

Requests the ECAFE countries to encourage the development of a "common will" among themselves and to consider taking suitable practical action in that direction with a view to promoting co-operation within ECAFE;

Urges the developed and developing countries to adopt measures and policies that will match the aims, endeavours and hopes of the developing countries.

365th meeting,
12 April 1967.

86 (XXIII). Regional co-operation and harmonization
of national development plans

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Noting with concern that the rate of economic growth of many of the developing countries in the ECAFE region has been slow and halting and that considerable efforts will be required even to achieve the modest growth targets laid down in General Assembly resolution 1710 (XVI) on the Development Decade,

Realizing that purely national efforts at rapid economic development have been hampered by the narrowness of domestic markets and an insufficiency of resources, and that such limitations can feasibly be overcome by the strategy of economic co-operation and harmonization of national development plans at both regional and sub-regional level undertaken to bring about complementarity in production and mutually beneficial trade,

Recalling its resolutions 45 (XIX) of 13 March 1963 and 56 (XXI) of 22 March 1965 on regional harmonization of national development plans,

Welcoming the resolution on dynamic Asian economic co-operation adopted at the second Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Co-operation in 1965, and the recommendations on economic co-operation and plan harmonization made at the first and second sessions of the Conference of Asian Economic Planners held in 1961 and 1964 and of the Expert Group on Trade Liberalization held in 1964,

Bearing in mind the deliberations of the first Working Group of Planning Experts on Regional Harmonization of Development Plans, held in 1966, which emphasized the importance and urgency of economic co-operation and plan harmonization for meeting the difficulties besetting the national efforts to achieve rapid economic development and which unanimously recommended that, in view of the vast geographical expanse, socio-cultural diversity and economic complexity of the ECAFE region, the most feasible and fruitful approach to economic co-operation at the initial stages would be sectoral and sub-regional plan harmonization, and co-ordination at the regional level bearing in mind the ultimate aim of integrating the region's over-all development,

Commending the efforts made and steps taken by the Executive Secretary, pursuant to the above resolutions and deliberations with regard to the vital role of regional, including sub-regional, economic co-operation in accelerating the region's economic growth,

Calls upon the Governments of member countries to create a climate of harmony and goodwill, to imbue their efforts with greater zeal and determination, and to explore and implement practical schemes and measures of regional and sub-regional economic co-operation and plan harmonization with a view to further fostering the spirit of mutual help and willingness to embark on joint efforts, accelerating the region's economic growth and attaining the benefits of concerted efforts and co-operation; and

Requests the Executive Secretary to:

- (a) conduct and promote studies on economic co-operation and plan harmonization at the sub-regional and regional levels with a view to evolving and instituting feasible patterns of co-operation and plan harmonization to the mutual advantage of the participating countries;
- (b) organize meetings and discussions relating to the studies on sub-regional and regional co-operation with a view to making specific recommendations to the Governments of member countries concerned.

369th meeting,
14 April 1967.