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**RESOLUTIONS BEARING ON THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION  
ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. In this Note the Executive Secretary brings to the Commission's attention the resolutions and decisions 1/ bearing on the work of the Commission which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its regular session in 1992, and by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, namely during the period since the forty-seventh session of the Commission.
2. The resolutions and decisions are divided into two groups: Part I, those which directly bear on the work of the Commission, and Part II, those which the Commission may wish to keep in mind in its further work.

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1/ The relevant extracts from these texts are quoted or summarized in this note as necessary. The full texts are contained in the official Records of the Council (E/1992/92 and Add.1) and of the General Assembly (A/47/49).

PART I

A. **RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS REGULAR SESSIONS, 1992**

1992/14 Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

3. In its operative paragraphs the Council:

"1. Strongly urges the Secretary-General to increase the number of women in posts subject to geographical distribution, particularly in senior policy-level and decision-making posts, in order to achieve an overall participation rate of 35 per cent by 1995, and a goal of 25 per cent of the total within the overall participation rate of 35 per cent in posts at the D-1 level and above, taking into consideration the need to increase the representation of women from countries with a low or no representation of women, especially from the developing countries;

2. Urges the Secretary-General to appoint women to senior policy-level and decision-making posts in his next appointments, and to achieve the targets set for the Secretariat by 1995;

4. Calls upon all Member States to contribute fully to increasing the participation rate of women in the Professional category and above throughout the United Nations system by, inter alia, nominating more women candidates, especially for senior policy-level and decision-making posts, encouraging women to apply for vacant posts and creating national rosters of women candidates to be shared with the Secretariat and the executive bodies of the specialized agencies and related organizations, taking into consideration the need to increase the representation of women from countries with a low or no representation of women, especially from the developing countries".

4. There are currently 17 women in professional posts in the ECE (14.8%). At the P-5 level and above there is one woman (3.4%) and 16 at lower grades (18.6%).

1992/43 Strengthening the role of the regional commissions

5. The Council in the operative paragraphs of the resolution:

"1. Urges the regional commissions to take steps to enable them fully to play their role in assisting their member States, in particular the developing countries, to promote accelerated and sustainable development through an integrated approach;

2. Recommends that, when preparing regional technical cooperation programmes, all relevant bodies of the United Nations development system coordinate their work with the regional commissions with a view to achieving a better and more focused use of available resources, greater coherence of action and, therefore, greater and more concentrated impact;

3. Also recommends that the regional commissions participate fully in the programme budget process at United Nations Headquarters;

4. Urges that priority setting for programming should take fully into account the views of member States;

6. Requests each regional commission to study the possibility of assisting member States, as appropriate, to participate fully and effectively as the sessions of the regional commissions;

7. Stresses the role and important contribution of the regional commissions, within their mandates, in the follow-up and implementation of the decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular those contained in Agenda 21;

8. Stresses further the importance of the regional commissions being part of the continued reform process in the economic and social fields, bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 45/264 and 46/235".

6. In response to paragraph 6 of Assembly resolution 46/235, and taking note of Council resolution 1992/43, the Commission at its Special Session on 5 October 1992 adopted resolution 1 (1992-S): Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields: strengthening the role and functions of the regional commissions, particularly the Economic Commission for Europe. The resolution contained the Commission's recommendations to the Assembly for the strengthening of the ECE. The Assembly at its resumed forty-eighth session will take up the question of restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.

1992/45 Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

7. In paragraph 1 the Council requests the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to prepare an evaluation report on the project studies undertaken in the period 1982-1993 for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993. In paragraph 7 the Council calls upon the Secretary-General to provide ECA and ECE with the necessary budgetary resources, within existing priorities, for the preparation of the above-mentioned evaluation report.

**B. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

47/10 Cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

8. In the resolution the Assembly welcomes the CSCE declaration of understanding that it is a regional arrangement in the sense of chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and as such provides an important link between European and global security. It calls for enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the CSCE, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session a report on cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the CSCE.

9. The Commission may wish to request the Executive Secretary to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General the work carried out by the UN/ECE as a multilateral implementing forum of the CSCE as a contribution to his report to the Assembly, including the ECE contribution to and participation in the first meeting of the CSCE Economic Forum.

47/92 Convening of a world summit for social development

10. In operative paragraph 3 the Assembly

"Decides to convene a World Summit for Social Development at the level of heads of State or Government to be held early in 1995".

In paragraph 4 it

"Accepts with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Denmark to act as host to the Summit".

