

Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development

ESCAP · UNFPA

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I. Preamble

We, the members and associate members
of ESCAP, having convened at the Fourth

Asian and Pacific Population Conference
in Bali, Indonesia, from 19 to 27 August
1992, reviewed the current population situ-
ation and outlook and noted the substan-
tial progress achieved by the countries of

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the region in responding to the 1982 Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development. We express concern that population issues remain among the most pressing challenges facing the region and, in addressing the theme of the 1992 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 and especially in safeguarding the environment and in the pursuit of sustainable development. Accordingly, population considerations must be fully integrated in all aspects of planning and policy making;

(b) sustainable development as a means to ensure human well-being, equitable shared by all people today and in the future, requires that the interrelationships between population, resources, the environment and development 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 pass on to future generations an environmental legacy equivalent to, or better than, that received by the present generation.

(d) an integrated approach incorporating population, resources the environment and development elements must be pursued, although the present understanding of the complex inter-relationships between them is still at an early stage. To do otherwise

would endanger the attainment of sustainable development strategies 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;and

(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, which impose pressures, and constraints on economic development efforts, the environment and natural resources as well as on social conditions.

However, they are often neglected in considerations of environmental and economic development strategies which regard population as a neutral factor rather than a dynamic variable requiring policy intervention;

Affirm that:

(a) in our concern for human well-being, population policies should recognize that individuals are members of the family, community, society, state and global community and, as such, possess rights within those respective contexts;

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

(c) resolution of population concerns is central to achieving the equitable and efficient development of human resources and the 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 UNFPA, and other intergovernmental organizations multilateral agencies in providing technical and financial

support for population programmes in the Asian and Pacific region;

(c) the contributions of donor nations through their bilateral development assistance programmes;and

(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 and the recommendations of the International Conference on Population at Mexico City in 1984, the Call for Action on Population and Development adopted at the Third Asian and Pacific Population Conference at Colombo in 1982, the Amsterdam Declaration adopted at the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held at Amsterdam in 1989, and Agenda 21 and the Rio declaration of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the deliberations at the Conference at Bali in 1992;

Urge that:

(a) all members and associate members of ESCAP make a firm political and financial commitment to fully incorporate population and environment concerns into 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 poli-

cies and programmes to achieve those targets;

(c) the ESCAP secretariat accord high priority and take appropriate action to assist members and associate members to help implement their population, environment and development policies, programmes and strategies;

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

(e) other United Nations organizations, international agencies and non-governmental organizations support members and associate members to implement their population, environment and development policies, programmes and strategies; and

Adopt:

The following Goals and Recommendations for Population and Sustainable Development into the Twenty-first Century.

II. POPULATION GOALS

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

2. The population of countries in the Asia

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 or so, and the current annual growth rate of 1.7 percent is expected to continue to decline steadily, it is projected that there will be another 920 million people added to the region's total by 2010. The bulk of the increase will occur in South Asia and other least developed countries, where population growth rates are not expected to fall much below 2 percent. It is in these lesser developed countries that the problems of poverty are most acute, and where pressures on the education, health and employment sectors are greatest.

3. Fertility, as measured by the total fertility rate, currently averages 3.1 per woman in the Asia and Pacific region. However there are substantial variations between and within the sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific. Fertility, at 2.1 per woman, is currently lowest in east Asia. It is highest, at 4.3 per woman, in south Asia. Similar marked disparities are exhibited in sub-regional levels of mortality. Thus for example, infant mortality at 90 per 1000 births, in south Asia, is more than three times the level of the corresponding rate in east Asia where it is 26.

4. In many countries of the 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, in particular the mega-cities and other

large metropolitan areas. Furthermore, new issues such as environmental degradation, ageing, imbalanced population distribution are emerging and require priority consideration.

5. In order to help reduce high rates of population growth, countries and areas should adopt suitable 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 1000 live births or lower during the same period. In countries and areas where maternal mortality is high, efforts should be made to reduce it at least by half by the year 2010.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

A Population, environment and development

Issues

6. The ultimate objective of sustainable development is to meet human needs and aspirations in balance with population, resources and the environment and enhance the quality of life today and in the future. There is an urgent need to bring into balance population dynamics, socio-economic development, use of natural resources and environmental quality. Special attention should be paid to the demand for natural resources generated by unsustainable consumption and to the efficient use of those resources consistent with the goal of minimizing depletion and reducing

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.

7. 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 greenhouse effects. 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

8. More research needs to be undertaken to improve understanding of the complex synergistic interrelationships 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.

9. 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, research and evaluation of population and sustainable development programmes.

