

## 172 (XXXIII). Integrated programme on rural development

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

*Recalling* its resolution 161 (XXXII), in which it expressed grave concern at the complexity and magnitude of the problem of mass poverty in the region, emphasized the importance of integrated rural development in promoting the self-reliance of the developing countries and defined the essential elements of an integrated approach to rural development,

*Having considered* the progress report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of resolution 161 (XXXII),

*Taking into account* the report of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on Integrated Rural Development, the interagency co-ordinated plan of action for integrated rural development in the ESCAP region and the Commission's integrated programme of work on rural development, 1978-1979,

*Noting with appreciation* the co-operation extended by the specialized agencies and international organizations concerned and the assistance provided by the donor countries to facilitate the undertaking of preparatory steps for developing the programme of work,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 31/38, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, called upon the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the regional commissions to pay special attention, on a regular basis, to studies and analyses of national experience in carrying out far-reaching socio-economic changes for the purpose of social progress, and also General Assembly resolution 31/37 on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement,

*Reiterating* that the responsibility for rural development rests essentially with Governments and that the role of external agencies would be to provide assistance in specific areas in support of national endeavours when requested,

*Conscious* of the increasing efforts of developing member countries of the region to bring about rural development to alleviate mass poverty and achieve a more equitable distribution of income,

*Mindful* of the possibilities of regional and sub-regional co-operation in assisting national endeavours for rural development, focusing on raising the standard of living of the lower strata of the population and increasing the welfare of the community,

*Welcoming* the institutional arrangements that have been developed to secure interagency consultation and co-ordination in matters pertaining to rural development,

*Taking into account* efforts at the global level under the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to promote co-ordinated rural development action by international agencies,

*Convinced* of the importance of ensuring an integrated approach to rural development and of devising new institutional arrangements and strengthening the existing ones in order to deal with rural development at the national level and for purposes of liaison with international agencies,

*Motivated* by a common desire to promote growth with social justice in the region through maximum mobilization and utilization of domestic resources,

1. *Invites* member Governments to intensify their integrated rural development efforts, with the aims, *inter alia*, of increasing agricultural production and improving the well-being of the rural population and to participate in and support as appropriate the implementation of the interagency co-ordinated plan of action and the Commission's integrated programme of work;

2. *Calls upon* the legislative committees of the Commission and the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission to give particular attention to rural development in their deliberations and recommendations, bearing in mind the multidisciplinary nature of rural development and giving special priority as far as possible to the needs of the least developed countries;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in the light of the discussions at the thirty-third session, to proceed, taking into account the consultations with member Governments and in partnership with concerned agencies and international organizations, with the efficient implementation of the interagency co-ordinated plan of action and the integrated programme of work on rural development as a matter of the highest priority, giving attention, *inter alia*, to various aspects of agrarian reforms and to promotion of the co-operative movement;

4. *Invites* concerned international agencies and organizations to participate and assist in the successful and co-ordinated implementation of the programme and strengthen the mechanism for interagency consultation and co-ordination in accordance with the views expressed at the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on Integrated Rural Development;

5. *Further invites* the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to co-ordinate its efforts with the Interagency Committee on Rural Development for the ESCAP Region in the implementation of programmes for integrated rural development in this region so as to avoid duplication;

6. *Appeals* to member and other countries as well as donors to continue and increase their assistance for the implementation of the programme, keeping in view the urgent and massive requirements of rural development in the region;

7. *Further appeals* to member Governments to make efforts to ensure the support of the governing bodies of the respective international agencies for the interagency co-ordinated plan of action;

8. *Urges* member countries and international agencies to make maximum use of the technical expertise and facilities available within the countries of the region in implementing the programme;

9. *Recommends* that participating Governments, with assistance from international agencies when requested, should monitor and assess progress in the implementation of integrated rural development programmes in their respective countries;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures for a continuous review of progress in the implementation of the programme, submit the first progress report on the interagency co-ordinated plan of action as well as the integrated programme to the Commission at its thirty-fourth session and convene an *ad hoc* intergovernmental meeting at an appropriate time for purposes of consultation and review;

11. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to take effective measures in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, giving due consideration to the arrangements which already exist, such as country studies, in order to provide an effective regional contribution to the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, including the possibility of convening a regional conference on agrarian reform and rural development.

520th meeting,  
29 April 1977

**173 (XXXIII). Increased participation by the developing island countries of the Pacific in the activities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

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

*Recalling* its resolution 141 (XXX) and the subsequent change of name of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East to "Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific" in recognition of the geographical scope of the Commission,

*Noting* the desire expressed by the developing island countries of the Pacific to play a more active role in the affairs of the Commission and the development of the region as a whole,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 3202 (S-VI) containing the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and 3362 (S-VII) on development and international economic co-operation, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, called upon the international community to assist in the structural transformation of the economies of the developing countries while devoting particular attention to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 3338 (XXIX), in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, invited the heads of organizations concerned within the United Nations system to intensify their efforts with respect to developing island countries within their fields of competence,

*Recalling also* resolution 98 (IV) adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the least developed among the developing countries, developing island countries and developing land-locked countries, in which the Conference, *inter alia*, urged international organizations to pursue and intensify studies and technical assistance efforts to assist small islands in overcoming the peculiar problems of their geographical situation and characteristics,

*Further recalling* General Assembly resolution 31/156 on an action programme in favour of developing island countries,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 169 (XXXII) on special measures in favour of the least developed, land-locked and island countries,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary (a) to consult with the developing island countries of the Pacific which are members or associate members of the Commission with a view to seeking their views on how the developing island countries of the Pacific can be assisted in playing a more active role in the affairs of the Commission and the development of the region as a whole, (b) to consult fully with other multilateral bodies such as the South Pacific Commission and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation as well as the United Nations agencies working in the Pacific region, so as to ensure