

Chapter IV

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

A. RESOLUTIONS

180 (XXXIV). Economic and social development strategy for the 1980s¹

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

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling also its resolution 154 (XXXI) of 6 March 1975 containing the New Delhi Declaration, in which it declared that the countries of the region should approach their various problems in a spirit of expanding subregional and regional understanding and growing international co-operation, and which constituted a regional contribution to the early establishment of a new international economic order and to the new international development strategy for the 1980s by focusing on growth with social justice,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2125 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977 and General Assembly resolution 31/182 of 21 December 1976 on preparations for a new international development strategy as well as General Assembly resolution 32/174 of 19 December 1977,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2090 (LXIII) of 25 July 1977 and General Assembly resolution 32/57 of 8 December 1977 on examination of long-term trends in economic development, which relate to regional contributions to the new international development strategy,

Bearing in mind also General Assembly resolutions 3409 (XXX) of 28 November 1975 on a unified approach to development analysis and planning, 31/38 of 30 November 1976 on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose

of social progress, and 32/179 of 19 December 1977 on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries,

Recognizing that the process of economic and social development in many developing countries has not brought about adequate improvement in the living standards of the poorest, that real *per capita* income in some of the least developed and geographically handicapped countries of the region has declined, and also that the achievement of economic growth does not of itself ensure the elimination of poverty and the improvement of the quality of life,

Further recognizing that global interdependence calls for concerted and co-operative action by both developing and developed countries alike in resolving their various problems, and that there is a need to encourage and strengthen this co-operative process if the economic problems facing the world in the 1980s are to be adequately overcome,

Motivated by the need to ensure that the benefits of economic and social development both within ESCAP countries and between developed and developing countries in the world community as a whole are shared more equitably,

1. *Affirms* that the new international development strategy should aim at the early establishment of a New International Economic Order and should take fully into account the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order as well as other relevant resolutions adopted since the sixth special session of the General Assembly;

2. *Further affirms* that constraints to the growth of the world economy and, in particular, to the growth of the national economies of the developing countries should be speedily eased, and that trade and employment should be stimulated and the flow of real resources to developing countries enhanced;

3. *Recognizes* that the new international development strategy should rectify the deficiencies of the development strategy of the 1970s through, *inter alia*:

(a) Taking fully into account the requirements of the developing countries, particularly the special needs and problems of the least developed, developing land-locked and developing island countries;

¹ See paras. 305-318 and 357-361 above.

(b) Taking into account the heterogeneity of the developing countries, especially with regard to their levels of development, socio-economic systems, national objectives and the means of achieving those objectives;

(c) Taking a flexible approach to the formulation and adjustment of development targets and defining ways in which these targets should be achieved;

4. *Affirms* that the input from the ESCAP region into preparations for the new international development strategy should be based on the necessity for economic growth with social justice, *inter alia*, through continuing efforts to eliminate poverty with the provision of basic needs, improve the quality of life, achieve a more equitable distribution of income, and increase participation by the population, especially the rural poor, in the process of development;

5. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary, when preparing the regional contribution to the formulation of the new international development strategy for the 1980s, to:

(a) Ensure that full account is taken of the views of the Commission as indicated in the above paragraphs;

(b) Also give due consideration to the agreed views on the strategy contained in the report of the Commission on its thirty-fourth session, particularly those specifying effective measures to remove the main obstacles to the development of the developing countries so as to enhance their individual and collective self-reliance;

(c) Continue to place emphasis on the resolution of problems in the priority areas identified by the Commission: food and agriculture; energy; raw materials and commodities; transfer of technology; international trade, transnational corporations and external financial resource transfers; and integrated rural development;

(d) Develop strategies which reflect particular needs in the ESCAP region, in accordance with national objectives, especially with regard to shipping, population, integration of women in the development process, youth development, mobilization of domestic resources, industrialization, notably the development of rural, small-scale and labour-intensive industries, management of water resources, land reform and the restructuring of agrarian institutions, including the promotion of co-operative movements, and human settlements;

(e) Explore new patterns of subregional, regional and international co-operation, especially among developing countries, based on the principle of respect for sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit, and necessitated by the fact of increasing global interdependence and by the need to ensure the early establishment of a New International Economic Order;

(f) Ensure that the experience of countries with

different socio-economic systems is taken fully into account;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in the implementation of this resolution, to ensure appropriate co-ordination with the work being undertaken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in pursuance of the pertinent resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the preparations for the new international development strategy to be adopted by the General Assembly at its special session to be held in 1980.

532nd meeting
17 March 1978

181 (XXXIV). Role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3335 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, 3488 (XXX) of 12 December 1975 and 32/179 of 19 December 1977 on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries,

Taking into consideration the relevant provisions of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation, which, *inter alia*, recognized the importance of an adequate role for the public sector in the expansion of the industrial development of the developing countries,

Bearing in mind the relevant recommendations and observations of the ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry regarding the important role which the public sector could play in promoting the economic development of the developing countries,

1. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to consult the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to identifying possibilities for a regional input into his continuing study of the role of the public sector in the socio-economic development of developing countries;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take into account the studies which have been initiated within the United Nations system on the role of the public sector in promoting the economic development of developing countries on a regular basis in the secretariat's activities, in accordance with the programme of work and priorities and the medium-term plan and having due regard to the specific national needs and requirements of the countries of the region;

² See para. 307 above.