In operative paragraph 5 the Assembly decides that the Summit shall have the following objectives:

(a) To further the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, as stated in Article 55, to promote 'higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development', and 'solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems', with particular focus on social development aspects;

(b) To express a shared world-wide commitment to put the needs of people at the centre of development and of international cooperation as a major priority of international relations;

(c) To stimulate international cooperation at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, through governmental, private and non-governmental initiatives, in order to assist in the implementation of nationally appropriate, effective and efficient social policies and to formulate strategies which enable all citizens to be actively engaged in those policies;

(d) To formulate strategies on goals, policies and priority actions that could be taken at the national, regional and international levels to address, in the different development realities, core issues of shared universal concern in the field of social development, giving particular attention to the needs of the least developed countries;

(e) To create international awareness of and address the modalities to attain the necessary balance between economic efficiency and social justice in a growth-oriented, equitable and sustainable development environment in accordance with nationally defined priorities;

(f) To address, in creative ways, the interaction between the social function of the State, market responses to social demands and the imperatives of sustainable development;

(g) To identify common problems of socially marginalized and disadvantaged groups and promote the integration of those groups into society, highlighting the need for societies to equalize opportunities for all members;

(h) To promote programmes to ensure legal protection, foster effective social welfare programmes and enhance education and training for different groups in all societies, including the marginalized and disadvantaged groups;

(i) To assist in ensuring a more effective delivery of social services for the more disadvantaged sectors of society;

(j) To highlight the need to mobilize resources for social development at the local, national, regional and international levels;

(k) To make appropriate recommendations regarding more effective action by the United Nations system in the sphere of social development, in particular measures and policies for the revitalization of the Commission for Social Development".

In operative paragraph 14 the Assembly

"Requests the regional commissions to include in their programme of work for 1993 the World Summit for Social Development, with particular emphasis on the social situation in their respective regions, including proposals, and to prepare an integrated report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session".

11. To assist delegations in considering this question the secretariat has prepared a background paper on the socio-economic activities of the ECE (see Annex). The Commission may wish to adopt the course of action suggested in paragraphs 1 and 37 of that paper.

47/95            Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

12. In paragraph 11 the Assembly recommends the further development of methods of compilation and data collection in areas of concern identified by the Commission on the Status of Women, and in paragraph 13 it emphasizes once again the need to give urgent attention to redressing socio-economic inequalities at the national and international levels as a necessary step towards the full realization of the goals and objectives of the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

In paragraph 20 the Assembly

"Also requests the Secretary-General to continue updating the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, bearing in mind its importance, placing particular emphasis on the adverse impact of the difficult economic situation affecting the majority of worsening conditions for the incorporation of women into the labour force, as well as the impact of reduced expenditures for social services on women's

opportunities for education, health and child care, and to submit a preliminary version of the updated World Survey on the Role of Women in Development to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, in 1993 and a final version in 1994".

In paragraph 22 the Assembly

"Requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to report periodically to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, on activities undertaken at all levels to implement the Forward-looking Strategies".

13. Taking into account the provisions of this resolution and those of Council resolution 1990/12 and Assembly resolution 44/77 in which it was decided to convene a World Conference, the Commission may wish at its forty-eighth session to decide to convene a regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in 1995. The meeting is expected to focus on many of the issues raised in resolution 47/95.

47/165      Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

14. In the resolution the Assembly

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/150, and the recommendations contained therein on priority areas of international cooperation in studying, mitigating and minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the activities related to the follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 45/190 and 46/150, taking into consideration the subsequent social, economic and other changes that have occurred in the countries most affected by the Chernobyl disaster;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General, in the light of his recommendations on priority areas, to undertake an analytical review of all United Nations activities to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in those countries most affected, including related Secretariat arrangements, taking full account of ongoing programmes and other relevant activities, including those of regional and other organizations, and the principle of comparative advantage;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the conclusions of the analytical review

requested in paragraph 3 above, and to submit an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993;

5. Decides to consider at its forty-eighth session the question of the biennialization of this agenda item."

15. Several ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies have proposals under consideration for work intended to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. The Committee on Agriculture and the Timber Committee have included in their programmes of work items relating to the Chernobyl disaster.

47/166 International cooperation and assistance to alleviate the consequences of war in Croatia and to facilitate its recovery

16. In operative paragraphs 1 and 2 the Assembly

"Appeals to all States, regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to provide cooperation in various forms, and special and other assistance, in particular in the most severely affected areas and with a view to facilitating the return of refugees and internally displaced persons to those areas;

Requests the Secretary-General, having regard for the continuum ranging from emergency relief to the longer-term development needs of the war-torn region, to initiate, in cooperation with the Government of Croatia, an assessment of needs for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of Croatia, and to introduce, if appropriate, an international appeal for the funding of a programme for rehabilitation, reconstruction and development".

17. The Commission may wish to request its subsidiary bodies to study possible action to assist the Government of Croatia in sectors mentioned in the resolution and to submit their recommendations to the Commission at its forty-ninth session.

