

Trade and Development, having regard to the region's extensive geographic scope, membership, population and interest in the Conference,

*Appreciating* that the Economic and Social Council and the Preparatory Committee have requested the regional economic commissions to provide assistance in the preparation of proposals and documentation for the Conference,

1. *Requests* the members and associate members of ECAFE, after a thorough examination of their international trade and development problems, to prepare constructive and concrete proposals for consideration by the Preparatory Committee and the Conference;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to consider favourably increasing the membership of the ECAFE region on the Preparatory Committee; and

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide the fullest assistance of the ECAFE secretariat in the work of the Preparatory Committee and of the Conference, taking into account the discussions held and the suggestions made during the nineteenth session of ECAFE and the secretariat's studies and other experience in the field of the development of trade and general economy of the region.

*282nd meeting,  
12 March 1963.*

#### **45 (XIX). Accelerated measures for regional economic co-operation for development of trade and industry<sup>26</sup>**

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

*Taking note* of the discussions held and suggestions made on regional economic co-operation in connexion with the consideration of the economic situation in Asia, the report of the Committee on Trade (sixth session)<sup>27</sup> and the report of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources (fifteenth session),<sup>28</sup>

*Recalling* resolution 31 (XVI) on regional economic co-operation for development of trade and industry, which the Commission adopted at its sixteenth session in March 1960,

*Realizing* that regional co-operation has established itself as an important and effective force for accelerating the trade and economic growth of developing as well as developed countries in other regions of the world,

*Expressing its deep concern* that the efforts of developing countries of the ECAFE region to diversify their export trade and expand their earnings from exports of primary, semi-processed and manufactured products have so far yielded only very modest results, falling considerably short of their foreign exchange requirements for imports and seriously incommensurate with their needs for economic development,

*Considering* that the challenging and difficult problems of development of trade and industry faced by countries of Asia and the Far East call for immediate and substantial increase in co-operative and concerted efforts by countries of the ECAFE region,

*Appreciating* the various measures taken and being pursued by the Executive Secretary in co-operation with member countries of the region to implement the recommendations of resolution 31 (XVI), including intra-

regional trade promotion talks, commodity consultations, joint industry and market surveys, and establishment of expert groups, particularly the Consultative Group of Experts on Regional Economic Co-operation in Asia and the Far East,

*Recognizing* that the time is now ripe for countries of the region to take further significant steps towards regional economic co-operation,

1. *Urges* the countries of the region to intensify their efforts and activities to carry out the recommendations contained in its resolution 31 (XVI); and

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, while continuing to implement feasible work projects in the development of regional trade and industry in co-operation with countries of the region and to have such consultations with Governments of the region as are necessary for this purpose, to convene a meeting of high level representatives of member and associate member Governments of the ECAFE region to review the progress achieved so far and to formulate and adopt more positive measures for concerted regional action.

*284th meeting,  
13 March 1963.*

#### **46 (XIX). Development of water resources of the lower Mekong basin<sup>29</sup>**

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

*Considering* that the economic and social development of the economically less developed countries is of primary importance to those countries and is also basic to the attainment of international peace and security and to a mutually beneficial increase in world prosperity,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 1710 (XVI) of 19 December 1961 designating the current decade as the "United Nations Development Decade",

*Recalling* that the Governments of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam, pursuant to a recommendation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,<sup>30</sup> established in 1957 a Committee for the Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, hereinafter referred to as the Mekong Committee, consisting under its statute of one member from each Government with plenipotentiary authority, and empowered as a Committee to promote, co-ordinate, supervise and control the planning and investigation of the water resources development project in the lower Mekong basin, to make requests on behalf of the participating Governments for special financial and technical assistance, to receive and administer separately such financial and technical assistance, and to take title to property.

*Noting* with appreciation that, for projects planned and sponsored by the Mekong Committee, resources of some \$36 million equivalent have been made available by twenty countries, including the four riparian countries, and by eleven United Nations agencies, three private foundations, and several private business organizations; that some of these resources have been extended directly to the Committee, and some extended as a loan for construction of the first project in the lower Mekong basin network,

*Noting* that of the total resources now available nearly one-third, namely some \$11.4 million equivalent, has

<sup>26</sup> See para. 317 above.

<sup>27</sup> E/CN.11/610.

<sup>28</sup> E/CN.11/614.

<sup>29</sup> See para. 367 above.

<sup>30</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-fourth session, Supplement No. 2 (E/2359), para. 277.*

been expended or pledged by the four riparian countries themselves,

*Noting* that the efficient and co-ordinated operation of Mekong Committee work and effective and timely utilization of all resources available to the Mekong Committee, the great bulk of which are tendered in services and in kind, now require that some portions of resources be in contingency funds, in diverse currencies, allocated to the Committee for a particular component project or projects, or for the Mekong Committee programme as a whole, for use in agreement between the respective donor or donors and the Committee,

*Noting* further that the Mekong Committee has largely completed, ahead of schedule, a five-year programme of investigations established for 1959-1964; that the scope and character of the effort to develop the water resources of the basin demands that a comprehensive, integrated and balanced programme of work for the coming five years be established and carried out; and that the Mekong Committee is preparing such a five-year programme for 1964-1969,

*Invites* all interested Governments, United Nations specialized agencies and other organizations to continue and increase support as noted above to the Mekong Committee in its task of developing the water resources of the lower Mekong basin.

*287th meeting,  
15 March 1963.*

#### **47 (XIX). The co-operative movement in the ECAFE region<sup>31</sup>**

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

*Recognizing* the importance of the co-operative principles of economic organization for meeting the economic needs of people of relatively small means,

*Noting* the importance attached to the rapid growth of the co-operative movement by several member Governments in their social and economic programmes,

*Recognizing* the vital role which the application of the principles of the co-operative movement can play in accelerating the rate of economic growth in the region,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to establish an expert group drawn from the member countries of the Commission, or to investigate, by any other means that may seem appropriate, the rich potential of the co-operative movement for achieving a faster rate of economic growth and social progress in the region, and to make recommendations;

<sup>31</sup> See paras. 369 and 385 above.

2. *Further requests* that the Executive Secretary should seek the co-operation of the United Nations specialized agencies and of other qualified organizations such as the International Co-operative Alliance in any such study.

*289th meeting,  
18 March 1963.*

#### **48 (XIX). Technical training and assistance<sup>32</sup>**

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

*Taking note* of General Assembly resolution 1824 (XVII) on the role of the United Nations in training national technical personnel and specialists in different fields required by the developing countries for their accelerated industrialization and long-term programmes of economic and social development,

*Recalling* in this connexion the various resolutions of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council, and the General Assembly which reaffirm the role of the regional economic commissions in the above fields under the policy of decentralization,

*Taking note* of the various measures so far taken by the Secretary-General and by the Executive Secretary of ECAFE to develop the work of the Commission in the field of advisory services, technical assistance and training of technical personnel,

*Expresses gratification* at the proposed establishment of a Technical Assistance Co-ordination Unit in the ECAFE secretariat;

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make available to the Commission, at its twentieth session, copies of the reports requested by the General Assembly in operative paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of its resolution 1823 (XVII) of 18 December 1962, and to submit a report on the increased participation of ECAFE in the technical assistance activities of the United Nations;

2. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to take, in the context of the expanding programmes of economic development in the countries of the region, whatever preparatory steps may be necessary to assist them, at their request, in the consideration of their requirements of technical assistance, personnel and training facilities, taking into account the studies and activities in this field of other intergovernmental organizations.

*289th meeting,  
18 March 1963.*

<sup>32</sup> See para. 400 above.