10. 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 sustain ability. Such policies could include development of environmentally friendly technology, reforestation, improvement of quality of air and water, waste recycling and the phasing out of environmentally harmful technologies. Further, 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

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

B. Urbanization, internal and international migration

Issues

12. Population movements in ESCAP countries and areas 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 in the ESCAP region, where the demographic transition has been completed, will become of increasing policy importance.

13. 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 which make them vulnerable to exploitation

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

Recommendations

15. Governments should reassess policies relating to urbanization and seek to implement policies that recognize that urbanization is inevitable. These policies should stress human resource development and sustainable development and improvements in the quality of life in cities and the country-side, particularly slums and other disadvantaged areas.

16. 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 be undertaken.

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

18. Sectors of labour shortage and 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.

19. In view of the importance of the information sector in absorbing large numbers of migrants and workers in many countries and areas of the region, measures aimed at improving the living standards of workers in the informal sector and which are consistent with the principles of sustainable development should be adopted.

20. Measures to protect the rights of migrants, particularly women and children, and to improve their access to facilities and working conditions, should be taken.

21. 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.

22. Policies need to be developed which involve the private and public sectors in adequately accommodating the growth of mega cities but also to create opportunities in rural areas and smaller cities to divert migration away from the mega cities. An important role of government in coping with rapid urbanization is that of creating a favourable climate for private sector investment in smaller towns and cities and in providing the required support mechanisms such as physical and social infrastructure and favourable fiscal and monetary policies.

23. 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 of national boundaries as well as international movements needs 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.

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

25. There should be greater cooperation

among countries and areas of the region to ensure that the rights of international migrants under the ILO Convention on Migrant Workers are protected and their working and living conditions are safeguarded.

26. 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

27. 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 still remains to be done and there is a pressing need for strengthening programmes and adopting innovative approaches and strategies. To a large extent the success of programmes depends upon the empowerment of individuals, families and communities so that they can plan and decide for themselves as well as design and implement programmes based on their own needs.

Recommendations

28. 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 MCH and Family Planning 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; and

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

29. Efforts should be made to improve the accessibility and utilization of family planning and MCH services to 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

at the attrition of skilled workers. Governments should develop the skills of service providers and improve the accessibility and logistics of family planning and MCH services.

30. 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 the spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

31. 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.

32. Family planning and MCH programmes should encourage healthy birth-spacing and breast-feeding. They should always make available and offer birth-spacing methods of family planning.

33. Sustained efforts should be made for greater involvement of males in family planning and to promote use of family planning methods designed for males. In this regard, specific information, education and communication (IEC) strategies should be evolved to inform and educate men about family planning and fertility regulation.

34. Population IEC programmes and services should be specifically designed for

youth and adolescents to minimize the incidence of unplanned and adolescent pregnancies and associated health risks.

35. There is a need to upgrade management information systems (MIS) and train MCH service providers and programme managers to ensure proper monitoring and evaluation in a timely manner through the adoption of appropriate strategies such as rapid and independently conducted low-cost survey procedures.

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

37. Concerted efforts should be made for undertaking relevant research studies and for the findings to be translated into action through their incorporation into on-going policies and programmes.

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

39. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should continue their roles in supporting national programmes. Governments should collaborate with, and enhance the potential of, NGOs 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 diversity of client responsive services; (c) encouraging them to strengthen their grassroots net-works and community participative strategies; (d) putting to best advantage their advocacy function; and (e) enhancing their role as quality service providers.

D. Population and human resources development

Issues

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

41. 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

42. Governments should recognize the key role of human resources in national development and should give strong emphasis in national planning and policy-making on the development of human resources. Where this has not yet been done, policy and planning to ensure that human

resources development is given appropriate recognition.

43. 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 resource development should link into the strong interest of people in availing themselves of these important elements of welfare.

44. More attention should be given to the formulation of policies to cope with the socio-economic consequences of the changing number of persons in certain age groups and the overall growth in their numbers in such fields as education, employment, food and nutrition, housing, and health and welfare services.

45. 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 promote training in a whole variety of contexts including the workplace, the family and the community.

E. Women and population

Issues

46. Women's status, as reflected in their legal rights, education, health, employment, position in the household and family decision making power, affects demograph-

ic 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.

47. 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 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 this area.

48. 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

49. Governments are urged to adopt and implement national policies and programmes to ensure equal opportunities for females in all sectors of social economic development as well as political participation. Gender concerns should be incorporated within 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 as equal partners 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.

50. In order for females to benefit from the opportunities resulting in 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 existing constraints and to facilitate the participation of women in the mainstream of social and economic activities.

51. In line with the recommendations made by the Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly held at Bangkok in 1991, women should be better empowered with greater decision-making authority and their view-points should be considered at all levels to enable better management of resources and protection of the environment.