47/171 Privatization in the context of economic restructuring, economic growth and sustainable development

18. In paragraph 2 the Assembly calls upon interested Member States to enhance the exchange of information among themselves and all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system on their activities, programmes and experiences concerning privatization, demonopolization, administrative deregulation and other relevant policies in order to increase the efficiency and coordination of technical cooperation in this field. In paragraph 3 it requests the Secretary-General to improve, within existing resources, research activities on all areas of privatization, demonopolization, administrative deregulation and other relevant policies to enhance cooperation with national and international research institutions and to include all pertinent findings in relevant United Nations publications, including the World Economic Survey.

19. In 1992 the ECE secretariat published a Guide on Legal Aspects of Privatization in Industry (ECE/TRADE/180) and prepared a Note on Progress of Privatization in the Economies in Transition (TRADE/R.595). A new Guide on "Privatization on Foreign Investment in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe: Legal Aspects" will be published in 1993. A study on the promotion of foreign direct investment in the ECE region was also prepared by the ECE secretariat. A workshop on the promotion of FDI in countries in transition will be organized in Slovenia in the spring of 1993.

20. Pursuant to Commission decision O (45) and within the framework of its programme of workshops for countries in transition, a number of workshops have been organized and several are envisaged dealing with issues relating to privatization, restructuring of state-owned enterprises and industrial policy in the countries in transition. A report is to be published containing selected papers presented at the Workshop on Industrial Policies in the Economies in Transition which was held in Budapest, Hungary, in October 1992. Privatization is also a subject which has been studied in the analysis provided by the secretariat, particularly in the Economic Survey of Europe in 1991-1992, and that under preparation for 1992-1993, and the recommendations adopted by the Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments at their twenty-eighth session.

47/176        International Conference on Population and Development

21. In operative paragraphs 3 and 4 the Assembly

"Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/37 of 30 July 1992, in which the Council decided to convene the International Conference on Population and Development at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994;

Accepts with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Egypt to act as host to the Conference".

In operative paragraph 14 the Assembly

"Stresses the significance of the various regional perspectives that exist on issues of population and development, and welcomes in this context the convening by the regional commissions and the United Nations Population Fund of regional population conferences, whose outcome will contribute significantly to the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development".

22. UN/ECE, jointly with the Council of Europe and UNFPA, has convened the European Population Conference in Geneva from 23-26 March 1993 in preparation for the International Conference on Population and Development. The agenda for the European Conference includes the following items: international migration; fertility and the family; health and mortality; population growth and age structure: selected consequences; international cooperation in the field of population. The Meeting at its Ministerial Session will adopt a set of recommendations which will constitute the Commission's contribution to the International Conference.



47/180 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

23. In operative paragraphs 1 and 2 the Assembly

"Decides to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996, at the highest possible level of participation;

Decides that the Conference, in addressing human settlements issues in the context of sustainable development, should have the following objectives:

(a) In the long term, to arrest the deterioration of global human settlements conditions and ultimately create the conditions for achieving improvements in the living environment of all people on a sustainable basis, with special attention to the needs and contributions of women and vulnerable social groups whose quality of life and participation in development have been hampered by exclusion and inequality, affecting the poor in general;

(b) To adopt a general statement of principles and commitments and formulate a related global plan of action capable of guiding national and international efforts through the first two decades of the next century; such a plan of action should include:

- (i) A comprehensive set of programmes and subprogrammes, with realistic targets and timetables, and provision for monitoring and evaluation of performance;
- (ii) Guidelines for national settlement policies and strategies that can effectively contribute to the alleviation of urban and rural poverty and the promotion of a sustainable economic development process with due consideration given to the growth and distribution of population, the urban transition, natural disasters, the availability of land and other resources and the interests of women and major groups;
- (iii) Programmes and subprogrammes relating to new and emerging issues of technologies, including the impact of the current communication and informatics revolution, energy, transportation and environmental infrastructure, namely, water-supply, sanitation and waste management;
- (iv) Programmes and subprogrammes that would carry forward relevant elements of Agenda 21 to promote the development of environmentally sustainable human settlements in the future;
- (v) Proposals for mobilizing, nationally and internationally, the necessary human, financial and technical resources, taking into account the enabling concept and the commitments of new and additional resources, as well as funding from countries' own public and private sectors, for the implementation of Agenda 21 programmes;

- (vi) Measures for the reorganization and strengthening of national, metropolitan and municipal institutions and machinery to enhance the development of human settlements and operations capabilities;
- (vii) Recommendations on ways in which the role of the United Nations and existing institutional arrangements for international cooperation and coordination in human settlements can be strengthened".

In paragraph 5 the Assembly

"Invites relevant or interested organizations, organs, programmes and concerned agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental, subregional and regional organizations to participate actively in the preparatory process".

