

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

recommendations of such meetings shall be submitted as appropriate either through the relevant Committee to the next session of the Commission or through the office of the Executive Secretary to interested Governments;

- (ii) The calendar of meetings shall be so arranged that no more than 15 working groups of the categories referred to in this subparagraph shall be held per calendar year for a maximum of 100 calendar days;
- (d) In addition, the following existing bodies under the auspices of the Commission shall continue to function as prescribed in their respective statutes and terms of reference:

Advisory Council, Asian Statistical Institute

Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas

Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas

Governing Council, Asian Centre for Development Administration

Governing Council, Asian Institute for Economic Development and Planning

Special Body on Land-locked Countries

Typhoon Committee;

- (e) The terms of reference of the Committee on Agricultural Development and of the Committee on Statistics shall be as given in annexes I and II respectively;
- (f) An Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall be established, the terms of reference of which shall be as given in annex III;
- (g) In view of the above, the conference structure of the Commission shall henceforth be as shown in the chart attached to this resolution as annex IV;

2. *Requests* the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, to adjust or reformulate, as may be necessary, in line with the changes in the conference structure of the Commission, the terms of reference of the main legislative committees other than those in paragraph 1(e) above; to study the possibility of setting up a committee on shipping and invisibles, and to submit its proposals for the approval of the Commission as its thirty-first session;

3. *Decides* that the existing structure of subsidiary bodies functioning below the level of the main committees shall, after careful examination of the usefulness of their functions and activities, be replaced by *ad hoc* inter-governmental bodies; that meetings of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives shall be convened to examine this question and the findings submitted to the relevant committees; that, unless the majority of members of each committee are in favour of retaining the structure of subsidiary bodies functioning within its terms of reference, these bodies shall be discontinued; that the findings of the committees and the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives on this question shall be submitted for approval by the Commission at its thirty-first session and that, until the Commission has decided on this question, the activities of the sub-committees shall be suspended;

4. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to undertake whatever reorganization and rationalization within the secretariat may be beneficial to the servicing of the new conference structure in the light of the new priority areas, and to improve the performance of the secretariat in the implementation of a newly oriented programme of work and priorities.

490th meeting,
5 April 1974.

Annex I

Terms of reference of the Committee on Agricultural Development

The Committee on Agricultural Development shall have the following functions:

- (i) To keep under continuing review the situation as regards food and agricultural development in the region in relation to other sectors and to the over-all development of the economy;
- (ii) To provide a forum for discussion and exchange of information and experience among member countries of the region on matters related to agriculture in the context of the economic and social development of the region;
- (iii) To review and evaluate the implementation of plans and programmes in the field of food and agriculture, avoiding duplication of the work of other bodies within the region, in relation to over-all economic and social plans;
- (iv) To formulate the Commission's programme of work in the field of food and agriculture and to review and advise on its implementation in collaboration with other committees of the Commission and other international organizations, especially the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

- (v) To recommend such other arrangements as may be required to carry out the foregoing functions, including the establishment of *ad hoc* subsidiary bodies, if considered necessary and expedient;
- (vi) To transmit its findings and recommendations to the Governments of member and associate member countries; and to report on its activities to the Commission and subsequently to transmit its reports for information and co-ordination to the Regional Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Annex II

Terms of reference of the Committee on Statistics

The Committee on Statistics shall have the following functions:

- (i) To provide a forum for discussion among member countries of subjects of common interest in the statistical field;
- (ii) To review the progress made by the countries of the region in the development of statistics;
- (iii) To exchange knowledge and experience on important statistical problems of regional interest;
- (iv) To promote the adaptation of international statistical standards to the conditions and needs of the developing countries of the region;
- (v) To promote the improvement of the quality of statistics and the application of new techniques;
- (vi) To arrange for the exchange of information on statistical work and methods among the member countries;
- (vii) To recommend studies on subjects of a regional character;
- (viii) To recommend the organization of seminars, working groups, workshops, etc., on current developments and techniques which may be useful in helping to find solutions to technical and other problems;
- (ix) To review the work programme of the

Statistics Division and recommend future lines of work;

- (x) To recommend programmes of technical assistance to countries in the field of statistics;
- (xi) To review the report of the Director of the Asian Statistical Institute and provide guidance on the working of the Institute;
- (xii) To make recommendations on the dissemination of statistical information through publications and other means;
- (xiii) To advise the Commission on statistical matters and report directly to the Commission.

