

Requests the Executive Secretary and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to provide assistance for establishing the institute and to assist the Governments of member countries concerned, including the host Government, namely the Government of Japan, to prepare and submit, as soon as possible, an application to the United Nations Development Programme for that project;

Urges the United Nations Development Programme to give urgent and favourable consideration to such an application in the interests of meeting the keenly felt needs of the countries of the region; and

Calls upon the Governments of all members and associate members of ECAFE to support the establishment of the institute.

371st meeting,
17 April 1967.

87 (XXIII). Ministerial conference of countries of
the ECAFE region

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recalling the resolution on dynamic Asian economic co-operation adopted at the second Ministerial Conference on Asian Economic Co-operation, held in 1965, which, inter alia, recommended that ECAFE member and associate member countries conduct further investigations and studies on various measures for promoting regional trade co-operation, and the relevant recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Deeply concerned that most Asian countries are still encountering serious difficulties in achieving the minimum desirable rates of growth and the targets set for the United Nations Development Decade,

Noting that most of the developing countries in the region continue to suffer very acute balance of payments difficulties and that the expansion of their export trade has been depressingly slow and far from satisfactory,

Appreciating that most of the developing countries in the region continue to suffer from ever-widening gaps in their balance of trade,

Reaffirming the need for immediate remedial measures to remove the impediments to the expansion of trade of the countries of the region and to discover ways and means of building up their export infrastructure,

Requests the Executive Secretary:

- (i) To constitute immediately a study group of government representatives to prepare as soon as possible a practical plan of action in different fields of regional economic co-operation, particularly regarding expansion of trade among the countries of the region within the framework of the principles internationally agreed upon, taking into account also the recommendations of the Expert Group on Regional Economic Co-operation, which met in 1961 and 1963, and the recommendations of the two Ministerial Conferences on Asian Economic Co-operation relating to the expansion of trade in the region;
- (ii) To convene a ministerial conference of the countries of the region as soon as possible and, in any case, before the next session of UNCTAD, to examine the report of the study group and consider suitable arrangements for implementing the proposals for regional economic co-operation with special reference to the expansion of trade in the region; and

Urges member and associate member countries in the region to make available the services of experts and consultants as may be required for the study group and for making preparations for the conference of ministers.

370th meeting.
15 April 1967.