52. Governments should be ensured that women are neither restricted from, nor forced to, participate in the labour force for reasons of demographic policy or cultural tradition. Further, 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 existing barriers to the realization of that right, in co-operation 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 the society at large.

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

54. All forms of discrimination against women, legislative and otherwise, should be abolished.

F. Population and poverty alleviation

Issues

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

56. 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; contributing to high infant, child and maternal mortality. Among the poor, children and women are especially vulnerable to exploitation.

57. 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

58. 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, which will slow population growth and produce faster income growth as well as reduce family size, improve education and productivity and provide better life chances; and

(b) the provision of adequate and efficient basic social and health services and facilities to improve well-being and increase the human capital and skills of 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, 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.

59. 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 in breaking the cycle of poverty and population growth.

60. Government should formulate long-term policies and programmes to tackle population growth and poverty jointly because of their complementarities and the strong synergies between them. The policies and programmes should be responsive to poor people's needs, particularly in education, training and family planning and MCH programmes.

61. When economic restructuring occurs, governments need to take steps to minimize its adverse impacts upon the poor and under-privileged.

62. Priority should be given to research into the linkages and interactions between poverty, population dynamics, resources and the environment. The results of this can render assistance in the design of policies and implementation of strategic programmes.

G. Mortality and morbidity

Issues

63. Mortality has declined significantly in

most Asian and Pacific countries and areas. In some countries and areas of the region, however, the expectation of life at birth remains below 55 years. Even in countries and areas 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 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.

64. Further reductions in morbidity and mortality 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

65. In countries and areas where infant, child and maternal mortality countries 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.

66. Governments should further strengthen their basic health infrastructure and

manpower, and ensure the provision of equipment and supplies for improving affordable health-services delivery.

67. In view of the rapid spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the region and its increasing cumulative prevalence, countries should initiate IEC programmes to educate their populations about the prevention of HIV/AIDS infection; including as an element in family planning programmes. They should collect data to monitor trends of HIV/AIDS.

68. There is a need for Governments to strengthen research into the levels and patterns of morbidity and mortality changes that are 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

69. 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.

70. The majority of the elderly have considerable potential for both self-reliance and for making contributions to their families and communities. They have a right

and a responsibility to make those contributions.

71. The family is still the principal source of support for the elderly, However, with rapid industrialization, urbanization and increasing frequency of full-time paid work by both spouses, traditional family support systems for the elderly will be placed under considerable strain.

Recommendations

72. Governments are urged to formulate long-term development strategies which 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.

73. Comprehensive programmes which aim to increase the support or contributions of the elderly should involve all sectors and levels of Government, as well as non-governmental organizations, the private sector and unions.

74. Efforts should be made to develop policies and programmes at the local level for bringing the active elderly into the mainstream of economic and social development to enhance their contributions to their families and communities. This may include life-long education programmes.

75. The family-support system should be strengthened by providing economic incen-

tives, such as tax exemptions and special privileges to families taking care of their elderly members.

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

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

78. Broad information and educational programmes should be introduced to create awareness and understanding of the issues of ageing and to inculcate 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.

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

80. Research is needed on the interrelationships among changes in family patterns and structure, cultural and traditional changes and ageing, 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

81. 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 system. Furthermore, small-area data sets need to be developed for decentralized and local-level planning.

Recommendations

82. Governments are urged to further 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 also devote more effort to upgrading analytical skills in the area of policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation studies. In particular national census, vital registration and survey organization capabilities should be strengthened and enhanced.

83. The creation of computerized databases, both numeric and bibliographic, at the national, regional and sub-regional 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

84. Government 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.

85. National population information systems should be strengthened following the framework for the Population Information Network (POPIN).

86. Coordination among national, sub-regional 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.

87. 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. In this context, countries should establish, strengthen and maintain population research centres.

88. In support of this effort, regional and international organizations should establish standards related to database development, such as data format, structure and software, to facilitate compatibility in their creation by national information centres and their utilization at the national and regional levels.

J. Resource mobilization

Issues

89. 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.

90. The International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held at Amsterdam in November 1989, had 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 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 Asia-Pacific region. Towards this end, an option of 4 percent Official Development Assistance (ODA) 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.

91. The central challenge all nations face today is to mobilize additional resources to support broad based population pro-

grammes. 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 to attain their targets by the year 2000.

92. 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 by other members and associate members that are still striving to attain desired population goals. The former group of countries are urged to allocate resources for the transfer of knowledge and skills to other countries in the process of attaining their demographic goals and objectives, through the exchange of expertise, sharing of information and knowledge and facilitating training. 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.

93. As the 1990s proceed the emerging population issues in the region will become more diverse and complex, and hence require flexible and innovative approaches in order to sustain the achievements made over the last three decades. In this context, 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 shaping their future population policies and programmes. Also, 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.