

## 1347 (XLV). Population and its relation to economic and social development

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Noting the changes that have taken place in the world population situation in the last twenty years, caused by the considerable decline in mortality which has spurred world population growth,

Recognizing the importance of giving appropriate attention to the inter-relations of economic, social and demographic factors in formulating development programmes,

Considering that the policy organs of relevant organizations in the United Nations system have stressed in their work programmes the importance of the problem,

Recognizing the need for the United Nations and the specialized agencies to assist the developing countries, upon request, in dealing with problems arising out of the current and prospective population trends, and in formulating and promoting national policies of their own choice in the field of population,

Considering that the International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran adopted resolution XVIII of 12 May 1968<sup>9</sup> on human rights aspects of family planning, which states in part "that couples have a basic human right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and a right to adequate education and information in this respect",

Taking into account the views of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, which recognizes the importance of demographic research and projects, and that such research should be restricted to studies which could serve as practical tools for policy-making or for supporting field activities and in particular that the United Nations population programme should concentrate more on information programmes at the regional and country levels,<sup>10</sup>

Noting with appreciation the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on co-ordination in the field of population,<sup>11</sup>

Further noting the setting up of a United Nations Trust Fund for population activities as a measure to supplement the resources to be obtained from the regular budget and the United Nations Development Programme, and welcoming opportunities for strengthening these activities, made possible by additional voluntary resources,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Population Commission, in the report of its fourteenth session, on the five-year and two-year programmes and priorities within the framework of the long-range programme of

<sup>9</sup> See *Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2), chap. III.

<sup>10</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/4493/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1)*, para. 156.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, *Forty-fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 23, document E/4486/Add.1, annex II.

work in the fields of population<sup>12</sup> in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2211 (XXI) of 17 December 1966;

2. *Endorses* the conclusions of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination with respect to the United Nations population programme;<sup>13</sup>

3. *Recommends* that the United Nations Development Programme give due consideration to applications submitted for financing projects designed to assist developing countries in dealing with population problems, primarily in the fields of economic and social development, including both national and regional projects;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within the approved programme of work, to:

(a) Pursue a programme of work covering training, research, information and advisory services in the fields of fertility, mortality, and morbidity, internal migration and urbanization and demographic aspects of economic and social development, in accordance with Council resolution 1084 (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965 and General Assembly resolution 2211 (XXI);

(b) Give special attention to further developing those aspects of the work in population fields which are of direct benefit to the developing countries, especially advice and technical assistance requested by Governments in population fields within the context of economic, social and health policies, and where appropriate, religious and cultural considerations;

(c) Submit to the General Assembly biennially a concise report on the world population situation, including an assessment of the current and prospective population trends;

(d) Bring promptly up to date the study *Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends*;

5. *Requests* the Committee on Development Planning to give appropriate attention to the interrelation between population dynamics and economic and social growth with respect to the second United Nations Development Decade, taking into account the diversity of regional and national characteristics;

6. *Invites* the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut to prepare and consider regional reports on population aspects of economic and social development;

7. *Welcomes* the decision of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to establish a Sub-Committee on Population<sup>14</sup> and *calls for* intensified action in co-operation with the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to improve co-ordination and avoid duplication.

1556th plenary meeting,  
30 July 1968.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, *Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/4454)*, chap. VIII.

<sup>13</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 9 (E/4493/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1)*, paras. 152-166.

<sup>14</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 23, document E/4486/Add.1, annex II, para. 118.