

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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**Report and Recommendations  
of the Expert Group Meeting on  
Adolescents: Implications of  
Population Trends, Environment,  
and Development**



UNITED NATIONS

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## PREFACE

The Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, September 1994, in section VII(E), paragraphs 7.41-7.48, underscored the need to address the reproductive health needs of adolescents. Since then, a number of initiatives have been launched to ensure that the issues involved are understood, and to improve access to information and services on reproductive health to adolescents.

These issues are complex, and are closely linked to the economic and socio-cultural milieu in which adolescents live and grow up, which in itself is different among countries and among various population subgroups.

In order to contribute towards a better understanding of the socio-cultural and economic factors underlying adolescent behaviour, ESCAP, with additional support from the United Nations Population Fund, convened the Expert Group Meeting on Adolescents: Implications of Population Trends, Environment and Development from 30 September to 2 October 1997.

The report and recommendations of the Meeting, including the background papers, are contained in this volume. It is being published to coincide with the convening of the High Level Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and Make Recommendations for Further Action, to be held from 24 to 27 March 1998, which, *inter alia*, will discuss strategies to overcome the obstacles and constraints in addressing the issues of adolescent reproductive health.

The Meeting was attended by experts from government and non-governmental organizations which have considerable experience in adolescent issues, by representatives of various agencies, and resource persons. The secretariat wishes to record its thanks to all of them. It also wishes to record its appreciation to the UNFPA Country Support Team for East and South-East Asia (Bangkok) for its valuable contribution to the Meeting.

It is hoped that the contents of this volume will prove useful to those working on issues related to adolescent reproductive health.

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