In paragraph 19 the Assembly

"Recommends that regional and subregional preparatory meetings should be held in conjunction with meetings of subregional and regional intergovernmental bodies, wherever possible".

24. The ECE participated in the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee which was held in New York from 3 to 5 March 1993.

47/187      Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

25. In paragraph 3 the Assembly requests the Secretary-General to coordinate and strengthen the ability of the United Nations system to conduct analytical and policy advice activities regarding the changes that take place in those economies as they integrate into the world economy.

26. Pursuant to Commission decisions C (45), O (45), B (46) and D (47) the ECE has undertaken work, both within its regular programme activities and in its programme of workshops, to assist countries in transition and to facilitate their integration with the European and world economies (see document E/ECE/1272).

47/191      Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

27. In operative paragraphs 27 and 28 the Assembly

"Requests United Nations regional commissions to examine the relevant provisions of chapter 38 of Agenda 21 at their next sessions and submit reports on their specific plans to implement Agenda 21;

Requests the Economic and Social Council to decide on the arrangements required so that the reports of regional commissions with the conclusions related to such a review be made available to the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1993, or at the latest in 1994".

28. In response to Commission decision E (47) the secretariat prepared for the sixth session of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems (16-19 March 1993) a note on the implications at the regional level of the outcome of the UNCED (ENVWA/R.69). The document contains a list of 31 possible actions which the Commission may wish to consider to implement Agenda 21.

29. Chapters 19, 20 and 22 of Agenda 21, which deal with the Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals, Hazardous Wastes and Radioactive Wastes respectively, and the Prevention of Illegal Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products/Wastes, are directly relevant to the work of the ITC Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and of the Economic and Social Council Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (which is also a body serviced by the secretariat of the UN/ECE).

30. At its second session the Working Party on the Chemical Industry considered the outcome of the High-Level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industry, held in Warsaw, Poland in March 1992, and discussed in detail possible activities within the follow-up process entitled "Chemical Industry - Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development" (CHEMISEED). Within the framework of this process, the Working Party will undertake a pilot project to demonstrate the environmental clean-up of selected chemical production sites, and it will organize a meeting of experts in Warsaw in April 1993 to prepare a detailed project proposal for the establishment of a Regional Environmental Management Centre for the Chemical Industry; a workshop in Turkey in 1994 on waste treatment in industrial parks; and a seminar in the Russian Federation in 1995 on the complex utilization of raw materials using advanced low- and non-waste process technologies.

31. In June 1993 a Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe will be held in Helsinki with the participation of ECE and FAO. The Conference will consider follow-up action to UNCED covering the issues of:

- principles for sustainable development
- guidelines for conservation
- cooperation with countries in transition
- strategies related to climate change.

32. Sustainable development is an important guiding principle in the development and implementation of the programme of work of the Committee on Energy. Among the results already achieved are:

- the publication on "Sustainable energy developments in Europe and North America" (ECE Energy Series No. 6, New York, 1991);
- the project "Energy Efficiency 2000"; and
- the project "Global Energy Efficiency 21 - an Interregional Project".

**PART II**

**A. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL REGULAR SESSIONS IN 1992**

- 1992/14 Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat
- 1992/36 Privatization and foreign investment in the context of economic restructuring
- 1992/37 International Conference on Population and Development
- 1992/38 International cooperation and coordination of efforts to address and mitigate the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant
- 1992/40 Activities of the United Nations system in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States
- 1992/46 Admission of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan as members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- 1992/50 Admission of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan as members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

**B. GENERAL ASSEMBLY FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

- 47/90 The role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends
- 47/175 Impact of the recent evolution of the economies in transition on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic cooperation
- 47/193 Observance of World Day for Water
- 47/213 Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1994-1995

ANNEX

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

1. This note has been prepared by the secretariat to assist the Commission in determining its response to General Assembly resolution 47/92 which requests the regional commissions to include in their programme of work for 1993 the World Summit for Social Development to be convened in Denmark in 1995 with particular emphasis on the social situation in their respective regions, including proposals to prepare an integrated report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. Operative paragraph 5 of the resolution sets out the objectives of the Conference. The activities listed in this paper have been carried out within the framework of the Commission's programme of work. The Commission at its forty-eighth session may wish to endorse the continuation of these and other activities related to the themes of the World Summit as its contribution to the Summit and request the Executive Secretary to transmit a report on those activities to the Secretary-General for inclusion in the integrated report to be submitted to the General Assembly.

