formulating policies and strategies for sustainable development. The conceptual framework and appropriate analytical tools and indicators need to be developed further.

(2) A comprehensive data collection and information system on key aspects of population, development and resource linkages that have implications for environmental quality must be developed to support planning, implementation and management, and evaluation of, as well as research on, population and sustainable development programmes.

(3) Governments should formulate policies and strategies and implement programmes regarding appropriate technologies, keeping in view the interaction between population and environment, as well as their long-term sustainability. Such policies could include development of environmentally friendly technology, reforestation, improvement of the quality of air and water, waste recycling and the phasing out of environmentally harmful technology. Furthermore, countries should formulate enforceable measures to promote greater harmony between population, resources, environment and development so as to achieve improved quality of life on a sustainable basis.

(4) There is a need for appropriate interdisciplinary programmes to develop information, education and communication (IEC) activities, human resources, and environmental and population-related educational materials for all groups in the community. In this regard institutions at all levels, governmental and non-governmental, formal and informal, private and public sector, should be involved and supported.

## B. Urbanization, internal and international migration

### Issues

Population movements in countries and areas of the ESCAP region have greatly increased in scale and complexity. Voluntary population mobility has become an option to improve the life chances and opportunities of a much wider group of people in the region than ever before. This increased potential for significant population mobility within and between countries has major social, economic and environmental implications. In particular, increasing demand for overseas workers in countries and areas of the ESCAP region in which the demographic transition has been completed will become of increasing policy importance.

The gender selectivity of migrants is gradually changing as more and more women in the ESCAP region are migrating independently. This phenomenon has opened considerable opportunities to improve the role and status of women. However, growing numbers of migrant women work and live in situations that in which they are vulnerable to exploitation.

The increasing tendency for people to concentrate in large metropolitan cities in the region presents a number of new and important management challenges for policy makers and planners.

**Recommendations**

(5) Governments should reassess policies relating to urbanization and seek to implement policies that recognize that urbanization is inevitable. These policies should stress human resources development and be concerned with the environment and sustainable development and improvements in the quality of life in cities and the countryside, particularly in slums and other disadvantaged areas.

(6) Linkages between rural and urban areas are of such strength and significance that rural and urban development should not be undertaken in isolation from each other, and therefore comprehensive planning should be undertaken.

(7) Spatial implications and environmental consequences of major sectoral policies should be fully assessed as part of the national development planning process.

(8) Sectors in which there is either labour shortage or labour surplus need to be identified to facilitate the development of policies to achieve a better matching of the distribution of job opportunities on the one hand and labour supply on the other.

(9) In view of the importance of the informal sector in absorbing large numbers of migrants and other workers in many countries and areas of the region, measures should be taken to improve the living standards of workers in the informal sector in a manner that is consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

(10) Measures should also be taken to protect the rights of migrants, particularly women and children, and to improve their access to services and working conditions.

(11) Recognizing the importance of decentralization for sustainable development, more decision-making power and resources should be

transferred to regional and municipal bodies. Local communities need to have more involvement in planning, management and revenue collection. The complexity of management, services and infrastructure in large urban agglomerations necessitates greater cooperation between various administrative areas and levels.

(12) Policies need to be developed to involve the private and public sectors in adequately accommodating the growth of mega-cities and to create opportunities in rural areas and smaller cities to divert migration away from mega-cities. To cope with rapid urbanization government should create a favourable climate for private sector investment in smaller towns and cities and provide the required support mechanisms, such as physical and social infrastructure, and favourable fiscal and monetary policies.

(13) Existing data sources for the study of urbanization, migration and development at the national and international levels should be fully utilized. Research that seeks explicitly to measure the costs and benefits of rural-to-urban migration should be undertaken. Migration impact should be studied in greater detail. Data collection systems to obtain better information on forms of short-term migration or circulation within national boundaries as well as international movements need to be developed. Governments should strive to adopt more consistent and comparable data collection systems on international movements and develop measures to share the data and information.

(14) Further steps should be taken to monitor adequately trends in international migration and to develop appropriate policies to accommodate and plan for future needs.

(15) There should be greater cooperation among countries and areas of the region to ensure that the rights of international migrants under the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers are protected and their working and living conditions safeguarded.

(16) Steps should be taken to develop policies and programmes to prepare for and accommodate people displaced by environmental calamities.

