

Further recalling its resolution 469 D (XV) of 27 April 1953, which recommended that Governments give attention to the importance of developing vital statistics to meet demographic, economic, public health and social needs and its resolution 1084 (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965, which endorsed the recommendations of the Population Commission on the long-range programme of work in the fields of population, including its recommendations with regard to the increase and improvement of demographic statistics, and drew the attention of the Statistical Commission to the recommendations and suggestions of the Population Commission relating to activities in their fields of interest,

Recognizing the striking deficiencies in vital statistics, especially in developing countries, and the fact that these deficiencies in coverage and quality represent a serious gap in world demographic knowledge required for analysing the trends in population size and characteristics,

Being aware that vigorous efforts must be exerted by the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the regional economic commissions and Member States to push forward the development of reliable civil registers of vital events, not only for the statistical use of the records but also because they serve as legal instruments for:

(a) Proof of nationality, as provided in article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵ adopted in 1948,

(b) Proof of name and nationality, as provided in Principle 3 of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child,⁶ adopted in 1959,

(c) Proof of marriage, consent to marriage and age at marriage, as provided in the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages,⁷ opened for signature in 1962,

(d) Proof of divorce, as provided in Council resolution 1068 F (XXXIX) of 16 July 1965, and because they assist in the provision of health and social services and in governmental assistance,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake a World Programme for the Improvement of Vital Statistics, utilizing every means at his disposal, including the provision, on request, of technical assistance under the United Nations Development Programme;

2. *Recommends* that:

(a) States Members of the United Nations endeavour to establish a system of vital records and statistics, or to improve the existing system, to the level where it will yield, in particular, reliable statistics of births and deaths, adequate, *inter alia*, to meet the needs of economic and social development planning and especially to provide the statistical base for planning the development and utilization of human resources as called for in Council resolution 1274 (XLIII) of 4 August 1967;

(b) In developing this system, international standards be followed as closely as possible, with only such

⁵ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 1386 (XIV) of 20 November 1959.

⁷ General Assembly resolution 1763 A (XVII) of 7 November 1962, annex.

changes as may be necessary to meet special national needs;

(c) Attention be paid to integrating the recommended vital statistics system into the general statistical system and relating the vital statistics with the population censuses so that the maximum utility may be obtained with a given cost.

*1529th plenary meeting,
31 May 1968.*

1308 (XLIV). Fifth report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development

The Economic and Social Council

1. *Notes with appreciation* the fifth report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development;⁸

2. *Endorses* the work programme contained in the fifth report of the Advisory Committee.

*1529th plenary meeting,
31 May 1968.*

1309 (XLIV). Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development: report on science education

The Economic and Social Council

1. *Notes with appreciation* the first report on science education prepared by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development;⁹

2. *Commends* the suggestions contained in the first report of the Advisory Committee on science education, for consideration by the appropriate bodies, including in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

*1529th plenary meeting,
31 May 1968.*

1310 (XLIV). Questions relating to science and technology

The Economic and Social Council

1. *Takes note* of the reports regarding sub-items (c) "Environmental pollution"¹⁰ and (d) "Conservation and rational use of the environment"¹¹ of item 5 of its agenda;

2. *Decides* to consider these reports further at a later session of the Council.

*1529th plenary meeting,
31 May 1968.*

⁸ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8 (E/4461 and E/4461/Add.1).*

⁹ *Ibid.*, *Forty-fourth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 5, document E/4448.

¹⁰ Report submitted by the World Health Organization (E/4457 and Add.1) and Comments by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development on the report submitted by the World Health Organization (E/4482).

¹¹ Report submitted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (E/4458).