**Social policies**

2. The countries of the ECE region have been in the forefront in the development and implementation of social welfare policies and programmes designed to raise the living standards of their citizens, although there have always been significant differences between the countries in that respect. While some countries, particularly those in the west, enjoy a relatively high level of economic and social development, they are also witnessing major economic and social changes which call for innovative and practical approaches. In the countries of central and eastern Europe which have recently begun the process of transition from a command to a market economy, and from a rigid totalitarian political system to democracy, unprecedented challenges to social policy-making are to be found. In its economic analysis of these developments the ECE has drawn attention to the need to maintain or to restore a social net to assist the more vulnerable sections of the population, especially where inflation and unemployment appear as new phenomena.

3. At the same time, due to medical advances, better health standards, lower birth-rates and the ageing of the population, changes in demography of the countries of the region have major implications for wide sectors of economic activity, including the transport sector, housing, public services and, in particular, the provision of healthcare services for the disabled and the elderly.

4. Social expenditures presently account for an important share of national expenditure in most countries of the region. ECE data for several west European market-economy countries show that social spending as a proportion of their Gross Domestic Product increased from about one sixth in 1960 to more than a quarter in the early 1980s. For most of this period rapid growth in social expenditure took place in a more favourable economic climate than that of today and that forecast for the next decade.

5. The present economic climate and conditions in the countries of the region are having a significant influence on national social and healthcare policies. This is becoming very evident from the range of measures which are being introduced in many countries with a view to controlling and more evenly spreading the costs among all sectors of the population.
6. The search for ways to reconcile the contradictory trends – on the one hand, to control social welfare and healthcare costs, and on the other to satisfy the increasing demand for social and healthcare services – has been the subject of considerable study over the past decade within the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Particular attention is paid to the role of the social pact in the context of economic integration.

#### **Population issues**

7. Interconnected with social and economic developments in the region are the population changes typical of the demographic maturity associated with low, often sub-replacement fertility, and low and falling mortality. These population shifts are characterized by slow and, at times, negative population growth, and advanced and accelerating population ageing. They are compounded by international population movements, which are no longer restricted to south-north migration but increasingly involve east-west movements and new migration streams arising, in part, from the dissolution of multi-ethnic States in central and eastern Europe.
8. Population ageing and the status of the elderly are increasingly attracting the attention of top policy-makers in the region, so much so that 1993 has been designated as the European Year of Elderly People by the European Community. In response to the growing need for policy-relevant knowledge on the determinants and consequences of population ageing, the ECE has recently published a large collection of studies on demographic determinants and economic consequences of population aging; the volume is entitled "Demographic Causes and Economic Consequences of Population Aging: Europe and North America". A second, companion volume which will be entitled "Social Aspects and Country Reviews of Population Ageing" will be published in mid-1993.
9. The ECE, in collaboration with UNFPA, is currently engaged in a new, innovative project on the characteristics and conditions of the elderly in selected countries of the region. The project will draw microdata census samples containing information on elderly individuals, members of their households and the dwelling units in which they live based on the 1990 round of national population and housing censuses. The samples will be analysed with a view to preparing and publishing national studies and cross-national comparative studies on a variety of policy-relevant themes, among which will be: living arrangements of the elderly, profiles of institutionalized elderly populations, economic and housing conditions of the elderly, and work and retirement patterns among the old.
10. Advanced and accelerating population ageing is primarily a consequence of the long-term downward trends in the average family size and, more recently, major gains in old-age survival. The fertility decline has been brought about by declines in marriage rates, which have, however, been largely compensated

by increases in non-marital cohabitation, and a decrease in the number of children couples choose to have. These trends have been associated with major gains in the educational attainment of women, increases in female participation in the labour market and shifts in values toward family and children. In order better to understand the interrelationships between family formation and dissolution, childbearing, education and work of women, and values, the ECE is collaborating with UNFPA and national demographic centres on the collection and analysis of fertility and family sample survey data in more than a dozen ECE countries.

11. In the past five years many ECE countries have experienced surges in uncontrolled immigration. The numbers of illegal migrants, asylum seekers, displaced persons and refugees have been on the rise in both western Europe and North America. Although the immigration of foreign workers has been largely controlled at a low level, other forms of regular migration, especially those arising from family reunification, have continued unabated. In central and eastern Europe and in the territory of the former Soviet Union the emergence of new independent States, economic hardship, ethnic strife and civil war have contributed to population movements which could not have been anticipated only a few years ago. In view of this, the ECE is engaged in a research project which, among other things, seeks to document in a rapid and comprehensive manner the various population movements within the region. The project will also analyse the causes and effects, as well as conditions and processes, of international migration taking place within and originating from the countries in transition.

