

2. *Calls* upon the ECAFE secretariat to continue to render service of a high order to the Commission in the furtherance of its aim of increasing development and co-operation in Asia for peace and prosperity.

459th meeting,
24 March 1972.

122 (XXVIII). THE ROLE OF NATURAL RUBBER IN THE ECONOMIES OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE ECAFE REGION

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Aware of the vital role of the natural rubber industry in the economy of several countries of the region,

Realizing that the industry is facing difficulties which require closer and continuing study and examination with a view to determining as a matter of urgency both short-term and the long-term concerted remedial action necessary to overcome these difficulties,

Recognizing that the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries with the assistance of ECAFE has already taken an initiative in this direction by constituting an Expert Group for making such study and examination,

Requests (a) the Executive Secretary to provide the fullest assistance to the Expert Group in the prosecution of this work; and (b) the member countries to extend their fullest co-operation to the Expert Group in the successful completion of its task.

459th meeting,
24 March 1972.

123 (XXVIII). EXTENSION OF THE ASIAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING INTO A THIRD PHASE (1974-1978) AND ENSURING THE PERMANENCY OF THE INSTITUTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF ITS GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Considering the ever-increasing need of the Asian countries for the training of personnel concerned with planning for economic and social development and the implementation of development programmes and policies,

Recalling the decision taken at its twenty-third session in 1967, under resolution 84 (XXIII), to urge the United Nations Development Programme and the Governments of the member and associate member countries to continue to support the Asian Institute financially for the second five-year period (1969-1973), and to continue to review the performance and achievements of the Institute as set forth in the latter's annual reports with a view to considering at its twenty-eighth session in 1972 the question of giving the Institute a permanent status,

Noting with satisfaction the progress of the arrangements made by the Government of Singapore to have ready a permanent headquarters for the Institute by the end of 1973,

Taking cognizance of the report of the Governing Council on the functioning of the Institute and the proposals and recommendations contained therein on the extension of the Institute's activities into a third five-year period (1974-1978) and on measures for ensuring the Institute's permanency,

1. *Urges* the United Nations Development Programme and the Governments of the member and associate member countries of ECAFE to support the Asian Institute financially for a third five-year period (1974-1978) and to provide such support in substantially increased measure, as recommended by the Governing Council;

2. *Endorses* the Institute's decision to request the Asian Development Bank to provide it with financial and other support, and its intention to request other institutions to do the same;

3. *Decides* that the Institute shall become a permanent organization and continue to function as a regional institution supported by the United Nations.

459th meeting,
24 March 1972.

124 (XXVIII). IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS RELATING TO LAND-LOCKED COUNTRIES OF THE KABUL DECLARATION ON ASIAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Being aware of the importance of the economic and social advancement of the land-locked countries of the region,

Recalling its resolutions 51 (XX), 107 (XXVI) and 114 (XXVII) on special problems relating to land-locked countries,

Further recalling the principles relating to the transit trade of land-locked countries adopted by the first session of UNCTAD, and resolution 11 (II) on special problems of the land-locked countries adopted by the second session of UNCTAD,

Noting the relevant portions of General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) entitled "International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade", relating to special measures in favour of the land-locked developing countries,

Noting further the creation of a unit within the ECAFE secretariat to give continued attention, in co-ordination with other divisions concerned, to the special problems of the least developed among the developing countries and the land-locked countries of the ECAFE region and the report of the First Meeting of the Special Body on Land-locked Countries,⁷

Inviting attention to relevant provisions of the Declaration of the Fourth Meeting of the Council of Ministers held at Kabul in December 1970, which,

⁷ E/CN.11/1031.

inter alia, urged the member and associate member countries "to render every possible assistance to land-locked countries of the region to enjoy the right of free access to the sea and to provide port and transport facilities, minimum and simple customs formalities, reasonable transport charges and transit by air and overland routes",

1. *Requests* the member states of ECAFE to implement the provisions of the Kabul Declaration;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to seek necessary assistance, both financial and technical, for the support and strengthening of the Unit to carry out the relevant parts of the work programme of the ECAFE secretariat;

3. *Urges* the national, regional and international financial institutions, particularly the Asian Development Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and Governments of developed countries to consider creating special funds from their additional resources for the development of land-locked countries, which will be over and above the general development funds to be made available to all developing countries, without precluding the land-locked countries from applying for those general development funds as well;⁸

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convene a further meeting of the Special Body, which will consider *inter alia*, its draft terms of reference;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to support the work of the Special Unit of the secretariat and of the Special Body by seeking necessary financial, advisory and other assistance from within and outside the region for the purpose of supplementing the efforts of the secretariat to carry out its mandate on a continuing basis;

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

7. *Urges further* the Executive Secretary to request UNCTAD and other international organizations to consider preparing a draft international convention or proposal for the improvement, simplification and standardization of customs and trade documentation;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to bring this resolution to the attention of the appropriate authorities of UNCTAD and member Governments for their consideration and necessary action, and also to take the necessary steps for the purpose of fulfilling the objectives of this resolution.

460th meeting,
25 March 1972.

⁸ The representatives of Australia, France, Japan, New Zealand and the United Kingdom reserved their positions on this paragraph. The United States abstained from approving the resolution owing to inability to accept this paragraph.

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Being aware of the extensive preparations being made for the United Nations Conference on Human Environment to be held in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972,

Noting with appreciation that the prompt action taken by the Executive Secretary to convene the Seminar on Development and Environment and the Regional Seminar on the Ecological Implications of Rural and Urban Population Growth, in August and September 1971 respectively, has been of great practical help to the regional member countries in making preparations for the Conference,

Noting also that the Conference will have before it proposals for a far-reaching action plan which will comprise a comprehensive human environment programme,

Cognizant that the developing countries, besides being concerned over many of the same environmental issues as those facing the more industrialized countries, also face environmental problems derived from poverty, from their under-developed state, and from ecological changes, and in some instances from development that has been unsuited to their needs,

Recognizing that, since some environmental problems transcend national boundaries, regional co-operation not only complements national action but also is an indispensable pre-condition for the successful management of man's activities in relationship to his own environment,

1. *Emphasizes* that any action plan on environment that is evolved should take into full account, within the global context, the particular needs and interests of the developing countries of the ECAFE region and should also include the greatest degree of interregional and regional co-operation in this field;

2. *Urges* all member countries to send delegations at the highest possible level to the Conference so that the Asian point of view will be fully reflected in the resulting human environment programme;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, as soon as possible after and in conformity with the results of the Conference, to convene an expert working group of environmentalists from member countries and other specialists to consider further action required, particularly taking into account its implications for developing countries of the region and to consider a suitable plan of action for the human environment in the ECAFE region and to make appropriate recommendations regarding the provision of financial resources for implementing such a plan;

4. *Requests* the Secretary General of UNCHE, the Administrator of UNDP, the United Nations specialized agencies, ADB and other aid-giving agencies to make resources available, as necessary, for this purpose.

460th meeting,
25 March 1972.