

## Part III

### RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS THIRTIETH SESSION

#### 140(XXX). Colombo Declaration

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

*On the occasion of its thirtieth session,*

*Gravely concerned over the severity of current food shortages, the rising prices of oil, raw materials and industrial commodities, and the critical balance of payments position facing many countries of the region,*

*Reaffirming the aspirations, responsibility and will of the peoples of Asia and the Pacific to continue to develop their national economies on the principle of independence and self-reliance, and to promote co-operation among countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit,*

*Recognizing the importance of adopting an integrated approach to economic and social development in solving these priority problems,*

*Conscious of its responsibility for promoting the economic and social development of the member countries of the region, and for continuing to give a lead in regional co-operation,*

*Recognizing that the international community of which it is a part must now turn to meet the new challenges outlined above,*

*1. Expresses the view that the most urgent priorities for its action are therefore in the fields of food, energy, raw materials and external financial resources;*

*2. Urges its members to mobilize all their available domestic resources and strengthen their co-operative efforts at the regional and global levels to meet these priorities;*

*3. Calls upon the international community to place the highest priority for concerted action on ensuring adequate food supplies, including the build-up of adequate reserves, and to consider among other measures the establishment of a world fertilizer fund, as proposed in its resolution 142 (XXX);*

*4. Calls upon the international community, as proposed in its resolution 146 (XXX), to maintain at least its level of assistance on concessional terms to assist developing countries in meeting their pressing balance of payments needs and long-term developmental requirements;*

*5. Declares its resolve to intensify action in the identified priority areas, to work towards an integrated approach to economic and social development and to assist subregional and other*

*forms of joint effort within the over-all framework of regional co-operation.*

*490th meeting,  
5 April 1974.*

#### 141 (XXX). Change of name of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

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

*Considering Articles 55 to 60 of Chapter IX on "International Economic and Social Co-operation" and Articles 61 to 72 of Chapter X on "The Economic and Social Council" of the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Taking account of paragraph 3, Article 1, Chapter I of the Charter, in relation to paragraph 1(b), Article 13, Chapter IV, on international co-operation in economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields as well as on human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,*

*Observing that, in line with the integrated approach to development, the Commission has devoted equal attention to both economic and social fields among other activities related to development in general,*

*Noting that the geographical term "Far East" emanated from the viewpoint of countries outside the Asia/Pacific region,*

*1. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly of the United Nations a change in the present name of the Commission from "Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East" (ECAFE) to "Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific" (ESCAP);*

*2. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the thirty-first session of the Commission on the measures taken to implement this resolution.*

*490th meeting,  
5 April 1974.*

#### 142 (XXX). Establishment of a World Fertilizer Fund

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

*Aware* that the region's population constitutes more than half of mankind and that the majority of people in many regional member countries are already living at a level of bare subsistence,

*Noting* that assurance of adequate food supplies is a matter of the utmost priority to the Governments of regional member countries,

*Noting further* that, during the past two years, those countries have been faced with grave problems of food scarcity and rapidly increasing food prices resulting in malnutrition with the threat of starvation becoming a near reality,

*Recognizing* that all constraints on increasing food production should immediately be removed in order to make adequate food supplies available at reasonable prices,

*Acknowledging* that the area for immediate priority action that will have a major impact on food supplies and food prices is that of fertilizers,

*Acknowledging further* that Governments of many regional member countries are experiencing difficulties in obtaining the required quantities of fertilizers at reasonable prices,

*Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to consult immediately with the relevant international organizations and with the Governments of member countries through the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives with a view to formulating for consideration by the World Food Conference in 1974 concrete proposals for establishing a world fertilizer fund to assist developing countries in procuring supplies at reasonable prices and to help expand fertilizer production.

*489th meeting,  
4 April 1974.*

#### **143(XXX). Rationalization of the conference structure of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East**

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

*Recalling* its resolution 138 (XXIX) on the rationalization of its conference structure,

*Noting* that the meetings envisaged in resolution 138 (XXIX) have taken place in accordance with the directives given,

*Having considered* the recommendations resulting from those meetings (E/CN.11/L.384), together with the recommendations of the Executive Secretary (E/CN.11/L.399),

*Considering* that it is desirable: (a) to establish a conference structure which will accord with the major problem areas of the region but, at the same time, be sufficiently flexible to cope with newly identified priority areas; (b) to limit the number and duration of

meetings in order not merely to secure economies of time and resources but also to ensure the most fruitful and effective utilization of its resources, adequately supplemented where necessary; (c) to bridge the gap between problem identification and project implementation, and to improve the secretariat's capacity for research and dissemination of information; and (d) to improve the conference organization and procedures,

1. *Decides* that henceforth the conference structure and frequency of meetings shall conform to the following pattern:

(a) The Commission shall meet annually at the ministerial level to discuss and decide upon important issues concerning economic and social development in the region, to decide upon the recommendations of subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, to examine and approve the programme of work and priorities and to take any other decisions required;

(b) (i) The following committees shall meet at the intervals indicated below:

Agricultural Development	- Once in two years
Economic Planning	- Once in three years
Industry, Housing and Technology	- Annually
Natural Resources	- Annually
Population	- Once in three years
Social Development	- Once in three years
Statistics	- Once in two years
Trade	- Annually
Transport and Communications	- Annually

At the Commission's direction there may also be not more than one *ad hoc* conference each year to deal with specific and important matters not falling immediately within the purview of the committees;

(ii) No more than seven meetings of the committees, including any *ad hoc* conference, shall be held each calendar year and their maximum total duration shall be 50 calendar days;

(c) (i) A committee may propose - subject to approval by the Commission at its annual session - to convene *ad hoc* working groups of government officials and/or experts to discuss action on specific projects in the programme of work; the findings and