## C. Family planning and maternal and child health

### Issues

Family planning and maternal and child health (MCH) programmes have played an important role in influencing population growth and improving the quality of life and human resources development in the countries of Asia and the Pacific. The success of family planning and MCH programmes is closely associated with the improved role and status of women; lower infant, child and maternal mortality rates; better birth-spacing and breast-feeding practices; and the delivery of services by trained personnel. Nevertheless, much remains to be done. There is a pressing need to strengthen programmes and adopt innovative approaches and strategies. To a large extent the success of programmes depends upon empowering individuals, families and communities to plan and decide for themselves, as well as to design and implement, programmes based on their own needs.

### Recommendations

(17) Family planning and MCH programmes should undertake comprehensive and critical reviews of existing policies and programme strategies:

(a) In countries where the programmes have not yet achieved the desired objectives, priority should be given to strengthening policy development and related processes as well as to expanding and streamlining delivery systems of family planning and MCH within the primary health care framework, to adopting innovative management and multisectoral approaches, and to encouraging wider community and intersectoral participation in programme implementation efforts;

(b) In countries where fertility has been reduced to a low or acceptable level, programme strategies should aim to build upon achievements made so far with a view to attaining sustainability.

(18) Efforts should be made to improve the accessibility and utilization of family planning and MCH services for men as well as women, taking into account the changing preferences and needs of clients and rapidly changing

technologies. There is a particular need for women-centred and women-managed facilities to ensure that women and their family planning and MCH needs are fully taken into consideration. Counselling and information on the use of all MCH services and methods of family planning should be freely available. Resources should be allocated to upgrade and improve the quality of services and prevent attrition among skilled workers. Governments should develop the skills of service providers and improve the accessibility and logistics of family planning and MCH services.

(19) Reproductive health care should be improved considerably in the region. Policies and programmes should strive to incorporate the totality of reproductive health care and aim at reducing maternal morbidity and mortality, induced abortion, sterility, childlessness, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and spread of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

(20) Special attention should be focused on countries with high fertility and high population growth rates, especially the small island nations of the Pacific and Indian oceans.

(21) Family planning and MCH programmes should encourage healthful birth-spacing and breast-feeding. They should always make available and offer birth-spacing methods of family planning.

(22) Sustained efforts should be made to increase the involvement of males in family planning and to promote the use of family planning methods designed for males. Specific IEC strategies should be developed to inform and educate men about family planning and fertility regulation.

(23) There should be population IEC programmes and services specifically designed for youth and adolescents to minimize the incidence of unplanned adolescent pregnancies and associated health risks.

(24) There is a need to upgrade management information systems (MIS) so that they can provide timely and good quality information and to adopt appropriate strategies, such as rapid and independently conducted low-cost surveys, for the proper monitoring and evaluation of programmes. There is also a need to train MCH service providers and programme managers in the use of such information for these purposes.

(25) There is an urgent need to incorporate family planning in the syllabi in medical, nursing and other health-profession training institutions and in other in-service training programmes for health and family planning personnel.

(26) Concerted efforts should be made to undertake relevant research studies and to translate the findings into action through their incorporation in ongoing policies and programmes.

(27) Factors relating to problems of integrating family planning and MCH programmes should be determined and studied in order to formulate and implement such programmes in line with the socio-cultural, political and administrative conditions in each country.

(28) Non-governmental organizations should continue their roles in support of national programmes. Governments should collaborate with, and enhance the potential of non-governmental organizations by: (a) involving them in the development of innovative programmes, especially for vulnerable segments of the population; (b) ensuring that through their flexibility they are able to offer a greater variety of client-responsive services; (c) encouraging them to strengthen their grass-roots networks and community participative strategies; (d) putting to best advantage their advocacy function; and (e) enhancing their role as good quality service providers.

## D. Population and human resources development

### Issues

People are the most important and valuable resource that any nation possesses. It is crucial, therefore, that countries ensure that all individuals be given the opportunity to make the most of their potential. Such a policy, as noted in the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP region, will result in the enhancement of social and economic development of the community as a whole.

It is recognized that demographic factors are strategically important in human resources development because of their interrelationships with employment, education, skill and capability development, health and nutrition, and the status and role of women.

### Recommendations

(29) Governments should recognize the key role of human resources in national development and give strong emphasis in national planning and policy-making to the development of human resources. Where this has not yet been done, policy and planning bodies for human resources development should be established at a high level to ensure that human resources development is given appropriate recognition.

