

55 (XX). World campaign for universal literacy^{32/}

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Having considered the report submitted by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization on Adult Literacy and Social and Economic Development (E/CN.11/654),

Noting with concern that, of the world total of 700 million adults presumed to be illiterate at mid-century, some seventy-five per cent lived in Asia and that, in spite of the expansion of the school system, the total number of adult illiterates in several countries of Asia was still increasing as a result of the accelerated population growth,

Convinced that education is a key factor of economic growth and social progress and, in particular, that a mass extension of literacy is a prerequisite for the successful implementation of national plans for economic development,

Recalling the conclusion reached by the Ministers of Education of Asian member States of UNESCO at the meeting jointly sponsored by ECAFE and UNESCO at Tokyo in 1962 that comprehensive plans for education in each Asian country should be integrated into national development plans,

1. Takes note of General Assembly resolution 1937 (XVIII);

2. Expresses the hope that adequate means will be found by the United Nations and Member States to launch a world campaign for universal literacy;

3. Recommends that:

(a) In addition to taking measures for the extension of school and higher education, they make adequate provision in their national development plans for the progressive eradication of mass illiteracy,

(b) To this end, they establish national literacy programmes with a view to improving education as well as intensifying technical and vocational training of adults related to the needs and priorities of social and economic progress.

311th meeting,
17 March 1964.

^{32/} See para. 466 above.