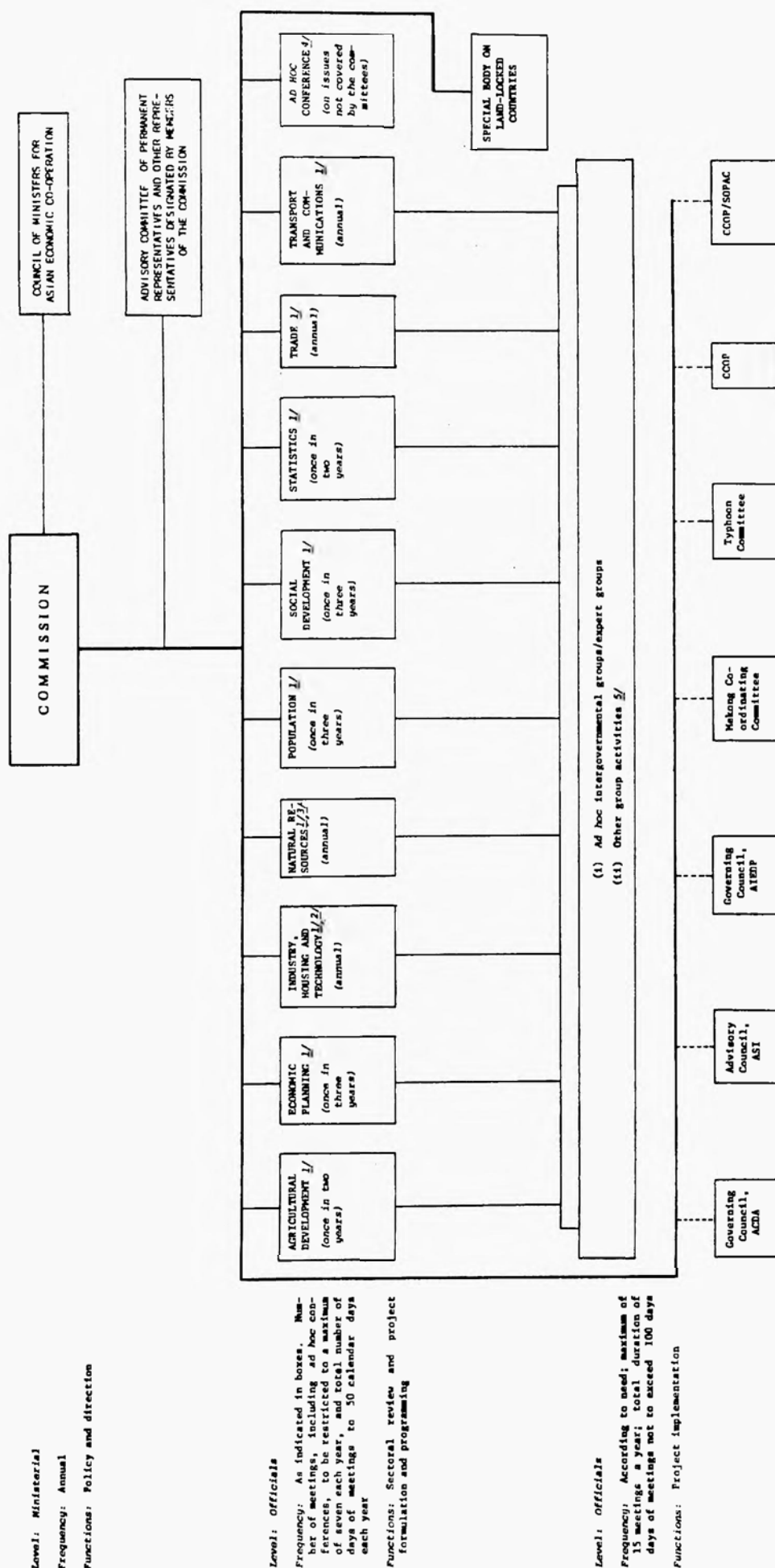
Annex III

Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Re- presentatives Designated by Members of the Commission

The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall have the following functions:

- (i) To maintain close co-operation and consultation between the members and the secretariat of the Commission;
- (ii) To review the draft calendar of meetings, prior to its submission to the Commission session;
- (iii) To exchange views with the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for the Commission session, bearing in mind chapter II of the rules of procedure;
- (iv) To assist the secretariat in the formulation of the annotated provisional agenda for each Commission session before it is finalized;
- (v) To review the list of topics for discussion at the informal meeting, if any, of the heads of delegations held during a Commission session;
- (vi) To discuss the programme of work and priorities, including extrabudgetary requirements;
- (vii) To carry out any other tasks to be entrusted to it by the Commission.