(30) Human resources development planners should recognize that individuals value education, health and other human resource investments as important elements in the quality of their life. Therefore, programmes of human resources development should be linked to the strong interest of people in availing themselves of these important elements of welfare.

(31) More attention should be given to the formulation of policies to cope with the socio-economic consequences of the change in the number of persons in certain age groups, as well as overall growth in number, on fields such as education, employment, food and nutrition, housing, and health and welfare services.

(32) Governments should improve human resources development programmes, especially vocational and occupational training in both rural and urban areas, to open up a wider range of employment options for people living in areas characterized by a surplus of labour. Efforts should be made to promote training in a variety of contexts including the workplace, the family and the community.

## E. Women and population

### Issues

Women's status, as reflected in their legal rights, education, health, employment, position in the household and family decision-making power, affects demographic behaviour such as age at marriage, fertility, and infant, child and maternal mortality. These in turn have an impact on the improvement of women's status and their participation in the development process.

In recognition of the importance of women's contribution to development and the need to improve the status and role of women, many countries have begun to formulate policies and implement programmes. Despite some progress, women in many countries still do not enjoy equal status with men, have only a limited role in national socio-economic development and remain unaware of their rights. For the achievement of sustainable development, the full and unfettered participation of women is essential, especially in the formulation and implementation of population policies and programmes, because they have as much, if not more, at stake as men in whatever action is taken in these areas.

Given that women play an important role as managers of resources and in maintaining environmental quality, they must be involved in all decision-making relating to population and sustainable development.

## Recommendations

(33) Governments are urged to adopt and implement national policies and programmes to ensure equal opportunities for females in all sectors of social and economic development as well as political participation. Gender concerns should be incorporated in national development planning. Specific guidelines should be drawn up for the integration of women in all sectors of national development with a view to supporting their productive and reproductive roles and their equal partnerships in national development. Appropriate mechanisms should be developed or strengthened so that the needs of women at all levels are reflected in national population and development policies and programmes.

(34) In order for females to benefit from the opportunities resulting from the elimination of discrimination, efforts should be intensified to improve their health status, especially in the field of reproductive health and nutrition, and to ensure equal access of girls and women to education, training and employment as well as credit and other supportive services for promoting self-employment, particularly among the poor. Concerted efforts should be made to reduce constraints and to facilitate the participation of women in the mainstream of social and economic activities.

(35) In line with the recommendations made by the Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly on "Women and Environment: partners in life", held at Bangkok

in 1991, women should be empowered with greater decision-making authority and their viewpoints should be considered at all levels to enable better management of resources and protection of the environment.

(36) Governments should ensure that women are neither restricted from participating nor forced to participate in the labour force for reasons of demographic policy or cultural tradition. Furthermore, the reproductive role of women should in no way be used as a reason for limiting women's right to work. Governments should take the initiative in removing any barriers to the realization of that right and, in cooperation with the private sector, should create opportunities and supporting facilities so that activities outside the home can be combined as appropriate with child-rearing and household activities. Efforts should also be made to ensure greater involvement of men in all areas of family responsibility. Women's productive and reproductive rights should be fully recognized by Governments and supported by society at large.

(37) Governments should strengthen national capabilities in collecting, analysing and monitoring gender-specific data and information to facilitate better integration of women's concerns in development planning and implementation.

(38) All forms of discrimination against women, legislative and otherwise, should be abolished.

## F. Population and poverty alleviation

### Issues

There is a complex interrelationship between rapid population growth and poverty. Some developing countries in the region have improved the living conditions of their peoples appreciably, but in many developing countries, the numbers of the poor, hungry and illiterate have increased. Poverty is very closely interrelated with environmental degradation.

Population growth rates are faster in the least developed countries and areas where poverty is severe and there is less access to education and health services. At the micro-level, the poor usually have large families and are less aware of, and have less access to, social services such as family

planning and MCH; this contributes to high infant, child and maternal mortality. Among the poor, children and women are especially vulnerable to exploitation.

Although rapid progress in the provision of social and health services in developing countries has occurred during the past decade, the services are unevenly distributed among urban-rural areas and socio-economic groups.

