

Requests the Executive Secretary to strengthen the Regional Centre for Economic Projections and Programming established within the secretariat, so that it can review constantly the sectors and areas in which increased regional or sub-regional co-ordination of development plans can lead to mutual benefits through an accelerated development of the countries concerned;

Invite Governments of member countries in the region to extend all co-operation to the work of the Regional Centre;

Further requests the Executive Secretary to convene a working group of planning experts to explore concrete ways to enable development planners from each country to take full account of the plans of other countries so as to benefit from co-operation among them.

321st meeting,
22 March 1965.

57 (XXI). Resources for technical assistance, their co-ordination and fields of development 26/

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Noting the increasingly significant role of technical assistance in relation to the Development Decade targets and to the general needs of economic growth;

Observing the current trends and factors affecting technical assistance operations, in particular:

(i) the steady fall during recent years in the region's relative share of resources allocated under the United Nations expanded and regular programmes,

(ii) the fact that the allocations under regional projects of the Expanded Programme still remain below the ceiling of 15 per cent of the total allocation under this programme as set by the Economic and Social Council in terms of resolution 854 (XXXII),

(iii) the significant role of technical assistance in pre-investment studies or identification of potential development areas for Special Fund financing,

26/ See para. 473 above.

(iv) the important part played by national co-ordination agencies in improving the organization, utilization and operation of technical assistance activities so as to help meet the demands of national planning and project programming,

(v) the importance in country project activities of economic, industrial and communications planning, investment surveys, studies on industrial estates and complexes, management and cost analyses, project formulation and evaluation, implementation and operation of various projects and programmes within the framework of the team-aid approach, and

(vi) the significance in regional activities of planning and project formulation, of programmes designed to find practical solutions, of programmes relating to regional plan harmonization, of trade liberalization, of the proposed Asian Development Bank, of the **Regional Projections and Programming Centre**, of the Industries Promotion Centre and of the Asian Highway:

1. Urges the authorities concerned to increase the volume of assistance provided under the Expanded and Regular Programmes, to an extent consistent with the expanding needs of individual countries and of regional projects in keeping with the immediate and long-term development targets;

2. Draws their attention to the need for increased Special Fund allocation to the region, and for the expansion of technical assistance activities designed to lead up to Special Fund projects;

3. Recommends strongly that countries strengthen or establish high level national committees or bureaux for technical assistance to co-ordinate all programmes of technical aid;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary, in consultation and co-ordination with BTAO, the Special Fund and the Resident Representatives of the Technical Assistance Board and the Directors of Special Fund in the respective countries:

(a) to encourage and assist member countries in conducting surveys to identify their individual over-all technical assistance needs and to incorporate the findings into their technical assistance programmes co-ordinated with their national development plans,

(b) to assist increasingly in the promotion of country technical assistance projects relating to resources surveys and studies and allied operational aids,

(c) to follow up the progress of the work in regional co-operation activities, to strengthen the secretariat's regional activities, projects and centres in specified fields, and in particular to continue the orientation of the secretariat's regular activities and the work programme, including the use of regional advisers and preparation of a system of country studies, so as to meet more fully the needs of technical assistance and Special Fund programming and operations, and

(d) to convene in co-operation with the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations and the secretariat of the Technical Assistance Board a seminar or working group on national co-ordination of technical assistance and related activities with a view to promoting effective interchanges of experience and ideas that would lead to the establishment of well-defined co-ordination machinery and procedures in countries of the ECAFE region.

330th meeting,
29 March 1965.

58 (XXI). Industrial development and promotion^{27/}

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recalling the emphasis laid by the Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Co-operation held at Manila in 1963 upon co-ordinated efforts in the planning and execution of agreed industrial and related projects, including joint ventures, on a regional and sub-regional basis;

Noting the establishment within the secretariat of the Regional Industries Promotion and Planning Centre to study these matters in a continuous and systematic manner;

27/ See para. 405 above.