ESCAP Conference Structure



1/ To be named Committee.

2/ The Asian Conference on Industrialization and the Asian Industrial Development Council to be merged into the Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology.

3/ Energy, water and mineral resources development to be taken up separately, every third year.

4/ As ad hoc conference can be held only when the Commission so decides in the light of full needs and priorities, the subjects for such conference must be specified by the Commission and there should not, in any case, be more than one conference each year.

5/ No limitation on other group activities.

144 (XXX). Decentralization of technical assistance activities and strengthening of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recalling the resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council on decentralization and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions, in particular General Assembly resolutions 1518 (XV), 1709 (XVI), 1823 (XVII), 1941 (XVIII), 2803 (XXVI) and Economic and Social Council resolutions 793 (XXX), 823 (XXXII), 879 (XXXIV), 955 (XXXVI) and 1601 (LI),

Recalling further Commission resolutions 35 (XVII), 41 (XVIII) and 119 (XXVII) on decentralization and strengthening of the regional economic commissions, and resolution 127 (XXVIII) on increase and co-ordination of assistance for regional projects,

Noting the lack of progress since the adoption of these resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation of the strong support accorded by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to the Commission and to the Asian Population Programme,

Gravely concerned over the fact that the allocation of United Nations Development Programme resources to regional projects in Asia is not commensurate with the magnitude of the problems of the region and the size of its population,

Taking into account its proximity to, experience of and multidisciplinary engagement in the region's development problems - elements which are at the base of the resolutions cited in this preamble,

Recognizing the pressing need to promote the fullest possible development of the potential of the Commission in regard to the formulation and implementation of regional and subregional projects funded through the Development Programme and the Fund for Population Activities or directly by member countries,

Warmly welcoming the increasing assistance being furnished to regional projects through the Commission by some developed countries,

1. Requests all developed member countries and other interested countries to support or continue to support its activities;

2. Calls for the rapid decentralization to the Commission of all those regional and subregional projects within the region of which the United Nations is at present, or could in future have been expected to become, the executing agency;

3. Recommends that the Commission be designated executing agency for such projects, after consultation between the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme,

the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the Commission;

4. Further recommends that such decentralization and designation be accompanied by the requisite decentralization of the means to implement projects, including appropriate suballotment to the Commission of overhead costs;

5. Urges further strengthening of the co-operation between the Programme, the Fund and the Commission in order to ensure the Commission's active participation in the former's inter-country programming, in the latter's regional and subregional programming, and in the evaluation of projects within the region;

6. Requests that the text of this resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the Development Programme for consideration at the June 1974 session of its Governing Council.

*489th meeting,
4 April 1974.*

145 (XXX). Establishment of the Asian Centre for Agricultural Machinery

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recognizing that agriculture is a vital sector of most countries of the region and that industrial development, particularly, the development of agro-related industry is also very important to their economic development,

Aware that most countries in the region, confronted by grave problems resulting from insufficient food production coupled with rapid population increases, are introducing crop diversification and multi-cropping,

Recognizing furthermore that there is an urgent need to maximize the benefits of the green revolution and to extend them to the majority of Asian small farmers who have been left behind by the green revolution,

Considering that, to achieve this end, small-scale farmers of the region must increasingly be equipped with more suitable tools and machinery,

Noting with gratification the activities of the Asian Industrial Development Council and the secretariat in the field of the agricultural machinery industry,

1. Endorses the decision by the Asian Industrial Development Council at its ninth session to establish an Asian Centre for Agricultural Machinery and decides to set it up in the Philippines as soon as possible;

2. Expresses gratitude to the Government of the Philippines for its offer of host facilities;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for the prompt establishment of the Centre in the Philippines, including the dispatch of a joint mission by the Economic