

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Being aware of the importance of a regional telecommunication network to the economic development of the region,

Noting the participation by twelve countries of the region in the feasibility survey for the Asian Telecommunication Network,

Realizing that this feasibility survey, scheduled for completion in 1972, will include recommendations to improve the existing links and to construct primary missing links in order to complete the Network,

Realizing further that, as a follow-up, further studies and assistance will be required for planning and co-ordination in the first instance, as well as for continuing project implementation tasks, including traffic planning, operating, routing and switching arrangements and co-ordination, signaling, establishment of national and regional traffic, transit and leasing, accounting, and maintenance and restoration procedures,

Conscious of the pressing need to implement the Asian Telecommunication Network,

Recognizing that it will be necessary to implement these projects in a co-ordinated way on a priority basis,

Believing that all projects for establishing the Network that are found feasible should receive the support of countries of the region,

1. *Urges* Governments to include within their national programming the implementation and planning of their own components of the Network;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of ECAFE, in close co-operation with ITU, to assist and provide support and co-ordination, on request by the countries concerned, in seeking the necessary technical and financial assistance towards the implementation of these telecommunication projects in co-operation with multilateral financial agencies such as the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and its affiliates, and other aid-giving agencies;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General of ITU and the Executive Secretary of ECAFE to seek under the United Nations Development Programme the strengthening of the ECAFE/ITU Unit as early as practicable so as to meet the needs for technical assistance and for co-ordination of implementation now arising.

459th meeting,
24 March 1972.

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recalling its resolutions 57 (XXI) of 29 March 1965 on resources for technical assistance, their co-ordination and fields of development; 78 (XXIII) the Tokyo Declaration of 12 April 1967; and 90 (XXIV) of 29 April 1968 on mobilization of resources for technical co-operation,

Noting with satisfaction the increasing operational orientation of its programme of work,

Welcoming the reorganization of UNDP procedures and their emphasis on longer-term planning in consonance with national development plans,

Reaffirming that the Commission has a leading role in identifying, developing and launching regional and sub-regional projects to benefit its member countries,

Noting with concern that resources at the disposal of the secretariat are invariably insufficient to implement all the high priority needs arising from the programme of work approved by the Commission,

Acknowledging with gratitude all the assistance made available to the secretariat on an extra-budgetary basis,

Observing, however, that bilateral assistance has been mostly directed towards regional projects of an institutional nature, whereas preparatory and follow-up work, as well as other priority activities have not benefited from it to the same extent,

1. *Urges* co-operating member and non-member countries and foundations to consider providing their extra-budgetary assistance on an increased and as far as possible on a long-term basis;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take appropriate action to enable co-operating countries to provide a wider range of extra-budgetary assistance including technical assistance on a long-term basis, and to accept such assistance, for the activities approved by the Commission which require extra-budgetary support;

3. *Recommends* that co-ordination of all technical resources made available to ECAFE from the United Nations Regular Budget, UNDP, and extra-budgetary sources be improved to ensure their fullest and most economical utilization in carrying out the work programme of the Commission;

4. *Requests* the UNDP Governing Council to take fully into account the growing needs of the ECAFE region so as to ensure a satisfactory balance between the resources allocated to the ECAFE and other regions.

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