

Believing that, with adequate staff resources, the Centre could play a useful role in accelerating industrial development in countries of the region, particularly in drawing their attention to those courses of action which would lead to beneficial results for a great number of countries;

Invites Governments of member countries of the region:

(a) to extend necessary co-operation to the Centre by providing information on their development plans and other relevant data and also by appointing appropriate liaison officers to the Centre,

(b) to make full use of the services of the Centre and to suggest studies that may be undertaken by the Centre;

Recommends that the support of the United Nations Programmes of Technical Assistance, both Expanded and Regular, as well as the United Nations Special Fund be given to the Centre in its various activities;

Requests the Executive Secretary to explore the possibilities of strengthening the staff resources of the Centre.

325th meeting,
24 March 1965.

59 (XXI). The development of Asia's mineral wealth^{28/}

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Being aware of the importance of the development of mineral resources to countries of the region in the diversification of their economy, in furnishing essential raw materials for industrial development, in serving as a catalyst as well as a basis for other economic developments and in providing much needed foreign exchange through exports of mineral commodities;

Recalling that in Economic and Social Council resolution 916 (XXXIV) on the United Nations Development Decade, the Governments of Member States as well as the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were called upon to give particular attention to the "exploration and exploitation of natural resources with a view to establishing a raw material and energy basis for economic development;

^{28/} See para. 412 above.

Noting with satisfaction:

(a) the attention being given by countries of the region to the development of mineral resources in their national development plans to the strengthening of Government departments concerned with the geological survey and mineral prospecting, to providing facilities for training technical personnel engaged in those fields, to the increasing use of modern techniques and methods for mineral prospecting and to basic research for the improvement of mining and processing techniques and for discovery of new uses of mineral products,

(b) the activities of the ECAFE secretariat to promote geological survey and mineral resources development in the region, particularly through the preparation of regional geological and related maps; and in making technical studies of selected mineral commodities of interest to countries of the region; arranging training facilities and study tours; conducting technical seminars on aerial survey, geochemical prospecting and on natural gas development; organizing pilot courses on aerial survey methods and techniques; and giving continuous attention to the possible application of modern methods for the discovery of mineral resources in the region;

Invites Governments of member countries of the region:

(a) to give continuous attention to the systematic geological survey of their territories, to the expansion of their geological and mining services whenever required, to encouraging basic research, and to the introduction of modern techniques and methods for the discovery and exploitation of mineral resources,

(b) to evolve long-term mining policies, taking into consideration the fact that to bring a mineral deposit to a production stage takes time and often requires a considerable cost;

Requests:

(a) ECAFE's Working Party of Senior Geologists to consider, at its next session, the full range of appropriate techniques in mineral prospection, including geology, photo-geology, geophysics and geo-chemistry that may be applicable in the countries of the region,

(b) the Sub-Committee on Mineral Resources Development to give increasing attention to the full and rational utilization of mineral resources available in countries of the region, including beneficiation of low grade ores, establishment of mineral processing plants, modernization and improvement of small-scale mines and rehabilitation of closed or abandoned mines; to examine mineral supply situation particularly for such basic industries as fertilizer and iron and steel; to review the world demand for those mineral commodities of which the region is an important supplier; and to suggest ways and means of accelerating mineral resources development through regional and international co-operation,

(c) the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources to examine the possibilities of establishment and/or expansion of industries based on indigenous mineral raw materials of the region, the relation between the mining sector and other connected sectors for economic development, and the interdependence of natural resources, of which mineral resources form a part, and to consider approaches to rational resources planning, including preparation of inventories, estimation of demands in both short and long terms, co-ordination and provision of training and research facilities;

Urges:

(a) the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations to consider favourably country requests for experts in the survey, exploration, development and utilization of mineral resources and to provide regional advisors located within the secretariat for rendering services to a number of countries of the region in the fields of common interest, such as beneficiation of low grade ores and planning for resources development,

(b) the United Nations Special Fund to give its continuous support to projects concerned with mineral surveys, pilot installations for mineral processing and extraction, or with the establishment of geological and mineral institutes, and to give speedy approval to the establishment of the Regional Petroleum Institute in Iran, strongly endorsed by the Commission at its previous session;

Expresses the hope that the more advanced countries, both within and outside the region, will extend assistance to the developing countries of the region as well as to the secretariat in the above undertakings when required.

325th meeting,
24 March 1965.