upon the request of the International Telecommunication Union to follow up the Arusha Declaration on World Telecommunications Development, that since telecommunication is an essential element in the development of all sectors of the economy, higher priority should be given to that sector, particularly during the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994,

Recalling that the Asia and Pacific Telecommunications Development Conference held at New Delhi in February 1988 recommended that ESCAP, given its wide mandate and its contacts at the policy level in the developing countries of the Asian and Pacific region, should take appropriate action by following up the relevant recommendations in the report The Hissing Link that relate to telecommunication sector priority, and co-ordinate regional and subregional co-operative endeavours on research and development, common standards and specifications, and collective procurement and local manufacture,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to consult with interested members and associate members with a view to taking appropriate action within available resources to support the follow-up of the relevant recommendations in the report The Missing Link that relate to telecommunication sector priority, and co-ordinate regional and subregional co-operative endeavours on research and development, common standards and specifications, and collective procurement and local manufacture.

2. Further requests other relevant organizations, such as the International Telecommunication Union and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, to co-operate fully with the secretariat in this work.

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271 (XLIV). United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981,


Recalling also Commission resolutions 242 (XLII) of 29 March 1985, 257 (XLII) of 2 May 1986 and 261 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987 on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Noting General Assembly resolution 42/177 of 11 December 1987 in which the General Assembly decided to convene a United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 1990,

Welcoming the overall co-ordinating role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing deterioration in the overall economic and social conditions in the least developed countries in spite of their national efforts as well as efforts made by the international community since the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

1. Urges those donor countries, within the overall context of the Substantial New Programme of Action, whose official development assistance contributions have not yet reached 0.15 per cent of their gross national product, or which have not yet doubled their official development assistance to least developed countries, to make every possible effort to attain those targets as contained in the Substantial New Programme of Action;

2. Urges all Governments, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to renew their efforts to implement the Programme, so as to enable each least developed country to achieve a minimum standard of performance in socio-economic development;

3. Calls upon the international community and regional organizations to provide support measures for the efforts of the least developed countries in the priority sectors established by the Governments of the least developed countries in their country programmes and embodied in the Substantial New Programme of Action, particularly in food and agriculture, manufacturing industries, exploration and development of energy and natural resources, human resources

8/ See paras. 189-190 above.
development, expansion and diversification of exports, development of transport and communications, and improvement in planning, implementation and management capabilities;

4. Calls upon international, and regional organizations to give more focus to the special problems of the land-locked and island least developed countries of the region;

5. Urges all ESCAP developing members and associate members to provide support to the development efforts of the least developed countries within the framework of the Substantial New Programme of Action and in the spirit of regional co-operation;

6. Calls upon all members and associate members of the Asian and Pacific region to participate actively in the preparatory process to ensure the success of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

7. Calls upon all Governments, intergovernmental and multilateral development institutions, and others concerned, to co-ordinate closely with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in taking all appropriate steps to ensure that adequate preparations are made for the Conference and to participate effectively in its preparatory process;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary in co-ordination with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources:

(a) To undertake an in-depth review of the causes and consequences of the slow growth in the least developed countries of the ESCAP region during the current decade within the context of the Substantial New Programme of Action and to make appropriate recommendations for action by the international community;

(b) To convene a meeting of selected experts to consider the review mentioned above;

(c) To organize an intergovernmental meeting prior to the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in March/April 1990, to consider and to work out recommendations and proposals for national and international action to accelerate the development process of those countries in the 1990s;

9. Also invites the donor countries and multilateral funding agencies to provide extrabudgetary support for carrying out the above activities;

10. Further requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-fifth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

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272(XLIV). Study on the implications of demographic changes for the development of human resources

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/71 of 8 July 1987 on the work programme in the field of population and Commission resolution 260 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987 on an ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 39/228 of 18 December 1984 on the International Conference on Population and noting in particular the emphasis laid on the successful implementation of population policies for achieving an adequate quality of life,

Further recalling the recommendations made at the Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held at Colombo in 1982, contained in the Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development,

Affirming that unwanted high fertility adversely affects the health and welfare of individuals and families, especially among the poor, and seriously impedes social and economic progress in many countries,

Affirming also the need to integrate human resources development as an important aspect of overall national development processes,

Noting the emphasis placed on quality of life issues as a basic dimension of human resources development in the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, and particularly noting the recommendations contained in that Plan of Action regarding research on and analysis of the

9/ See para. 449 above.