

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recalling resolution 125 (XXVIII) adopted at its previous session urging, *inter alia*, that, in order that the Asian point of view might be fully reflected in the human environment programme resulting from it, member countries should send delegations at the highest possible level to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment at Stockholm,

Noting with satisfaction that this request was largely acted upon by member countries, many of which were represented at the Stockholm Conference at the highest possible level and that, as a consequence of their able representations, the recommendations of the Conference¹ appear to take full cognizance of the needs, desires and anxieties of the regional member countries, arising out of environmental considerations in regard to their problems of development, industrialization, pollution, trade, human settlements and population,

Noting further that, following the Conference, the General Assembly adopted a series of resolutions² urging national and international action and co-operation between States in the field of human environment and making institutional and financial arrangements for such co-operation, consisting of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme, with an Environment Secretariat headed by an Executive Director, a Governing Council, an Environment Co-ordination Board and an Environment Fund,

Welcoming the election of Mr. Maurice F. Strong as the first Executive Director of UNEP,³

Noting with satisfaction, that, the General Assembly resolution takes full cognizance of the significance of regional and subregional co-operation in the field of environment and of the important role of the regional economic commissions and other regional intergovernmental organizations,⁴

Also noting the intention of the Executive Secretary of ECAFE and the Executive Director of UNEP to develop arrangements for ensuring consultation and collaboration regarding the development of environment programmes in the region for the consideration of the member countries,

1. Invites the attention of all Governments of member countries to the designation of 5 June as World Environment Day and urges them to undertake on that day, every year, special programmes and measures reaffirming their determination to act towards the preservation and enhancement of the environment;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECAFE and the Executive Director of UNEP to take steps

within the scope of existing resources to evolve a methodology of operations, to ensure maximum collaboration and co-operation with all agencies and organizations concerned so as to optimize the utilization of available resources and to avoid duplication;

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary of ECAFE, after consultation with other United Nations agencies in the region, and the Executive Director of UNEP to take appropriate steps to evolve a programme for action in this field, identifying projects for implementation in the short as well as long term, bearing in mind the need for programmes and projects to keep in view the development requirements of the developing countries of Asia;

4. Decides that, for consideration of such programmes and as part of the machinery, co-operative arrangements shall be made for bringing together representatives from the countries as well as all intergovernmental bodies and organizations in the region dealing with environmental programmes, to discuss programmes, projects and working arrangements for their implementation;

5. Urges the member countries and international financing agencies and organizations such as UNDP, IBRD and ADB, to extend the fullest support to environmental programmes so developed.

477th meeting,
21 April 1973.

132 (XXIX). QUESTION OF DEBT SERVICING

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Noting with concern the detrimental effects of the ever-increasing debt servicing on the over-all development efforts of the developing countries of the region, including the least developed among them,

Recalling the fact that mention has repeatedly been made of the debt servicing burden,

Recalling further the objectives of the Strategy for the Second Development Decade,

Recognizing that, owing to the high debt servicing burden, the developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, may no longer be in a position to provide adequate finance for their urgently needed development projects,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to bring this resolution to the attention of the member countries for their consideration and necessary action;

2. Urges member countries, especially donor countries, and also international institutions, to give due consideration to debt servicing, including its rescheduling, and to take other steps in keeping with the objectives of the Second Development Decade;

¹ A/Conf.48/14 and Corr.1.

² General Assembly resolutions 2994 (XXVII) to 2999 (XXVII) and 3000 (XXVII) to 3004 (XXVII).

³ See A/8965.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII).

3. Welcomes the move of those donor countries which have already taken steps to reschedule debt servicing.

477th meeting,
21 April 1973.

133 (XXIX). EXTENSION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT
FOR THE ASIAN HIGHWAY INTO THE SECOND PHASE
(1973-1977)

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recognizing the Asian Highway project as a fully viable project that plays a dominant role in the economic, social and cultural development of all Asian Highway countries by providing a valuable means of communication between them and constituting an important instrument for regional co-operation and development,

Noting that, while tremendous advances have been made with the implementation of the Asian Highway by the countries concerned on the recommendations of the Co-ordinating Committee and with the assistance of the Transport Technical Bureau, much work still remains to be accomplished, such as the construction of feeder roads and related networks, upgrading substandard sections, completion of the remaining missing links, building of bridges over rivers with inadequate ferries and intensification of international traffic,

Recalling that the Asian Highway countries have to set up zonal meetings to solve policy issues affecting international road traffic, such as customs and other formalities, international licences, international insurance and other ancillary services along the highway routes, as well as common technical problems,

Aware that, according to the revised five-year plan (1971-1975) for the Asian Highway, while US\$ 917 million (66 per cent) is to be provided by the countries from their own resources for the accomplishment of the remaining works, a further US\$ 466 million (34 per cent) will be required in the form of outside assistance,

Recognizing the possibility that UNDP may reduce its contribution to the second phase of the project to a level considerably lower than that for the first phase,

Noting the recommendations of the Asian Highway Co-ordinating Committee in its draft plan of operation, for the benefit of all developing Asian nations, and bearing in mind the recommendation of the seventh and eighth sessions of the Co-ordinating Committee that the project be extended for another five years,

Calls upon UNDP, the co-operating countries and aid-giving agencies to give their fullest support, in the form of financial and technical assistance, to ensure that implementation of Asian Highway project will produce the desired far-reaching and salutary results.

477th meeting,
21 April 1973.

134 (XXIX). EXTENSION OF THE ASIAN STATISTICAL
INSTITUTE INTO A SECOND PHASE (1975-1979)

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recalling resolution 75 (XXIII), adopted at its twenty-third session in 1967, deciding on, and urging the United Nations Development Programme to give urgent and favourable consideration to supporting the establishment of the Institute,

Considering (a) the continuing clear-cut needs of developing countries, including in particular the least developed among them, for basic economic, demographic and social data for development and for monitoring its progress, and (b) the serious shortage of trained statisticians in several countries of the region,

Taking cognizance of the review of the Institute by the Advisory Council for the period 1970-1973 and the recommendations contained therein on the continuation of the Institute's activities beyond its first phase and at its present site,

1. Urges the United Nations Development Programme and the Governments of member and associate member countries of ECAFE to give consideration to providing the financial and other support required by the Asian Statistical Institute during its second five-year period (1975-1979) until necessary provision has been made for ensuring this by other satisfactory means;

2. Strongly recommends that the Institute become a permanent organization and continue to function as a regional institution supported by the United Nations.

477th meeting,
21 April 1973.

135 (XXIX). INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE
DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recalling the Declarations on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and on Social Progress and Development, adopted by the General Assembly on 7 November 1967 and on 11 December 1969, respectively,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV) on concerted international action for the advancement of women and resolution 2626 (XXV) on an International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, with particular reference to the fuller integration of women in the total development process,

Aware of the steps already taken by some Governments to ensure a fuller integration of women into the development process and to eliminate any form of discrimination against them,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to organize a regional seminar on the integration of women in