

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to assist in promoting and continuing the institutional arrangements required for smooth implementation of the recommendations concerning the transit problems of land-locked countries and to prepare a long-range plan for solving the problems of the land-locked countries in the region for implementation during the Second Development Decade;

2. *Urges* member states concerned, which have not ratified or acceded to the 1965 Convention on Transit Trade of Land-locked States, to give urgent and favourable consideration to the possibility of ratifying or acceding to it at an early date, so as to facilitate the development of intra-regional and world trade.

425th meeting,  
23 April 1970.

108 (XXVI). ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL OR SUB-REGIONAL CENTRES FOR MARITIME AND PORT PERSONNEL

*The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,*

Fully convinced that a serious shortage of qualified maritime and port personnel at all levels constitutes one of the major impediments to the sound development of national merchant marines and port facilities and also to the establishment and effective operation of shippers' organizations and freight study units in the developing countries of the ECAFE region,

Noting the survey conducted in 1967 by the ECAFE secretariat, with the assistance of the Government of Singapore, of the training facilities for ship and shore personnel in the ECAFE region, which indicated the areas in which maritime training could be organized on a regional and sub-regional basis,

Further noting the findings of the Working Party on Shipping and Ocean Freight Rates (first session), which was endorsed by the Committee on Trade (eleventh session) and the Commission (twenty-fourth session), that there was considerable scope for regional co-operation in the training of ships' officers and management personnel and that the training facilities in one or more of the existing institutions in the region could be expanded so that they could become regional centres,

Noting with appreciation the offers made in the Committee on Trade by the Governments of China, India and Singapore to place their national training facilities at the disposal of trainees from other countries of the region and also the offers made by other Governments to provide technical assistance in this field,

1. *Endorses* the view of the Committee on Trade (thirteenth session) that the secretariat should develop a plan for establishing one or more regional maritime training centres, taking into account the needs and existing facilities in the region;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of ECAFE to conduct a comprehensive survey of the current training facilities in the region, to ascertain the region's current and future needs, to study the economic feasibility of organizing training for ship, shore and port personnel on a regional and sub-regional basis, to take other necessary steps with a view to the early establishment of such regional and/or sub-regional centres, and to report to the Committee on Trade and the Committee on Transport and Communications;

3. *Urges* the developed countries, the United Nations Development Programme and other interested international organizations to give their fullest co-operation and support to the work of the secretariat in this field.

427th meeting,  
24 April 1970.

109 (XXVI). SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT

*The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,*

Recognizing the growing importance of regional and sub-regional co-operation among Asian countries in the field of shipping, particularly in the context of the development of intra-regional trade and commerce during the Second Development Decade,

Noting that the aims of such activities should be the development of shipping fleets and related services including ocean, coastal, inter-island and feeder services suited to the trade and economic conditions and needs of the region,

Considering the important role that regional or sub-regional shipping arrangements would play in furthering regional co-operation for achieving the objectives of the Second Development Decade,

Welcoming the increasing co-operation between ECAFE, UNCTAD and the specialized agencies concerned as well as interested non-governmental agencies,

Endorsing the design for joint implementation by the Transport and Communications Division (operational and technical aspects) and the International Trade Division (economic aspects) of national, sub-regional and regional shipping and related services as reflected in the current programme of work and priorities, as well as the inclusion of such studies as coastal shipping and inter-island communications in their joint work,

Stressing the need for redoubling the efforts to establish guide-lines for the acquisition and financing of new fleets for the ECAFE countries,

1. *Urges* the countries of the region to take co-operative measures for developing national, sub-regional and regional shipping services and related facilities;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take action to assist in the development and expansion of national, sub-regional or regional merchant marines, including pooling of shipping services and to promote related services and facilities.

427th meeting,  
24 April 1970.

110 (XXVI). TRAINING IN AND USE OF COMPUTERS  
WITHIN THE REGION

*The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,*

*Recalling* Commission resolution 98 (XXV),

*Recalling* the recommendation of the Conference of Asian Statisticians at its ninth session that the Executive Secretary appoint a committee of experts to study further the demand for, general viability, cost and detailed specification of the proposed regional computing centre,

*Having received* the report submitted by the said Committee of Experts which advocated the early establishment of a regional institute for applied data processing in order to meet training needs within the region,

*Recognizing*

(i) that not all the developing countries of the region are adequately equipped to participate effectively in international economic development, being hampered in countering their own internal problems by the lack of reliable and timely information from such sources as population, agricultural and industrial censuses, economic and social statistics, government accounting, etc.;

(ii) that the gathering of uniform, reliable and timely statistics on all fields of economic and social endeavour may eventually require all countries to develop their own use of computers;

(iii) that there is an acute shortage of trained personnel in the field of systems analysis and design and computer programming in the developing countries,

*Noting*

(i) that several countries which have data processing installations have expanded their facilities for training personnel in computer technology to meet rapidly rising needs;

(ii) that advanced training in most countries - and training at all levels in countries with limited computer capability - still has to be arranged for abroad and that some countries have difficulties in arranging such training,

*Recognizing*

(i) that facilities for data processing are not necessarily best combined with those needed for

training and would in any case need to be under separate financial control;

(ii) that it is in the interests of all countries that all facilities for training within the region be effectively exploited,

1. *Notes* that the present data processing needs of the secretariat are being met;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to bring to the notice of the Commission in good time expected increases in demand for data processing by the secretariat;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to use his good offices to help ensure that those developing countries of the region which have difficulty in obtaining training in the use of computers by Governments are enabled to make the best arrangements to suit their needs, so that the training facilities and spare computer capacity within and outside the region now or in the future may be fully utilized;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take steps to initiate training arrangements in the use of computers in the region in the light of the report of the Committee of Experts, the comments thereon contained in document E/CN.11/L.269 and Add.1 and the comments made at the twenty-sixth session of the Commission and thereafter to submit those arrangements to Governments of member countries with a view to necessary action being taken by the Commission at its twenty-seventh session.

427th meeting,  
24 April 1970.

111 (XXVI). POPULATION IN RELATION TO ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

*The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,*

*Noting* General Assembly resolution 2211(XXI) which recognizes the sovereignty of nations in formulating and promoting their own population policies and the principle that the size of the family should be the free choice of each individual family,

*Recalling* its resolution 54 (XX) inviting Governments to take account of the urgency of adopting positive population policies related to their individual needs, and its resolution 74 (XXIII) calling for appropriate steps to expand the regional population programme in the light of existing priority areas and emerging needs of Governments,

*Noting with satisfaction* the initiation by the secretariat of an intensified programme of work that brings regional experience and co-operation to bear on national population problems through projects that include a wide range of action-oriented studies and research, provision of training and advisory services and the establishment of a regional clearing house,

*Recognizing* that the growing efforts to improve the quality of life through long-term economic and