

Chapter III

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

154 (XXXI). New Delhi Declaration: Regional Contribution to the Establishment of a New International Economic Order

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) on the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, as adopted,

Further recalling Commission resolution 140 (XXX) containing the Colombo Declaration of 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,

Convinced that the progress made in implementing the decisions of the Commission at its previous session and in securing a cohesive and multidisciplinary approach to the developmental problems of the region, particularly through an action-oriented programme of work, will further the establishment of a New International Economic Order,

Aware of the importance of the thirty-first session of the Commission, which is being held at the mid-point of the Second United Nations Development Decade and which provides the first opportunity to formulate the regional contribution to the establishment of a New International Economic Order,

Having reviewed the progress made during the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Concerned at the substantial shortfall in the attainment of the objectives of the International Development Strategy of the Second United Nations Development Decade, the unsatisfactory pace of development and, in particular, lagging agricultural production and continuing food shortages, low levels of industrial growth, a deterioration in the terms of trade and balance-of-payments problems, falling prices of some commodities and rising import costs, all of which affect most developing countries of the region,

Aware that these problems are often due to or aggravated by historical circumstances, including alien and colonial domination and neo-colonialism in all its forms, and by imbalance in the distribution of food and raw materials, periodic natural disasters, global inflation along with recession in some major industrial countries, recurrent instability of the international monetary systems, high prices and global shortages of essential goods and inputs, and rapid rates of population growth,

Mindful of the need to give special attention to the poorest people within the developing coun-

tries and the least developed countries, including the land-locked and island countries and the most seriously affected countries,

Reaffirming the ardent wish of the peoples of the region to continue to develop their national economies in accordance with the principles of independence and self-reliance, and to promote international co-operation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit,

Recognizing that a high rate of economic growth is not in itself sufficient, and that it is the distribution of wealth between regions and peoples and its impact on the environment and quality of life that determine the welfare of the people,

Motivated by the common determination to end poverty in the region and to provide a richer and fuller life to its people,

Further recognizing the imperative need to intensify regional co-operation in all sectors of economic and social activity with the objective of promoting increasing self-reliance, individually and jointly, among the developing countries of the region,

Having considered the report of the Regional Post-World Population Conference Consultation, which placed emphasis on population as an important factor in integrated development planning,

Having considered also General Assembly resolution 3344 (XXIX) stressing the importance of population policies and programmes,

Conscious of the significant role of technology in the development of the national economies of the region and its immediate relevance to all sectors of economic activity,

Believing that the resources of the earth need to be conserved and utilized in the most efficient manner,

1. Appeals to the international community and Member States of the region to rededicate themselves to, and display the necessary political will for, the attainment of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade and the achievement of growth with social justice, and to accord the highest priority to the production of food and the economic and social development of the most disadvantaged;

2. Calls upon member countries to intensify their efforts to step up food output, particularly through co-operative measures, with a view to achieving self-sufficiency in food through increased production and effective utilization of agricultural inputs, improvements in the required infrastructure and full utilization of the potential of rainfed areas for food production, with emphasis on the improvement of the well-being of small farmers and agricultural labourers, through

inter alia appropriate land reforms; and also calls upon the international community to provide all possible assistance to the developing countries to enable them to achieve this objective;

3. *Recommends* that the developing member countries accelerate the implementation of programmes for providing education, health, housing and other social services to the common people, and bring about rural development through the active participation of the people in the planning and implementation process;

4. *Invites* member countries to continue their efforts to effectively solve the continuing and critical balance-of-payments difficulties with the fullest co-operation and assistance of the developed countries and other countries which have the resources, at the same time appreciating the steps taken by the international community to find solutions to those difficulties;

5. *Recommends* that the developing countries, wherever appropriate, increasingly utilize the technologies developed by them and suited to their needs and their domestic natural resources through genuine technological co-operation;

6. *Further recommends* co-operative effort among or between the countries of the region in order to solve the fundamental problems relating to commodities and raw materials, in connexion with their trade, transit facilities and development as appropriate;

7. *Invites* member countries to explore the possibilities of intensifying regional co-operation for the development of shipping and ports;

8. *Urges* the maximum utilization of regional skills, capabilities and expertise in the activities of the Commission, particularly in the implementation of the integrated programme of work, especially in the priority areas;

9. *Declares* that the countries of the region should approach their various problems in a spirit of expanding subregional and regional understanding and growing international co-operation, and that the deliberations of the session of the Commission should constitute a contribution to the early establishment of a New International Economic Order and to a new development strategy by focusing special attention on the common people and the improvement of the quality of their life and living conditions through growth with social justice.

*500th meeting,
6 March 1975.*

155 (XXXI). Change of name of the Asian Institute for Economic Development and Planning

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling Commission resolution 43 (XIX) establishing the Asian Institute for Economic Development and Planning,

Recognizing the importance of a unified approach to development,

Noting that the work programme of the Institute for 1975 and the guidelines of the work plan

for phase III, 1976-1980, place equal emphasis on the economic and the social aspects of development,

Further noting the recommendation of the Governing Council of the Institute at its 24th meeting that the present name of the Institute, "Asian Institute for Economic Development and Planning", be changed to "Asian Development Institute",

Decides to change the name of the Institute from "Asian Institute for Economic Development and Planning" to "Asian Development Institute" in keeping with the integrated approach to development of its activities.

*500th meeting,
6 March 1975.*

156 (XXXI). Establishment of the Asian Centre for Agricultural Machinery

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 145 (XXX) on the establishment of the Asian Centre for Agricultural Machinery in the Philippines,

Noting with appreciation the progress made in implementing the said resolution,

Taking cognizance of the recommendations of the UNDP/UNIDO/FAO/ESCAP Preparatory Mission on Technical Assistance for the Development of Agricultural Machinery Suitable for Use and Production in Asian Countries,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take immediate appropriate measures to implement the recommendations of the UNDP/UNIDO/FAO/ESCAP Preparatory Mission, and to locate the regional centre in the Philippines;

2. *Welcomes* the decision of the United Nations Development Programme, designating the Commission as the executing agency for the preparatory assistance phase of the project;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1896 (LVII), to designate the Commission as the executing agency for the project;

4. *Urges* the international organizations and institutions concerned with the development and adaptation of suitable agricultural machinery and all member countries to extend their fullest assistance in order to ensure the successful implementation of the project.

*500th meeting,
6 March 1975.*

157 (XXXI). Regional Plan of Action for the Enhancement of the Role of Women in Development

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3010 (XXVII) proclaiming the year 1975 International Women's Year, 3275 (XXIX) calling upon Govern-