challenge to developmental efforts and call for more innovative approaches and greater efforts by Governments, members of the United Nations system and other international organizations in systematically integrating population factors into development,

Considering that the resources available for implementing the regional and subregional population programmes and activities of ESCAP are inadequate and not commensurate with the urgency and magnitude of the immediate and long-term population problems facing the Asia and Pacific region,

Expressing appreciation to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, which has so far provided a substantial part of the resources for the implementation of the Commission’s programmes in the field of population,

Taking note of the decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its twenty-fourth session relating to the infrastructure posts funded by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities,

Conscious of the Commission’s responsibilities in promoting regional and subregional co-operation and assisting member countries in their tasks of socio-economic development,

1 Decides that greater emphasis should be placed on the regional and subregional population programmes and activities of the Commission commensurate with the urgency and magnitude of the problem and that resources to implement such programmes and activities should accordingly be increased.

2 Requests the Executive Secretary to further strengthen the capability of the secretariat to assist the member and associate member countries, upon request, in the formulation and implementation of population policies and programmes as integral parts of socio-economic development plans.

3 Urges countries within and outside the region to increase their assistance so as to enable the Commission to contribute more effectively to the solution of population problems in the region.

4 Requests the Executive Secretary to undertake early consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to convey the concern of the Commission regarding the urgency of population problems in the region with a view to securing increases in the allocations from regular and extra-budgetary resources in support of the current and future population activities of the Commission.

186 (XXXIV) Relationship between the Committees on Population and on Social Development

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing that the formulation and implementation of effective policies in the field of population are integral to continued social and economic development in the Asia and Pacific region,

Recalling the recommendation of the Second Asian Population Conference, held at Tokyo in 1972, that population and socio-economic development be given a co-ordinated and integrated status in national development planning, and the recognition by the World Population Conference, held at Bucharest in 1974, of the interrelation between population and socio-economic development,

Noting section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in which the General Assembly recommended that regional commissions should rationalize their structures, inter alia, by streamlining their subsidiary machinery in order to perform their functions more effectively,

Further noting that the ESCAP Committees on Population and on Social Development meet only triennially, with the next sessions scheduled for 1979 and 1978, respectively, and that this indicates an inadequate recognition of the importance of these subjects in the work of the Commission,

Requests the Committee on Population and the Committee on Social Development to meet consecutively before the thirty-fifth session of the Commission and, at their respective meetings, to consider the question of merging the two Committees and report their views to the Commission at that session.

532nd meeting
17 March 1978

187 (XXXIV) International Year of the Child

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 31/169 of 21 December 1976, in which the Assembly proclaimed the year 1979 International Year of the Child, and 32/109 of 15 December 1977, in which the Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed that the major focus of the International Year of the Child was at the national level, but that such should be supported by regional and international co-operation,

7 See para 462 above
8 See para 461 above