

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;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to explore ways and means of improving ECAFE's performance in the field of agricultural development and to this end to explore the possibility of strengthening the Joint ECAFE/FAO Agriculture Division;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consider in collaboration with FAO the convening of an inter-governmental meeting on agricultural development in the region in order to consider the role ECAFE should play in this field.

477th meeting,  
21 April 1973.

138 (XXIX). RATIONALIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE  
STRUCTURE OF ECAFE

*The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,*

*Recalling* that General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) sets forth challenging economic and social goals for all countries as part of the International Development Strategy of the United Nations for the Second Development Decade,

*Further recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 1730 (LIII) on rationalization of the Council's work and that of its subsidiary organs,

*Noting* that successive reviews of the scope and methods of work, the calendar of conferences and work programme of the Commission have been carried out in recent years, in particular in 1968 in connexion with Council resolution 1264 (XLIII) on implementation of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, and the review made by the Joint Inspection Unit in 1969,

*Considering* that, at the Commission's twenty-eighth session, it was declared 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",

*Having regard* to the views expressed by member countries during the current session regarding the Commission's role, and the importance of enhancing its effectiveness in promoting the region's rapid economic and social development,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convene meetings of permanent representatives to ECAFE and/or other representatives designated by the members of the Commission, not later than the end of 1973, in order to undertake, in close co-operation with the secretariat and United Nations agencies concerned, a review and appraisal of the Commission's conference structure and any other matters within the competence of the Commission which are relevant to the enhancement of its effectiveness in promoting economic and social development in the region;

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to submit to the thirtieth session of the Commission in 1974 the findings and recommendations of the meetings, together with his recommendations.

477th meeting,  
21 April 1973.

139 (XXIX). USE OF CHINESE AS ONE OF THE WORKING  
LANGUAGES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR  
ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

*The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East*

*Noting* that China is a full regional member of the Commission,

*Recognizing* that Chinese is one of the official languages of the United Nations,

*Bearing in mind* the possibility of including Chinese as a working language of the Commission,

1. *Calls* upon the Executive Secretary to study the possibilities thereof, and to make necessary arrangements; and, in view of financial and other matters, to take practical measures employing a gradual approach by providing simultaneous interpretation;

2. *Decides* to consider the question of amending the rules of procedure at its thirtieth session in 1974.

477th meeting,  
21 April 1973.