12. The countries in the region have extensive experience with various population-related policies, including both population-influencing and population-accommodating policy measures. Although some of these policies, such as family policies, are known to have demographic effects, in many countries they have only been used to improve the well-being of the population. The demographic impact of many of these policies is not fully understood, which makes it difficult for the policy-maker to use them as instruments of deliberate population policy formulation and implementation. In view of this, the ECE is engaged in a major research project, the objective of which is a comprehensive review and evaluation of population-related policies in the following three fields: the elderly and population aging, fertility and the family, and international migration. The findings of the studies will be widely disseminated in the region and throughout the developing world.

13. Many of the population issues and policies that are being studied by the secretariat are on the agenda of the European Population Conference which will be held in Geneva from 23 to 26 March 1993. The Conference is convened jointly by ECE, UNFPA and the Council of Europe. The themes of the Conference include the following: international migration, fertility and the family, health and mortality, population growth and age structure (selected consequences), and international cooperation in the field of population. This ministerial-level intergovernmental conference will review population-related issues and policies in the region and adopt a set of recommendations addressing these issues and policies. The recommendations, along with a report of the Conference, will represent a contribution of the three

Conference organizers to the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in 1994.

#### **Women's issues**

14. In support of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women; Equality, Development and Peace the ECE is to hold a regional preparatory meeting as a follow-up to the two meetings held in 1980 and 1984 in preparation for the Nairobi Conference. The meeting is expected to focus on socio-economic aspects of the status of women in the ECE region, with particular emphasis on women in the countries in transition to a market economy.

15. At the invitation of UNIDO the secretariat is investigating the possibility of cooperating on a typology examination of women's involvement in economic and industrial development for the European region with the aim of identifying strategies and mechanisms to provide women with access to, and participation in, the industrial services sector, and to increase women's integration into the upper échelons of economic and industrial management. The work is also envisaged as a contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

16. The ECE is also cooperating with INSTRAW and IFAD on a training and exchange programme involving women farmers in Hungary and Bulgaria and their counterparts in the American mid-west. The objective of the project is to introduce the Bulgarian and Hungarian women to farm operations in a market economy and to expose them to managerial, technical and other skills relevant to agricultural work in a market economy.

#### **Statistics**

17. At the same time the Conference of European Statisticians, a Principal Subsidiary Body of the ECE, has assembled an inventory of the main types of statistics and indicators on women available from ECE countries and from intergovernmental organizations in the region. The Conference convened two meetings in cooperation with INSTRAW (the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women) to discuss various methodological problems and issues such as usage of time-use surveys, methods of measuring women's contribution to household income, and estimates of women's under-employment. The Conference convened other meetings in 1989 and 1992 on improved measurements of women's labour-force participation and statistical indicators required by the Forward-looking Strategies in countries of the ECE region, and will convene the next one in 1995.

18. The Conference of European Statisticians also has a number of other projects in its work programme which have a social dimension, such as population aging (it published a volume in 1991 on demographic and economic consequences of changing population age structures), international migration, housing and human-settlement statistics, and health, education and cultural statistics.



### **Human settlements**

19. One example is the ECE work in harmonizing regulations and exchanging information for the construction of human settlements to shelter the peoples of the region. Under the auspices of its Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, more than 20 seminars have been held in the last 10 years on subjects such as housing forecasting and programming; housing finance; rent policies; housing improvement; urban renewal; integrated socio-economic, physical and environmental planning; energy conservation; land-use policies; housing for the handicapped; livability of human settlements development in the Arctic; citizen participation; and planning for recreation and leisure.

### **Environment and sustainable development**

20. The protection of the environment from both air and water pollution which has been a pillar of ECE's work for more than 20 years has an important social dimension, including health care. The Commission's recent acceptance of sustainable development as a guiding principle for all its relevant activities has served to underscore the social dimension. Its work on air-pollution control resulted in the adoption of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution at a Ministerial Meeting in Geneva in 1979. Now ratified by more than 30 countries, the Convention has already been under-pinned by two protocols. One deals with the monitoring of pollutants deposited throughout the region and the identification of their source; the other provides a commitment for a 30% cut in sulphur-dioxide pollution. A third protocol on nitrogen oxide was adopted in November 1988. The Regional Long-term Strategy for Environmental Protection and the Rational Use of Natural Resources was endorsed by the Commission at its forty-third session in 1988. The Strategy sets the framework for achieving, in the early part of the next century, conditions whereby economic growth and social development are compatible with a sustainable use of the environment.

21. Through a series of vivid incidents, the citizens of this region have come to realize that they can no longer take it for granted that there is ready access to unlimited clean water whenever they turn on the tap. Lakes, rivers, groundwaters as well as coastal waters have a limited capacity to carry pollutants, and water availability thus depends to a large extent on water quality. To this end, the Governments of the region endorsed the ECE Declaration of Policy on Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, including Transboundary Pollution, and on the Rational Use of Water. Recommendations to ECE Governments were adopted in particular on drinking-water supply and effluent disposal systems as well as on waste-water treatment.

