

Chapter III

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

171 (XXXIII). Economic and technical co-operation among developing ESCAP countries

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia
and the Pacific,*

Recalling the various resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 31/119 on economic co-operation among developing countries and 31/179 on the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,

Recalling also its resolution 162 (XXXII) on technical co-operation among developing countries,

Recognizing that technical co-operation among developing countries is an integral component of economic co-operation among developing countries, which is an important means of securing development through collective self-reliance,

Bearing in mind the recommendations and decisions contained in the Programme of Action adopted at the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, the Action Programme for Economic Co-operation adopted at the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and the report of the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries,

Further recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2043 (LXI) on the strengthening of the regional commissions for regional and interregional co-operation, in which the Council recognized, without prejudice to the special needs and conditions of each region, that the regional commissions, with their experience in promoting regional and subregional co-operation, were the appropriate institutions within the United Nations to act as centres for the formulation, co-ordination and implementation of programmes for economic co-operation among developing countries in their respective regions,

Noting that the same resolution reaffirms, in conformity with Economic and Social Council resolution 1756 (LIV), that the regional commissions should

be enabled fully to play their role as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions and calls upon all the organizations and agencies in the system to work closely with the regional commissions to achieve the over-all economic and social development objectives at the regional level,

Noting also the slow but steady progress that has been made in the decentralization of activities financed by the United Nations Development Programme with the designation of the regional commissions as executing agencies, and the steps taken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, including the Office of Technical Co-operation, to decentralize some of the technical assistance activities to the regional commissions,

Recognizing the need further to intensify efforts to promote economic and technical co-operation among developing countries of the region,

1. *Urges* the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System to pronounce itself in favour of paragraph 3, subparagraphs (a) to (e), of Economic and Social Council resolution 2043 (LXI) and, in addition, to recommend appropriate arrangements to ensure adequate reflection of regional priorities and requirements in the medium-term plan and programme budget of the United Nations system;

2. *Further urges* upon the United Nations system the need for orderly and rapid decentralization to the Commission of regional and subregional programmes and projects as well as the transfer of executing agency functions together with the decentralization of the resources to implement those programmes and projects which could best be undertaken by the Commission;

3. *Also urges* developing member countries of the Commission to take the necessary measures to establish and strengthen institutional and other arrangements at the national level for the promotion of economic co-operation among developing countries;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to strengthen and ensure effective co-ordination within the secretariat of all matters relating to economic co-operation among developing countries in close liaison with the Governments;

5. *Recommends* the inclusion of an item on economic co-operation among developing countries in the agenda of its regular annual sessions for constant review and appraisal by member Governments of the methodologies and approaches for promoting such co-operation;

6. *Again stresses* the need for the legislative committees of the Commission to give particular attention to the intensification of economic co-operation among developing countries in their respective sectors and to assess carefully the output of activities in securing the maximum utilization of the resources of the developing countries, enhancing their national capacities and capabilities and promoting co-operative linkages for development;

7. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to:

- (a) Take the necessary measures to implement Commission resolution 162 (XXXII) and, in particular, ensure where feasible the promotion of subcontracting and other arrangements and utilization of experts, consultancy services and equipment from developing countries in the region in implementing the programme of work of the Commission;
- (b) Take the necessary measures to strengthen monitoring and evaluation of the activities in the Commission's programme of work in respect of the promotion of economic and technical co-operation among the developing countries and bring the results to the attention of the concerned subsidiary bodies of the Commission;
- (c) Submit to the Commission at its thirty-fourth session, in consultation with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, his proposals on the elimination of constraints and diversification of the Commission's fellowships programme in a manner which would tangibly promote technical co-operation among developing countries in the region;
- (d) Take the necessary measures to establish a comprehensive and co-ordinated infor-

mation system within the secretariat to support economic and social development in the region, in respect of promotion of economic co-operation among developing countries, and assist member countries, upon request, in the development of complementing national information systems, and ensure close co-ordination between them and with other regional and global information systems;

- (e) Secure the maximum co-operation of, and co-ordination with, agencies and other international organizations in implementing activities to promote economic co-operation among the developing countries so as to avoid duplication in and overlapping of activities within the United Nations system;

8. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Governing Council of the Regional Training and Research Institutions to report to the Commission at its thirty-fourth session on the progress made by the institutions in applying the relevant provisions of resolution 162 (XXXII) and the present resolution;

9. *Urges* all international organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme, to provide adequate financial support to the Commission in implementing its activities to promote economic and technical co-operation among developing countries of the region;

10. *Calls upon* member countries to provide all possible support to activities to promote economic co-operation among developing countries in the region and, in particular, to take specific follow-up measures to implement paragraphs 8 and 9 of resolution 162 (XXXII);

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with reference to paragraph 7 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2043 (LXI), to give early consideration to the strengthening of the secretariat so that it can discharge effectively the mandate contained in this and earlier resolutions on the promotion of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in the region;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a detailed report on the implementation of this resolution to the Commission at its thirty-fourth session through the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives.

520th meeting,
29 April 1977