

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS THIRTY-NINTH SESSION

231 (XXXIX). Strengthening regional co-operation on programmes for youth development¹

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the contribution of youth to national and international development efforts and to the promotion of peace and co-operation,

Recognizing further the objectives of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace in focusing attention on the situation of youth,

Noting that members and associate members of the Asian and Pacific region have programmes and services for youth development which could be shared with other countries in the region in order to facilitate the enrichment of national and regional programmes and services for youth,

Recalling the recommendations of the Regional *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group Meeting on Youth Problems and Programmes, sponsored by the Commission in 1979, on the need to promote programmes of mutual assistance,

Noting that the Commission has been conducting regional youth programmes and assisting national youth programmes effectively,

1. *Appeals* to Governments of members and associate members to ensure that youth enjoy the right of full participation in national development and are thus accorded the benefits accruing from such participation;

2. *Recommends* that the Executive Secretary should assist, within existing resources, Governments of members and associate members which seek assistance for participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation of exchange, field study and attachment programmes for youth workers and leaders at all levels within their national priorities, to achieve the following objectives:

(a) Increasing understanding and awareness of the situation of youth and their special needs so as to maximize their contribution to and participation in national development;

(b) Promoting programme activities to nurture and enhance the potential of youth for rural and urban community work;

(c) Developing initiative and self-reliance at the local and national levels in organizing and undertaking youth programmes;

(d) Encouraging greater involvement and participation of youth leaders in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating youth programmes and projects;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts in providing technical assistance and support to facilitate the conduct of activities and projects bilaterally or multilaterally in accordance with the above objectives.

*597th meeting
28 April 1983*

232 (XXXIX). Social aspects of rural development²

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969,

Recalling also the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, particularly that part of it related to social development, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980,

Recalling further the main conclusions and specific recommendations of the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development related to integrated social development,

Reaffirming that the social aspects and goals of development form an integral part of the overall development process,

Stressing the need to implement comprehensive rural development programmes in order to raise the standard of living of rural populations,

¹ See paras. 711-717 above.

² See para. 698 above.

Noting with appreciation the activities undertaken by the secretariat in the area of integrated rural development,

1. *Invites* the Governments of members and associate members to give special attention to the social impact of policies relating to integrated rural development programmes;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to invite interested Governments of members and associate members to present country papers on social aspects of rural development policies and programmes for distribution at the fortieth session of the Commission together with his report on the secretariat's activities in this field for further consideration.

597th meeting
28 April 1983

233 (XXXIX). Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 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 resolution 122 (V) of 3 June 1979 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/210 of 19 December 1979,

Reaffirming the statement in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, that as an essential priority within the Strategy, the least developed countries — the economically weakest and poorest countries with the most formidable structural problems — require a special programme of sufficient size and intensity consistent with their national plans and priorities to make a decisive break from their past and present situation and their bleak prospects,⁴

Reaffirming the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, adopted unanimously by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981,

Recalling its resolution 214 (XXXVII) of 19 March 1981 on the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the positive role played by the Commission in the preparatory phase of the Conference, including the holding of the Ministerial Meeting on the Least Developed Countries of the ESCAP and ECWA Regions at Bangkok in August 1981,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/224 of 20 December 1982, in which the Assembly urged that the Substantial New Programme of Action should be implemented fully,

Bearing in mind that more than 40 per cent of the population of the least developed countries live in the seven least developed countries of the region under dismal and deteriorating social and economic conditions, even after the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Reaffirming also that the main objectives of the Substantial New Programme of Action are to transform the economies of the least developed countries towards self-sustaining development, to promote the structural changes necessary to overcome the extreme economic difficulties of the least developed countries, to provide fully adequate and internationally accepted minimum standards of nutrition, health, transport and communications, housing and education as well as job opportunities to all their citizens, to identify and support major investment opportunities and priorities, and to mitigate the adverse effects of natural disasters,

Expressing deep concern that the economic growth experienced by the least developed countries of the region has lagged far behind the desirable rates, especially when compared with the targets contained in the Substantial New Programme of Action, and that several of the least developed countries are also falling far behind the sectoral targets envisaged,

Keeping in mind that the least developed countries have primary responsibility for their overall development and recognizing that these countries of the region have already taken significant steps in that direction and that, although international support measures are vitally important, the domestic policies which these countries pursue will continue to be of critical importance for the success of their development efforts,

³ See paras. 318-323 above.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex, para. 136.