**Recommendations**

(39) Governments should formulate more effective strategies and measures to alleviate poverty. These should include:

(a) Implementation of integrated population and development policies and programmes, including family planning and MCH strategies, that will slow population growth and produce faster income growth as well as reduce family size, improve education and productivity, and provide better life chances;

(b) The provision of adequate and efficient basic social and health services and facilities to improve well-being and increase human capital and skills among the poor, so that they can respond rapidly to income-generating opportunities and gain access to social programmes such as education, basic health care, improved sanitation, good quality nutrition, food subsidies, family planning and housing, and thus help to improve their living conditions and alleviate poverty;

(c) Equity in the allocation of resources and access to services should be important elements of national policy.

(40) Governments should design policies and strategies to ensure that the benefits of development are shared by a wide spectrum of the population. This would help to break the poverty-population-growth cycle.

(41) Governments should formulate long-term policies and programmes to tackle population growth and poverty jointly because of their complementarities and strong synergy. The policies and programmes should be responsive to poor people's needs, particularly in education, training, and family planning and MCH programmes.

(42) When economic restructuring occurs, Governments need to take steps to minimize its adverse impacts upon the poor and underprivileged.

(43) Priority should be given to research on the linkages and interactions between poverty, population dynamics, resources and the environment. The results of such research can be used in the design of policies and implementation of strategic programmes.

## G. Mortality and morbidity

### Issues

Mortality has declined significantly in most Asian and Pacific countries and areas. In some countries of the region, however, the expectation of life at birth remains below 55 years. Even in countries where mortality has declined, there are subregions and subgroups exposed to high levels of mortality and morbidity. Infants and children, and women in the reproductive ages remain particularly susceptible. Mortality and morbidity patterns are expected to change in the future in a number of countries and areas owing to the increasing incidence of STDs and HIV/AIDS, with grave consequences for the health, well-being and productivity of the people. This would also hamper the reproductive potential of the population. In addition, the incidence of degenerative diseases is increasing in the developing countries of the region.

Further reductions in mortality and morbidity will depend upon improvements in the quality of health services delivery, implementation of programmes targeted at the most disadvantaged groups, and the achievement and maintenance of a higher quality of life.

### Recommendations

(44) In countries where infant, child and maternal mortality continues to be high, the factors responsible need to be identified in order to formulate policies and implement appropriate programmes for the further reduction of such mortality.

(45) Governments should strengthen their basic health infrastructure and manpower, and ensure the provision of equipment and supplies for improving affordable health-services delivery.

(46) In view of the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS in the region and its increasing cumulative prevalence, countries and areas should initiate IEC programmes to educate their populations about the prevention of HIV/AIDS infection; such information should be included as an element in family planning programmes. Governments should collect data to monitor the trend of HIV/AIDS infection and design strategies and implement programmes to control its spread.

(47) There is a need for Governments to strengthen research on the levels and patterns of morbidity and mortality changes associated with changes in the environment, life-styles and occupations as development proceeds. Health and medical service programmes should be modified to take account of these changes in patterns of mortality and morbidity.

## H. Ageing

### Issues

Population ageing is closely interrelated with the dynamic processes of demographic and socio-economic change, with implications for the family, community and nation. With significant and rapid fertility declines and improvements in mortality, population ageing will assume greater importance in the future. The majority of the elderly have considerable potential for both self-reliance and making contributions to their families and communities. They have a right and a responsibility to make those contributions. The family is still the principal source of support for the elderly. However, with rapid industrialization, urbanization and the increasing frequency of both spouses engaging in full-time paid work, traditional family support systems for the elderly will be placed under considerable strain.

### Recommendations

(48) Governments are urged to formulate long-term development strategies that take into consideration the changing age structure of the population, in particular the implications of population ageing for economic and social development. Development policies and programmes must take into account the characteristics of future cohorts of older people, their potential for involvement in the process of development and the role of the family and community in caring for the elderly.

(49) Comprehensive programmes that aim to increase the support and contributions of the elderly should involve all sectors and levels of government, as well as non-governmental organizations, the private sector and unions.

(50) Efforts should be made to develop policies and programmes at the local level to bring the active elderly into the mainstream of economic and social development to enhance their contributions to their families and communities. This may include lifelong education programmes.

(51) The family support system should be strengthened by providing economic incentives, such as tax exemptions and special privileges, to families taking care of their elderly members.

(52) It is important to recognize the differing needs of the rural and urban elderly in developing countries, particularly in those lacking social security systems.

(53) Communities should be encouraged to form voluntary and mutual aid organizations to provide support for the elderly and their families.

(54) Broad information and educational programmes should be introduced to create awareness and understanding of the issues of ageing and to instil moral and social values related to the support of older people. Such programmes should be targeted at families and the general public with special emphasis on the younger generation.

