

Convinced that there is need to create an appropriate institution within the ESCAP region to help the developing countries to acquire, adapt and absorb technology,

Re-affirming their conviction that there is need for co-operation among the developing countries of the ESCAP region in the field of transfer of technology with a view to promoting self-reliance,

1. *Reiterates* the conclusion of the Commission at its thirtieth session concerning the need to set up a centre for technology transfer within the region;

2. *Welcomes* with great appreciation the offer of the Government of India to provide host facilities for the proposed centre;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to appoint a group of regional experts to make a feasibility study of the proposal to establish the centre for technology transfer in India, and to prepare a comprehensive project report for consideration by the Committee on Industry, Housing and Technology at its first session in 1975 and, if that is not possible, by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and, in any case, for decision by the Commission at its thirty-second session.

*500th meeting,
6 March 1975.*

160 (XXXI). Arrangements on shipping and ports

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling that one of the principal objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade is to promote by national, regional and international action the earnings of developing countries from invisible trade, including shipping, and that the national shipping lines of developing countries should have an increasing and substantial participation in the carriage of cargoes generated by their foreign trade,

Bearing in mind that the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, provides *inter alia* that all efforts should be made:

- (a) To promote an increasing and equitable participation of developing countries in the world shipping tonnage;
- (b) To arrest and reduce the ever-increasing freight rates in order to reduce the cost

of imports to, and exports from, the developing countries,

Noting with concern that the combined fleets of the ESCAP developing countries in 1973 accounted for only 3 per cent of the world fleet (d.w.t.),

Recognizing the potential that exists for the very successful development of the shipping industry in all its aspects in the developing countries of ESCAP,

Bearing in mind also the substantial contribution the development of shipping could make to the rapid general economic development of the developing countries of ESCAP,

Noting particularly that there is no gestation period for ships, which are also internationally disposable assets,

Recognizing the inability of the developing countries of ESCAP to achieve the targets set by the Second United Nations Development Decade Strategy, unless a concentrated effort is made with assistance from bilateral and multilateral sources,

Bearing in mind the special difficulties of the developing island and land-locked countries,

Recalling resolution 143 (XXX) and taking note of the report of the Expert Group convened by the Executive Secretary and considering the proposal contained in the findings and recommendations of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by the Members of the Commission,

Recognizing the need for the regional economic commission to co-ordinate its activities on shipping with several other United Nations and international bodies, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America, and the Economic Commission for West Asia,

1. *Decides* that there shall in principle be one forum for shipping and ports;

2. *Further decides* that the decision on the establishment of the forum shall be taken by the Commission at its thirty-second session;

3. *Invites* the Executive Secretary in the meantime to take all necessary measures to ensure under his guidance the better co-ordination of all matters relating to shipping and ports.

*500th meeting,
6 March 1975.*