

349. The Commission welcomed the invitation of the Government of India to hold its seventeenth session in India in 1961. It unanimously decided that, subject to

the approval of the appropriate United Nations authorities, the invitation of the Government of India should be accepted, and that the date and the place of the session should be determined by the Executive Secretary in consultation with that Government.

### Part III

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

##### 31 (XVI). Regional economic co-operation for development of trade and industries <sup>23</sup>

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

*Having taken note of the discussions on the economic situation in Asia and the Far East and the report of the Committee on Trade (third session) <sup>24</sup> and the report of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources (twelfth session), <sup>25</sup>*

*Having considered the long-term trade situation in countries of Asia and the Far East, arising from the economic trends in the region and in the world as a whole,*

*Expressing its deep concern:*

(a) That the trend has been for the growth of exports of primary exporting countries of the region to fall behind not only that of the industrial countries, but also that of the other primary exporting countries outside the region,

(b) That major export commodities of these countries have been subject to wide fluctuations in volume and prices,

(c) That considerable improvement in the economic growth and stability in the industrial countries since the war has not been accompanied by a commensurate improvement in the growth and stability of the region's exports,

(d) That there is a possibility of a widening imbalance between the export earnings of these countries and the cost of imports necessary for a practicable rate of development,

*Taking into consideration the possibilities for greater co-operation between countries of the region in the form of joint projects for the development of both large and small industries, as well as for industrial training and research and in the form of regional projects in other fields benefiting a number of countries in the region,*

*Believing that such joint action would facilitate a better utilization of available raw materials, financial resources and technical skills, and that close co-operation between countries in these endeavours may help to solve many of the problems common to the region, and also to expand intraregional and interregional trade,*

1. *Recommends* that the countries of the region:

(a) Take note of recent developments in trade co-operation in other regions of the world;

(b) Seek suitable measures for increasing intraregional trade, in the context of enlarged world trade, to make possible a sustained increase of production resulting from larger markets;

(c) Explore in this regard the possibilities of promoting economically sound regional co-operation as a means of stimulating economic development in the area;

(d) In consultation with one another, and with the Executive Secretary, investigate specific projects that may be advantageously developed as joint projects—for example, "industry-possibilities" surveys of, for example, machine tools; industrial research and training institutes; demonstration and extension centres; and the mechanization and development of small industries;

(e) Review as appropriate their national policies with a view to encouraging domestic savings, mobilizing of domestic public funds for economic development and creating conditions which will attract adequate amounts of capital, both domestic and foreign, into productive enterprise;

(f) Initiate suitable measures to stabilize, on a commodity-by-commodity basis, prices of primary commodities at fair and adequate levels;

(g) In consultation with one another, study the possibilities of a suitable pattern of regional co-operation consistent with the principles of GATT;

2. *Appeals* to the industrially advanced countries of the world:

(a) To continue to consider possibilities of increasing imports from the countries of the region;

(b) To seek, within the framework of existing international organizations and in co-operation with countries of the region, economically sound ways, on a commodity-by-commodity basis, for the stabilization of prices of primary products at fair and adequate levels within limits which take into account long-term trends in supply and demand;

(c) To take note of the concern of the countries of the region that their interests may be adversely affected by regional economic arrangements elsewhere and to take necessary measures that these interests be safeguarded and the countries of the region enabled to benefit from the growth of economic activity expected to arise from these arrangements;

<sup>23</sup> See paragraph 272 above.

<sup>24</sup> E/CN.11/521.

<sup>25</sup> E/CN.11/523.

(d) To consider the need of the countries of the region to increase their exports not only of primary commodities, but also of semi-processed and manufactured goods which they are in a position to supply competitively;

(e) To continue to provide the countries of the region economic, financial and technical aid under multilateral and bilateral programmes of assistance with a view to accelerating the economic development and diversification of production in the countries of the region as part of global economic expansion;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to explore the scope and practical measures for promoting intraregional co-operation for economic and social development in the region as a whole and, if necessary, among individual countries of the region as a first step, particularly in the fields of agriculture, industry, transport and trade;

(b) Within available staff resources, and after such preliminary studies as may be considered appropriate, to make suggestions to interested governments concerning such joint projects and regional projects as may be practicable, including a suggested order of priority;

4. *Recommends* the United Nations agencies concerned to consider sympathetically requests for technical and financial assistance in support of measures designed to promote economic development and co-operation in the region, in particular for joint projects in the field of industrialization, and to provide adequate allocations for regional projects;

5. *Invites* other international agencies having an interest in joint projects to co-operate and assist in carrying out the investigations;

6. *Recommends* that, in cases where regional financing is inadequate, joint projects of two or more countries in the region be submitted by the governments concerned to the appropriate institutions or countries engaged in international industrial development activities;

7. *Further recommends* to such governments or institutions that they consider favourably economically sound proposals of this nature to the full extent of available resources.

229th meeting,  
18 March 1960.

**32 (XVI). Development of tourism  
and international travel <sup>26</sup>**

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

**I**

*Recognizing* that tourism is a means of augmenting foreign exchange earnings and stimulating international trade; that the tourist industry would help to diversify the economies of the countries of the region, and would provide an impetus to the development of handicrafts

<sup>26</sup> See paragraph 310 above.

and other types of indigenous production; and that international travel and tourism would bring peoples of various countries together and thereby promote peace and international understanding,

*Noting* with satisfaction the progress being made by the countries of the region in promoting international travel, particularly by the lessening of travel restrictions, and by the ratification of international conventions on tourism,

1. *Emphasizes* the role of ECAFE in supporting and reinforcing the efforts of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO) and its regional commissions, especially the Pacific Area Travel Association and the South Asia Travel Commission, by bringing to the attention of governments the need for suitable action for the development of the tourist trade and industry;

2. *Endorses* the suggestion of the Inland Transport and Communications Committee for the establishment of a liaison unit in the ECAFE secretariat in order that active and close co-operation be maintained with IUOTO and its regional commissions; <sup>27</sup>

3. *Further endorses* the Committee's recommendation that the ECAFE secretariat should, consistent with its resources, extend co-operation and assistance to IUOTO and its regional bodies in carrying out the survey of tourist potential in the ECAFE region;

**II**

*Believing* that the proclamation by the Government of the Philippines and other countries of 1961 as a "Visit the Orient Year" is a most opportune step towards an increase in the world's tourist traffic to the countries of the ECAFE region,

*Believing further* that such proclamation is an appropriate initial step towards the maximum participation by all countries in the region in the development of the travel industry with a view to enlarging their share of the tourist trade and foreign exchange earnings which would benefit their economies,

*Recommends* that the countries of the region co-operate in making a success of the 1961 "Visit the Orient Year" programme and, individually and collectively, make suitable preparations for the observance of 1961 as a "Visit the Orient Year", take such steps as required with a view to providing special facilities and attractions for tourists, such as simplification of formalities, procedures and methods affecting tourists, the development of plans for exhibitions and other events of a cultural, commercial and industrial nature, including facilities for large scale tours to historical sites and recreational centres;

**III**

*Further noting* the urgent need of many countries of the region for technical assistance to develop tourism and international travel,

*Requests* the Executive Secretary, in co-operation with

<sup>27</sup> E/CN.11/511.