22. Increased emphasis had been placed on the protection of aquifers against pollution and over-use in view of the importance of groundwater as a safe source of drinking water and as an essential part of the natural ecosystem. As a result of many activities in this field, the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems are now finalizing the Charter on Groundwater Management in order to provide guidance to Governments in formulating, adopting and implementing groundwater policies on a national and international level aiming at, inter alia, safe drinking-water supply. With a view to promoting international cooperation in reducing the risk of accidental

pollution of transboundary waters, the Senior Advisers are elaborating a code of conduct in this field.

### **Tourism**

23. With increasing disposable incomes and reduced work times, more and more people enjoy increased leisure time which is often used for travel. Tourism is one of the fastest growing service industries and as such has important environmental and social consequences in tourist-receiving areas. Development of adequate tourist areas to avoid pollution of the natural environment is a major task of land-use and tourism planning. Experience has shown that besides the positive economic aspects, tourism can destabilize traditional economic systems, particularly in rural and coastal areas, and disturb traditional social patterns. In order to understand these issues better and subsequently promote sustainable development the Committee on Human Settlements, the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems and the Agriculture and Timber Committees have carried out joint work, particularly in the preparation of a Symposium on Planning for Sustainable Tourism Development held in October 1991. Recognizing the economic importance of tourism for transition countries, further activities in this field are planned in the form of workshops.

### **Trade**

23. In the field of employment particular attention is devoted to the role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in generating new employment opportunities. A study on SMEs in the ECE region was prepared by the secretariat in 1992 which showed that, in addition to becoming the main suppliers of new jobs, SMEs are also showing more resistance than large enterprises to a recession situation. SMEs thus have a stabilizing effect in times of economic fluctuations. The secretariat study also described how the privatization process in the countries in transition is affecting the emergence of SMEs, and to what extent the creation of SMEs could absorb part of the unemployment in those countries. An ECE workshop on that issue, including the role of SMEs for international trade and investment, is scheduled for 1993.

### **Transport**

24. The establishment of international conventions and agreements is one of the important facets of the Economic Commission for Europe's activities in the field of transport. Since its beginning, the Inland Transport Committee has adopted 48 conventions and agreements concerning the entire sector of inland transport, thereby facilitating the movement of goods and people in the ECE region and beyond.

25. A further aspect of these conventions covers traffic safety. The provisions contained in world-wide Conventions on Road Traffic and Road Signs and Signals and the European Agreement supplementing them are the basis for a region-wide endeavour to make our lives safer in road transport. Safety aspects also play a major role in the design and construction of motor-vehicle parts and equipment; one may even note the drivers' licences and car-insurance forms which are also products of the ECE, as well as regulations

on hours of driving and the methods for its recording for road-haulage vehicles. The ECE organized a Road Safety Week in 1990 which was observed in all countries of the region. A similar event will be organized in 1995 aimed particularly at young people.

26. The ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport regularly considers possibilities on how to improve procedures to prevent the abuse of customs transit systems by drug smugglers. The Commission continues to service the work of ECOSOC at the global level on the transport of dangerous goods to guarantee the application of standards which ensure public safety at a time of growing concern over the movement and storage of hazardous products. Work in ECE also helps to improve the transport of handicapped persons in road traffic, the transport of persons using wheelchairs in public-service vehicles and the adaptation of passenger cars to the needs of the disabled.

### **Rehabilitation**

27. In the ECE region some 10% of the population suffer from some form of serious disability, and this percentage is expected to increase in the future as the aging of the population progresses. Rehabilitation engineering could provide the tools with which the disabled, as well as the growing elderly population, could satisfy their basic needs, pursue their educational and occupational activities and improve the quality of their lives. Rehabilitation engineering involves a wide range of technologies, some very expensive, others simple and affordable.

28. In 1989 a project on rehabilitation engineering was launched by the ECE Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation in close cooperation with the International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering, the World Health Organization and several other international organizations. The study was conducted through a series of three workshops: the first was held in Washington D.C. in June 1990 (REHAB-1), the second at Fagernes, Norway, in May 1991 (REHAB-2), and the third (and final) took place at Trebon-Spa (Czech Republic) in May 1992 (REHAB-3). Experts from 27 countries (25 ECE member States, Japan and the People's Republic of China) as well as representatives of 19 international regional and subregional organizations active in the field participated in the workshops. The wide interest registered in the study of recent rehabilitation technologies, service delivery infrastructures for disabled and elderly people, cost-effectiveness, including financial and quality-of-life aspects, market entry and system development strategies, education and information and other related issues, demonstrated the increased recognition of the urgent need to improve the status of disabled persons in the region and to equalize their opportunities. This is particularly important for the countries in transition to market economies of central and eastern Europe which presently face a multitude of problems. The ECE is preparing a publication on the outcome of its work in the field of rehabilitation engineering as its contribution to mark the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons.

