

Part III

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

120 (XXVIII). UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST: TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY DECLARATION

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its establishment by the United Nations,

Welcoming with warm appreciation the various messages conveyed and statements made in this connexion, and the guidelines provided therein,

Further welcoming (a) the plans of member countries for commemorating the occasion in various ways in the course of the year, and (b) the special commemorative publication entitled "ECAFE - 25 Years",⁶

Recalling the steady progress made by ECAFE since its inception in 1947, as marked by (i) the declaration at Lahore at its seventh session in 1951, generally known as the Lahore Convention, (ii) the resolutions on Asian economic co-operation, dynamic Asian economic co-operation, and the strategy of integrated regional co-operation adopted by the first three Ministerial Conferences on Asian Economic Co-operation, in 1963, 1965 and 1968 respectively, (iii) the resolution on the commemoration of ECAFE's twentieth anniversary in 1967 and the Tokyo Declaration [res.77 (XXII) and res.78 (XXII)], (iv) the resolution on the Second Development Decade in 1969 [res.94 (XXV)], (v) the resolution on the United Nations Twenty-fifth Anniversary Declaration in 1970 [res.103 (XXVI)], (vi) the Kabul Declaration issued by the fourth session of the Council of Ministers in 1970, and (vii) the resolution on strengthening and co-ordination of the regional structures of the United Nations, in 1971 [res.119 (XXVII)],

Further recalling the successful establishment by ECAFE of various institutions and projects such as the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Highway, the Asian Institute for Economic Development and Planning, the Asian Statistical Institute, the Asian Industrial Development Council, the Lower Mekong Basin Development Project, joint prospecting for mineral resources in Asian offshore areas, typhoon damage control, the Asian Coconut Community, the Pepper Community, the Asian Telecommunication Network, the Regional Trade Promotion Centre and the Centre for Economic Projections and Programming,

Noting that most fruitful intraregional contacts and regional co-operation have developed through the forum of ECAFE through implementation of its programmes for regional co-operation and through the Council of Ministers for Asian Economic Co-operation,

Observing the increasing sense of Asian identity and the search for intensification of co-operation between the countries of the region through the adoption of appropriate measures, and through expeditious progress on other projects and programmes for regional co-operation which have already been endorsed by the Commission,

Conscious of the importance of intensifying regional co-operation through maximum utilization of the regional market and other economic opportunities for regional efforts to complement the national efforts while at the same time furthering global trade opportunities,

Fully aware of the increasing and considerable accumulation of skills and resources within the developing ECAFE region, and of their immediate relevance in the elaboration and implementation of schemes for development and regional co-operation,

Recognizing the pressing need to promote greater regional self-reliance and economic viability, and in particular to cope with the special problems of the land-locked and of the least developed countries in the region,

Recognizing further the urgent need to give priority attention to the human factor, including the involvement of youth, in the development process,

Desirous of achieving the targets set in the international strategy for the Second Development Decade as speedily as possible,

Aware of the importance of the forthcoming third session of the UNCTAD in the context of the existing international trade and monetary situation,

Believing that the region is now poised for the attainment of such self-reliance and development, despite the many challenges and problems, including those posed by mass poverty,

Convinced nevertheless of the great benefits that would accrue if the important contribution hitherto made by developed countries were to be considerably increased, particularly in the light of the present aid and trade premises governing international partnership and of the goals of unified economic and social development,

Supporting the aspirations of the developing countries of the region for the creation in Asia and the Far East of conditions of peace and stability, in order to secure a marked acceleration of economic and social progress,

1. Declares that the twenty-fifth anniversary year of ECAFE marks the opening of a new and dynamic phase of development and co-operation in the ECAFE region during which all the developing countries are determined to attain self-sustained growth and economic self-reliance;

⁶ E/CN.11/1025.

2. *Considers* it essential for ECAFE to intensify its long-term programming in order to concentrate efforts in the most important directions of economic and social development in the national interests of the developing countries;

3. *Calls on* all countries to promote economic and social progress in developing countries through the timely implementation of the action programmes for the Second Development Decade;

4. *Calls on* the developing countries of the region to re-dedicate themselves to intensification of mutual co-operation with a view to attaining the goals of development;

5. *Calls also on* them to make their fullest contribution to the regional strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and to render the utmost co-operation to the ECAFE in this regard;

6. *Requests* the member countries to continue giving immediate attention to the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies and plans for integrating the needs of social justice with those of economic development, including fair income distribution and employment for all;

7. *Appeals for* special assistance and support to the land-locked and to the least developed among the developing countries within the context of the interests and needs of all developing countries;

8. *Draws* the attention of all developed countries to the great importance of assured expectations of growth and of mutual commitments as a basis for stability and confidence in a country's progress towards full development;

9. *Requests* those countries, in the cause of world stability and mutual prosperity, to provide assurances of sustained assistance related specifically to the target of full economic and social development;

10. *Urges* the developed countries to provide, within the framework of the strategy for the Second Development Decade, in particular, (i) assurances, in terms of accessibility, non-discrimination, and non-reciprocity, of a liberal attitude to trade issuing from the developing countries, (ii) similar assurances of continuity of aid to national investment efforts the quantity, type and terms of which are related to accepted national growth targets and frameworks, and (iii) sustained joint assistance by the co-operating developed countries to ECAFE's projects and programmes;

11. *Urges* the need for the developing countries of the region to be consulted in regard to, and fully associated with, the process of finding appropriate solutions to international monetary and trade problems;

12. *Calls upon* the Governments of all member countries of ECAFE to make every effort to contribute towards the cause of securing peace in Asia as a fundamental prerequisite for developing economic co-operation among the countries of the region, for their economic and social progress in the long term;

13. *Invites* all international organizations to render assistance, making use of the wide framework for joint action and co-operation provided in ECAFE;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring maximum utilization of regional resources and skills in all programmes for regional co-operation and development;

15. *Notes*, in this connexion, General Assembly resolution 2736 (XXV) which, *inter alia*, gives recognition to the policy of staffing the secretariats of the regional economic commissions predominantly by nationals of countries in the region and giving preference to qualified candidates of under-represented countries in the region;

16. *Calls for* full implementation of decentralization of activities to the regional commission in the spirit of all the General Assembly, Council and Commission resolutions on the subject;

17. *Hopes* strongly and confidently that this declaration will become an important foundation for steady and rapid attainment by all the countries of full development, prosperity and peace, and that it will constitute the basis for ECAFE's continuing role as the regional arm of the United Nations in Asia and the spring-board for multilateral support to the declared development aims of the countries of the region.

460th meeting,
25 March 1972.

121 (XXVIII). THE ROLE OF THE ECAFE SECRETARIAT

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Noting with satisfaction the steady progress achieved as a result of its endeavours during the past twenty-five years and the success of the many institutions and projects it has established for the region's benefit,

Noting further the valuable service rendered and strong support given to the performance of its tasks by each of the Executive Secretaries in turn and the secretariat,

Aware of the diligence with which the Executive Secretaries have implemented its directives and of the importance of their role in fostering economic and social co-operation among the countries of the region during a period beset with grave uncertainties and tensions,

Commending the distinguished contribution made by the present Executive Secretary, U Nyun, to the cause of development and co-operation in Asia and his dedication to the task of promoting peace through regional economic and social development in the spirit of the United Nations Charter,

1. *Desires* on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary, to express its warm appreciation of the service rendered by the Executive Secretaries and the ECAFE secretariat to the Commission and to the region during the past years;