(55) Appropriate training programmes should be developed for caregivers such as medical and paramedical staff, residential care providers, community and social workers and family members, keeping in view the perspectives of both the caregivers and the elderly.

(56) Research is needed on the interrelationship among changes in family patterns and structure, cultural and traditional changes and ageing, the findings of which would promote effective integration of the elderly into the mainstream of economic and social development, and the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies and programmes.

## I. Population data, research and information dissemination

### Issues

While considerable progress has been made in information and database development within the region during past decades, there remains an urgent need to improve the content, quality and timeliness of data and to upgrade national skills for research, policy analysis and the development of integrated management information systems. Furthermore, small-area data sets need to be developed for decentralized and local-level planning.

### Recommendations

(57) Governments are urged to strengthen methodologies for collecting quality data and to improve efficiency in the processing and analysis of data for policy formulation, strategy development and programme implementation. Countries should devote more effort to upgrading analytical skills in the areas of policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation. In particular, national census, vital registration and survey organization capabilities should be strengthened and enhanced.

(58) The creation of computerized databases, both numeric and bibliographic, at the national, regional and subregional levels should be encouraged for the more efficient dissemination and sharing of population data and information. In particular, there is a need to develop small-area databases for local and community area planning.

(59) Governments should give priority to the application of modern information technologies and to the development of the human resources and skills needed to manage them in order to maximize the utilization of data and information at the national level.

(60) National population information systems should be strengthened and should follow the framework of the Population Information Network (POPIN).

(61) Coordination among national, subregional and regional information centres and networks representing various social and economic sectors should be strengthened to foster increased intersectoral networking, there-

by assisting in the more complete integration of population with other aspects of development.

(62) Governments are urged to attach high priority to population research, both for its continuous contribution to population policy formulation, programme implementation and evaluation and as a means to fill gaps in knowledge. Countries should establish, strengthen and maintain population research centres.

(63) In support of this effort, regional and international organizations should establish standards related to database development, such as data format, structure and software, to promote the compatibility of database created by national information centres and their utilization at the national and regional levels.

## J. Resource mobilization

### Issues

Over the years, population programmes have become more diverse and complex. National-level population programmes have been established in many of the countries of the region and have achieved varying degrees of success. Nevertheless, much remains to be done, requiring large amounts of resources, both human and financial. The need for mobilizing additional resources is greater today than ever before.

### Recommendations

(64) The International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held at Amsterdam in November 1989, called for a doubling of resources by the year 2000 to support population programmes. It is estimated that around $US 9 billion per year will be required to support core population programmes around the world, a substantial proportion of it in the Asian and Pacific region. Towards this end, the option of allocating 4 per cent of official development assistance to population programmes could be considered. In this regard, the important role of UNFPA in mobilizing the needed resources should be recognized and countries are requested, as appropriate, to increase their contributions to UNFPA.

(65) A central challenge all nations face today is to mobilize additional resources to support broad-based population programmes. The Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference urges all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and external donors to make every effort possible to increase, on a regular basis, their financial commitment so as to attain their targets by the year 2000.

(66) Over the past decade, several members and associate members of ESCAP have successfully formulated and implemented population policies and programmes. The experience and knowledge gained in the process are very valuable and can be shared with members and associate members still striving to attain their desired population goals. Those successful members and associate menbers are urged to allocate resources for the transfer of knowledge and skills — through the exchange of expertise, the sharing of information and knowledge and the facilitation of training — to countries that are in the process of attaining their demographic goals and objectives. Such technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) should be encouraged. Within the framework of existing institutions, appropriate mechanisms need to be identified to facilitate TCDC in the region and with other regions.

(67) The emerging population issues in the region will become more diverse and complex during the 1990s, requiring flexible and innovative approaches to sustain the achievements made in the last three decades. UNFPA should provide the needed financial assistance to enable ESCAP to play an enhanced role in assisting the Governments of developing countries in the region in shaping their future population policies and programmes. In addition, UNFPA is requested to provide programme support and financial assistance to countries for the design and implementation of their population policies in accordance with national priorities, working closely with government officials to ensure effective coordination and harmonization of population activities, and to develop fully the national capacity for self-reliance.



*The Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia from 19 to 27 August 1992, was attended by hundreds of representatives of Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, United Nations organizations and agencies, and the media, among others.*