

the development effort, and to include that seminar in the work programme of the secretariat for 1973/74 or 1974/75;

2. *Recommends* that the Executive Secretary investigate the availability of extrabudgetary financing for the seminar from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) or any appropriate donor Government or agency;

3. *Invites* the Governments of member countries to participate fully in the seminar by sending expert representatives;

4. *Desires* the Executive Secretary to select, in consultation with the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, appropriate non-governmental organizations to be represented at the seminar;

5. *Urges* Governments of member countries to integrate women in the decision-making processes of national development, including the review and appraisal of development plans at the national and subnational levels, and to arrange for the training of women for such purposes wherever they have not already done so;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the results achieved to the Commission session immediately following upon the holding of the seminar, as a separate subitem on its agenda;

7. *Recommends* to Governments the inclusion of competent women in their delegations to appropriate international forums of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and other bodies, wherever this is not already being done, in order to give proper substance to the observance in 1975 of International Women's Year, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII).

477th meeting,
21 April 1973.

136 (XXIX). ASIAN RICE TRADE FUND

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Mindful of the special importance of rice to the social well-being and economic stability of developing Asian countries and, in particular, of the disruptive effects on their development programmes that may result from balance of payments problems due to imbalances between the supply and demand for that commodity,

Realizing that a regional rice organization or fund could serve as an effective instrument for promoting intraregional trade among the developing countries with great advantage to their economies,

Welcoming the report of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Establishment of an Asian Rice Trade Fund and the approved draft Agreement for the Rice Fund's establishment appended to that report,

Noting that the resources initially required for the operation of the Rice Fund on a continuing basis have been estimated to amount to US\$50 million in the form of low-interest or interest-free loans or grants,

Noting further the offer of the Executive Secretary to support the efforts of those countries interested in the Asian Rice Trade Fund to mobilize the needed resources and other requirements,

1. *Invites* all developing rice importing and exporting countries of the region to consider joining the Rice Fund;

2. *Warmly commends* the Asian Rice Trade Fund to developed countries and international financial institutions as a project eminently suitable for their generous financial support;

3. *Calls earnestly upon* these countries and institutions to extend all possible support to the Asian Rice Trade Fund so as to enable it to establish its resources and begin functioning at the earliest opportune moment.

477th meeting,
21 April 1973.

137 (XXIX). ACTIVITIES OF ECAFE IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recognizing the fact that agriculture is a vital sector of the economy of most countries of the ECAFE region, accounting for a large part of their national income and particularly their export earnings, and thus requiring a well co-ordinated agricultural development policy,

Recognizing furthermore that, in most countries of the region, a large majority of the population are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood,

Noting with concern that, in two successive years, crop failures have caused serious distress to several countries of the region,

Aware of the fact that the population growth in most countries of the region further underlines the need for developing the agricultural sector,

Noting that, while recent technological breakthroughs have opened up new perspectives of development in some of the problem areas, the green revolution has not provided all the answers and that there is an urgent need to maximize its benefits, and realizing furthermore the need for countries to establish industries related to agriculture,

1. *Considers* that ECAFE should intensify its efforts to contribute to the solution of the agricultural problems in collaboration with other relevant organizations, particularly FAO;