

the New Hebrides, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Tuvalu and other economically or geographically disadvantaged countries such as those most seriously affected;

(b) The Governments of developing ESCAP countries and territories (including any of the above) that wish to associate themselves with the scheme as potential source countries;

(c) The Governments of Australia, France, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and other developed countries, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and other multilateral financial institutions and foundations.

#### *Review and administration*

10. As the major parties to it are developing ESCAP countries, the scheme will operate under the auspices of the Commission. Intergovernmental review of progress will occur annually in the context of the Commission's formal consideration of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries and also in the Special Body on Land-locked Countries. Sectoral aspects should also be reviewed by the various ESCAP legislative committees and by governing and advisory bodies of other United Nations organizations and specialized agencies at the regional level.

11. Day-to-day management of the matching aspects of the scheme will be the responsibility mainly of the ESCAP secretariat in co-operation with UNDP resident representatives and in consultation, through appropriate channels, with national and agency focal points for TCDC. Within the ESCAP secretariat, ECDC TCDC Services, in the Office of the Executive Secretary, is expected to co-ordinate the scheme in close co-operation with substantive divisions with respect to work in their sectors. Co-operation among United Nations organizations and regional offices of specialized agencies in supporting the scheme will be facilitated by the Regional Interagency Working Group on ECDC and TCDC.

12. For the Pacific segment, the ESCAP Liaison Officer in the South Pacific will assist in promoting the exchange of information on which the scheme depends, in co-operation with the South Pacific Commission, the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, UNDAT, the UNDP offices at Suva, Port Moresby and Apia and agency projects located in the Pacific.

#### *Complementary developments*

13. An important factor for promoting and supporting ECDC and TCDC in the ESCAP region should be the emerging regional information system to promote ECDC and TCDC (Commission resolution 194 (XXXV)),

especially with respect to referral information being produced under the TCDC publications programme of ESCAP and through directories published by other organizations. Wide dissemination of these will increase knowledge of the capacities that could be utilized through the scheme.

14. Another approved ESCAP exercise is the development of guidelines for the employment of experts and consultants under TCDC arrangements, since many countries have expressed concern about the use of standard United Nations rates for such employment. It is anticipated that this exercise will facilitate the determination of appropriate rates for services supplied under the scheme.

15. The Governments of several developing ESCAP countries have already designated official TCDC focal points to co-ordinate the operational as well as policy aspects of TCDC. Other countries have yet to develop appropriate mechanisms to facilitate expeditious participation of their institutions in TCDC activities. The scheme's effective implementation would be assisted by the early strengthening or establishment of such national focal points, in order to ensure that the responses of potential TCDC source countries to the needs of disadvantaged countries can be generated without delay. Regional or subregional seminars for national focal points to strengthen national institutions and launch concrete TCDC activities are expected to facilitate the operation of the scheme.

16. It will also be desirable for potential source and disadvantaged developing countries to make appropriate budgetary provision for their respective shares of the financing of the TCDC activities arranged under the scheme. The Commission indicated at its thirty-fifth session that national budgets and/or portions of country indicative planning figures could be used for that purpose, at the discretion of the Governments concerned. In that connexion, it may be noted that one objective of the scheme would be to increase the inter-country activity which a given amount of external finance could facilitate.

#### **210 (XXXVI). Streamlining of the conference structure of the Commission**

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

Recalling its resolution 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, by which it rationalized the conference structure of the Commission, having considered that it was desirable: (a) to establish a structure which would accord with the major problem areas of the region but, at the same time, be sufficiently flexible to cope with identified priority areas; (b) to limit the number and duration of meetings in order not merely to secure economies of time and resources but also to ensure the most

fruitful and effective utilization of its resources, adequately supplemented where necessary; (c) to bridge the gap between problem identification and project implementation, and to improve the secretariat's capacity for research and dissemination of information; and (d) to improve the conference organization and procedures,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the regional commissions to rationalize their structure by streamlining their subsidiary machinery,

*Considering* the recommendations and suggestions contained in the report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission,

*Considering further* the proposals by the Executive Secretary prepared on the basis of review of the existing conference structure conducted in consultation with a group of eminent persons and the Advisory Committee,

1. *Decides* to revise the conference structure and frequency of meetings to conform to the following pattern:

(a) The Commission shall meet annually at the ministerial level to discuss and decide upon important issues concerning economic and social development in the region, to decide upon the recommendations of subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, to examine and approve the programme of work and priorities and to take any other decisions required, in conformity with its terms of reference;

(b) The following committees shall meet at the intervals indicated below:

Agricultural Development	— Every odd year
Development Planning	— Every even year
Industry, Technology, Human Settlements and the Environment	— Annually
Natural Resources	— Annually
Population	— Every odd year
Social Development	— Every even year
Statistics	— Every odd year
Trade	— Every even year
Shipping, and Transport and Communications	— Annually

At the Commission's direction there may also be not more than one *ad hoc* conference each year to deal with specific and important matters not falling immediately within the purview of the committees;

(c) No more than seven meetings of the committees, including any *ad hoc* conference, shall be held each calendar year and their maximum total duration shall be 50 calendar days;

(d) The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall continue its functions in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex I to the present resolution;

(e) The Council of Ministers for Asian Economic Co-operation shall be deleted from the conference structure, since many of its functions envisaged at the time of its establishment have subsequently been performed by the Commission itself, by legislative committees and by *ad hoc* ministerial conferences in such fields as trade and industry;

(f) *Ad hoc* intergovernmental meetings may be convened to discuss specific programmes of work, the findings and recommendations of which shall be submitted through the relevant committee to the Commission at its next session;

(g) The Special Body on Land-locked Countries shall meet in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex II and report directly to the Commission;

(h) No more than 15 intergovernmental meetings of the categories referred to in subparagraphs (f) and (g) shall be held per calendar year for a maximum of 100 calendar days;

(i) In addition, the following existing bodies under the auspices of the Commission shall function as prescribed in their respective statutes and terms of reference:

- (i) Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin;
- (ii) Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas;
- (iii) Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas;
- (iv) Asian and Pacific Development Centre;
- (v) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;
- (vi) Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre;
- (vii) Typhoon Committee;

(j) In view of the above, the conference structure of the Commission shall henceforth be as shown in the chart attached to the present resolution as annex III.

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, to adjust or reformulate, as may be necessary, the terms of reference of the legislative committees, in line with the changes in the conference structure of the Commission, to submit the proposed terms of reference to the respective legislative committees for review in their forthcoming sessions and to present them for consideration and approval by the Commission;

3. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to undertake whatever reorganization and rationalization within the secretariat may be beneficial to the servicing of the new conference structure and to improve the performance of the secretariat in the implementation of the programme of work and priorities, through suitable measures, including evaluation.

*558th meeting  
29 March 1980*

#### *Annex I*

##### **Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission**

The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall have the following functions:

1. To maintain close co-operation and consultation between the members and the secretariat of the Commission;
2. To review the draft calendar of meetings, prior to its submission to the Commission session;
3. To exchange views with the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for the Commission session, bearing in mind chapter II of the rules of procedure;
4. To assist the secretariat in the formulation of the annotated provisional agenda for each Commission session before it is finalized;
5. To review the list of topics for discussion at the informal meeting, if any, of the heads of delegations held during a Commission session;
6. To discuss the programme of work and priorities, including extrabudgetary requirements and the medium-term plan;
7. To carry out any other tasks to be entrusted to it by the Commission.

#### *Annex II*

##### **Terms of reference of the Special Body on Land-locked Countries**

The Special Body may:

1. Meet and discuss, as often as necessary, the special problems of the land-locked countries and report its findings and recommendations to the Commission;
2. Initiate studies on such subjects as may be required in relation to the special problems of the land-locked countries of the region; studies relating to the transit trade of land-locked countries are to be conducted subject to the prior approval of the transit countries concerned;
3. Convene meetings of experts at the request of the Governments concerned on specific subjects of special interest to the member countries concerned, e.g., customs administration, inland transport, port facilities, shipping and ocean freight rates;
4. Find ways and means of evolving and introducing suitable international and other measures to compensate for the high costs of transport and special development problems faced by the land-locked countries and assist the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries in carrying out its functions;
5. Arrange for technical and financial assistance from national, regional and international financial institutions for the purpose of improving transit facilities and developing the trade and transport of land-locked countries;
6. Make recommendations on the implementation of the provisions relating to the land-locked countries embodied in the Kabul Declaration on Asian Economic Co-operation and Development adopted by the Asian Ministers at Kabul in December 1970, taking into account the recommendations and activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other bodies of the United Nations;
7. Co-operate with various organs in the United Nations system in developing and implementing special measures in favour of the land-locked countries of this region;
8. Assist the land-locked countries of the region in procuring the necessary resources for the provision of adequate physical facilities, including means of transport in the land-locked countries, in order to help those countries to overcome their special problems and to achieve the objectives of the international development strategy;
9. Assist land-locked countries, and transit countries when requested by them to do so, in developing an integrated planning approach covering all modes of transport, with a view to ensuring the smooth movement of goods and traffic in transit, in accordance with the relevant provisions of resolution 123 (V) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.