

Considering the relevant paragraphs 79, 80 and 81 of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade,

Considering further the report on criteria, machinery and a detailed scheme for periodic performance evaluation during the Second Development Decade submitted by the Expert Group established in pursuance of Commission resolution 106 (XXVI),

Noting the recommendations made by that Expert Group,

Recognizing the need for guidelines, criteria, and machinery for periodic performance evaluation during the Second Development Decade at the regional level,

Recognizing further the necessity to avoid unnecessary duplication or proliferation of review activities at national and regional levels,

1. Resolves that:

(a) while performance appraisal at the national level is the sole responsibility of the individual countries themselves they could seek assistance from the secretariat on specific terms of reference as and if required by their respective Governments;

(b) for evaluation at the regional level, the regional economic commissions should make use of, *inter alia*, reports on performance appraisals provided by individual countries;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) to appoint a continuing group of impartial and reputed experts with terms of reference as follows, to assist the secretariat in preparing relevant documentation for performance appraisal by the Commission at the regional level;

(i) to provide guidance on criteria and indicators to be used for performance appraisal at the regional level;

(ii) to provide guidance to the ECAFE secretariat in respect of the regular country economic surveys available to it and of the annual *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East*;

(b) to report its recommendations and findings to the Commission from time to time.

442nd meeting,
28 April 1971.

119 (XXVII). STRENGTHENING AND CO-ORDINATION OF THE REGIONAL STRUCTURES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1553 (XLIX) and of the preparatory study on regional structures undertaken by the Secretary-General,

Having reviewed the Executive Secretary's report on the study of regional structures, prepared in pursuance of the aforementioned resolution,

Observing that, so far, while a number of countries have sent replies to the questionnaire many others have not yet done so,

Recognizing also that the scope of the questionnaire is much wider than the scope covered in that resolution,

Considering that the Commission could with benefit convey its views to the Economic and Social Council on certain aspects of the questionnaire,

Convinced (i) of the essential role of the regional economic commissions as multidisciplinary organs covering the entire region; and (ii) of the validity of a concept of partnership with the specialized agencies at the regional level, in particular in the context of implementation of the Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Recalling the various resolutions in which the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly have repeatedly stressed their support for decentralization and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions,¹²

Aware that the process of decentralization has still to proceed further, both in terms of substantive devolution and resources allocations,

Noting that it has acted as a catalyst in developing and supporting growing programmes of regional activities, which in pre-investment and investment terms have been many times larger than the annual budgets of the secretariat,

Noting further the many forms and procedures developed and successfully worked for practical co-operation with the specialized agencies, such as through joint divisions, units, inter-agency groups and *ad hoc* consultations,

1. Confirms the important role to be played by ECAFE and the regional offices of the specialized agencies in the planning and co-ordination of development programmes;

2. Supports the further development of patterns of co-operation between ECAFE and the regional offices of the specialized agencies on the basis of mutuality of interest, continuous consultation and joint programming and co-ordination wherever required;

3. Recommends that questions of the geographical boundaries of ECAFE and the regional organs of the specialized agencies, which have been no obstacle to practical operation, be examined as a separate matter;

4. Recommends further the maintenance of the structural pattern of one regional-level organ for

¹² General Assembly resolutions 1518 (XV), 1709 (XVI), 1823 (XVII) and 1941 (XVIII); and Economic and Social Council resolutions 793 (XXX), 823 (XXXII), 879 (XXXIV) and 955 (XXXVI).

over-all purposes working in close collaboration with the regional organs of the specialized agencies;

5. *Stresses* the scope for subregional level activities in the economic and social fields which are progressive and outward-looking and within the scope of the terms of reference of the Commission;

6. *Calls on* the United Nations system to make full use of the pool of knowledge and expertise available at the regional level in ECAFE and the regional offices of the specialized agencies to assist in country programming activities and to implement global policies for regional purposes through such use of the regional level;

7. *Recommends* close co-operation between ECAFE and the Asian Development Bank and with other regional bodies active in the economic and social fields;

8. *Urges* United Nations Headquarters to accelerate the process of decentralization and to support the regional commissions in the spirit of several resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission in the past, in order to enable the Commission to perform effectively its comprehensive functions for accelerating the economic and social development of the countries of the region.

*442nd meeting,
28 April 1971.*