RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE II

24 April 1986
E/ESCAP/L.103
(Res. 1)
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

... (XLII). Statistical services in Asia and the Pacific

Sponsored by: Afghanistan, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji,
Guam, Islamic Republic of Iran,
Pakistan and Vanuatu

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing that economic and social development plans, programmes
and policies are more cost-effective when based on adequate, reliable and
timely statistics,

Noting that the demands from administrators and policy makers for
quantitative information at national, subnational and community levels will
continue to increase,

Accepting that sustained support is required to build or enhance
statistical capabilities which currently differ considerably among countries'
of the region, ranging from relatively developed statistical services to
those in the early stages of development,

Further noting that statistical information should be comparable over
time and as far as practicable also across countries,

Recognizing that staff calibre and working conditions are crucially
important for sustained statistical development,

Recognizing also that familiarity with and access to fast-developing
computer technology are important for the quality of data collection and the
speed and economy of their analysis and dissemination,

1. Recommends that member States:

   (a) Accord high priority to the improvement and strengthening
       of their statistical services so as to provide information which will assist
in effective planning, implementing and monitoring of economic and social
development plans and programmes and in assessing their impact;

(b) Identify information uses as a basis for determining
priorities for data collection and analysis in each economic and social
sector, and set up mechanisms for such priority setting;

(c) Utilize available training outlets to provide appropriately
qualified statistical manpower, according special attention to training in
computers, including statistical software and microcomputers;

(d) Utilize guide-lines and standards and participate in
capability-building programmes evolved and promoted by the United Nations
and its agencies;

(e) Improve the statistical infrastructure in terms of legis-
lation, manpower policies, equipment, work programming, use of administrative
records, dissemination facilities, and so on;

(f) Establish appropriate machinery to promote greater inter-
action between producers and users of statistics;

2. Requests the United Nations and its specialized agencies to
assist these processes by:

(a) Continuing efforts to support and co-ordinate technical
co-operation in all aspects of quantitative information;

(b) Taking greater account of the needs and capabilities of
developing countries in evolving and revising international standards and
guide-lines;

(c) According priority to the special training problems in the
statistically least developed among the developing countries;

3. Recommends that multilateral and bilateral donor agencies:

(a) Continue and, where appropriate, enhance their assistance in
strengthening the statistical services in the region;

(b) Support activities designed to improve the utilization of
statistical information in the development process;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to take positive steps to assist
in the continued improvement of statistical services in Asia and the Pacific,
including continued support for the activities of the secretariat in the
field of statistics, and to report to the Commission at its forty-fourth
session on the implementation of this resolution.