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The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

1. Invites countries both within and outside the region to extend all possible co-operation and assistance to the Council, as well as to the secretariat, to ensure the success of the above undertaking;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to take appropriate measures to strengthen the staff resources in the industrial field, as set forth in document E/CN.11/L.156, with a view to carrying out the expanded functions resulting from the formation of the Asian Industrial Development Council.

347th meeting,
31 March 1966.

69 (XXII). The Asian Highway

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Realizing that the Asian Highway system is a major factor in promoting economic, social and cultural progress for achieving better standards of living in the countries of the region,

Noting with satisfaction that the Asian Highway Co-ordinating Committee, established at the ministerial level by the Commission, had its first meeting in April 1965, during which it recommended, inter alia, that by the end of the United Nations Development Decade at least one through-route connecting all countries on the Asian Highway should be established,

Noting also that, to ensure the completion of that route, a five-year development plan for the Asian Highway is being prepared in consultation with the Governments concerned with a view to identifying projects for filling the gaps with roads and bridges, upgrading the sub-standard sections and meeting traffic requirements on the priority routes, and estimating the requirements of financial support on the basis of a phased programme,

Requests the Co-ordinating Committee to review in detail the works urgently needed for completing priority routes, including the construction of some sections of the Asian Highway and major bridges for which an application for financial assistance was submitted to the United Nations Special Fund in 1963, with a view to making practical recommendations for obtaining financial and technical assistance and equipment for their early completion within the stipulated time;

Strongly urges the aid-giving countries to give their fullest support in the form of financial and technical assistance as well as equipment for the implementation of the Asian Highway five-year development plan;

Notes also with satisfaction that, in response to a request made by a number of countries for financial assistance to the Asian Highway Co-ordinating Committee and for the establishment and operation of highway research and training facilities in the ECAFE region, the United Nations Development Programme has appointed a Preparatory Assistance Mission to assist in revising and elaborating the draft application which the Asian Highway Co-ordinating Committee, after finalizing the text, will submit to the United Nations Development Programme in July 1966;

Urges the Governments concerned to participate actively in the programme of work to be carried out in connexion with the application, by establishing and expanding research and testing facilities and providing training programmes for national technical personnel at all levels, with a view to ensuring quality control and economies in the construction and maintenance of roads through the utilization of locally available materials, and the employment of soil stabilization techniques; and

Requests the United Nations Development Programme to give high priority and favourable consideration to the application when it is submitted by the Co-ordinating Committee.

348th meeting,
1 April 1966.