### **Energy**

29. To increase mine safety the ECE will hold a symposium in St. Petersburg from 5 to 9 June 1994. The meeting will address the theoretical concepts of

sudden outbursts of rock, coal and gas; the potential for forecasting these hazards; and their prevention and the mitigation of their impact on miners. The meeting aims at systematizing outbursts and their prevention and thereby at enhancing the application of international experience and technology of forecasting and prevention techniques in underground coal-mining. It will address such issues as: early warning, rescue, means of securing the safety of miners, simulation of rescue operations and rescue training.

### **Agriculture**

30. The ECE Committee on Agriculture, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization, has drawn up a series of standards covering a range of foodstuffs including potatoes, fresh and dried fruit, vegetables, eggs, meat and seed potatoes. New activities on quality development and consumers' attitudes towards quality in the agri-food sector are being developed.

31. The FAO/ECE Working Party on the Economics of the Agri-Food Sector and Farm Management deals with a range of topics related to the welfare of farming communities and families and the problems of maintaining an economically viable social fabric in the more remote and less prosperous areas. In 1994, for example, the Working Party will devote its regular session to the human factor in agriculture with reference to rapid changes in market situations, social environment and technology. A seminar held in Austria in June 1991 dealt with the alternative uses of agricultural land other than food production.

### **Timber**

32. The Timber Committee has included in its work a particular programme element to cover problems in the forestry and forest-industry sector arising from radiation contamination, particularly from the Chernobyl disaster. On this point a team of experts will be established in 1993, and it is envisaged that meetings will be held in the Russian Federation and in Ukraine. The Committee's activities are in part jointly carried out with the FAO European Forestry Commission and the IAEA/FAO.

33. The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology Management and Training fosters international collaboration on technical, economic, social and organizational aspects of forest workers' activities, including prevention of accidents, occupational health, ergonomics, socio-economic requirements and the future of the forest work-force in the context of sustainable forest development. An international network on the forestry work-force is being built up in cooperation with ILO. A seminar was held on the future of the forestry work-force (United States, 1992). It addressed socio-economic questions of interest for the whole ECE region, in particular the countries in transition of central and eastern Europe.

### **Industry**

34. A number of studies have been undertaken over the past decade aimed at reducing and mitigating the effects of certain industrial activity which has had, and continues to have, an adverse effect on the health of the citizens of the countries of the region. This is focused in part on reducing

environmental pollution through the development and use of low- and non-waste technologies and/or the utilization of wastes in various sectors of industry. These have included continuing work on the collection of information on the use of steel scrap and studies on the recuperation and economic utilization of by-products of the iron and steel industry, the recycling of used tyres and rubber wastes, the use and disposal of wastes from phosphoric acid and titanium dioxide, and substitutes for tripolyphosphates in detergents and the management of plastic wastes. A number of seminars have also been held on subjects such as international standards for environmental protection, the role of the chemical industry in environmental protection, and on air-pollution control in engineering industries. Three seminars are to take place in 1993: one on metallurgy and ecology in Nancy, France; another on foundry production and ecology in Minsk, Belarus; and a third on energy efficiency standards and labelling systems in Geneva.

35. Certain sectoral bodies of the Commission have also addressed the issue of the conservation and treatment of water by industry. A study was published in 1984 on engineering equipment and automation means for waste-water management prepared under the auspices of the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation, and a new study was launched under the auspices of the Chemical Industry Committee at the beginning of 1989 on the rational use of water and its treatment in the chemical industry.

#### **Science and technology**

36. The Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology, in responding to the recommendations of the CSCE process, have launched a study of contacts among young scientists in this region. The study shows that, even in the countries of this region, where offers of overseas scholarships are not uncommon, less than 1% of all students enrolled in post-secondary institutions are of foreign origin. The SAST have begun to study ways of increasing these contacts especially in scientific and technological fields in the belief that such exchanges lead to a better mutual understanding among all peoples.

#### **Conclusion**

37. The above list of activities, which is intended to be indicative rather than exhaustive, illustrates the areas of the Commission's programme of work where there is a growing interdependence between economic and social aspects. This is especially the case of the countries of the region which are in transition to a market economy and from a totalitarian to a democratic political and social system. While it is true that increased economic activity is required in order to finance social development, economic development and reform without adequate social welfare policies are unlikely to attain longer-term national goals. It is in this context that the Commission's subsidiary bodies and the secretariat are engaged in the above-mentioned socio-economic developments within the region. The Commission may therefore wish to bring these and related activities to the attention of the Secretary-General for inclusion in the integrated report which he is requested to submit to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 47/92.