Recognizing the importance of understanding the interrelationships between population, development and poverty among national planners and policymakers and of building the capacity of government officials to integrate population issues into development planning in ways that reduce poverty, promote gender equality and empower women in attaining the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting that many countries in the Asian and Pacific region have witnessed a rapid decline in fertility and an increase in longevity, which have had far-reaching and profound effects on the age structure of the population, including population ageing, labour force shortages, increased old-age dependency ratios and high proportions of women among the elderly,

Noting also that, as a result of globalization and economic disparities, the mobility of people in the Asian and Pacific region has grown internally and internationally, impacting social and economic development in both countries of origin and destination,

Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist members and associate members in building their capacity to integrate population factors into development planning;

(b) To conduct analytical studies, compile and disseminate relevant demographic and population-related information and data with a view to identifying key demographic trends and emerging issues in the Asian and Pacific region;

(c) To convene an expert group meeting in 2008 to review the implementation of the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty, adopted at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference;

(d) To submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its sixty-fifth session and a final report to the Commission at its sixty-eighth session.

Resolution 64/10

Review of the operational details of the feasibility study for the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communications and space technology-enabled disaster management 66

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

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66 See paras. 124 to 129 above.
Recalling its resolution 63/10 of 23 May 2007, in which the Commission, inter alia, requested the Executive Secretary to commission an independent feasibility study on the modalities for strengthening regional coordination and cooperation in natural disaster information management and early warning and to assess, in that regard, the viability of establishing a regional centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management in the Islamic Republic of Iran to enhance regional support for members and associate members in natural disaster prevention and mitigation,

Taking note of the document provided by the secretariat containing an overview of the independent feasibility study requested by the Commission, in particular option 1, as suggested in the study,

1. Invites the Islamic Republic of Iran to review the operational details of the proposal, to clarify the implications, if any, of such changes on the scope, functions and value added products and services to be offered, along with timelines for scheduling the introduction of those activities, and to submit them to the Commission at its sixty-fifth session;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to provide the Islamic Republic of Iran with technical assistance, if required, in the review of the operational details of the proposal.

Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008

B. Other decisions

Decision 64/1
Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 30 April 2008, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific decided that its sixty-fifth session would be held in Bangkok in April/May of 2009, bearing in mind the celebration of two national holidays in Thailand in the first two weeks of April and a number of other national holidays in countries of the region at the end of April and in the first ten days of May, and that the theme topic for its sixty-fifth session would be: “sustainable agriculture and food security”.

Decision 64/2
Deferment of consideration of the draft resolution on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 30 April 2008, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific decided to defer consideration of the draft resolution sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran, entitled “Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management”, to its sixty-fifth session.

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70  E/ESCAP/64/9.
71  Ibid., para. 40 (a).
72  See paras. 260 to 265 above.
73  See paras. 124 to 130 above.
74  E/ESCAP/64/L.10.