

Noting with concern that, despite the progress made by some of the donor countries towards the implementation of their commitments, the present external flows to the least developed countries are not in keeping with the substantial increase envisaged in the Substantial New Programme of Action, thus contributing to the slow implementation of the Programme,

Bearing in mind that suitable restructuring of the regional commissions is called for in accordance with paragraph 125 of the Substantial New Programme of Action to ensure more effective and meaningful follow-up and monitoring of the Programme at the national, regional and global levels, and that the Commission has taken some steps in that regard,

1. *Strongly urges* donor countries, multilateral development and financial institutions, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and all others concerned to take immediate, concrete and adequate measures as agreed upon in the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries and to intensify efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action;

2. *Also strongly urges* donor countries to implement their commitments, as stated in paragraphs 61 to 69 of the Substantial New Programme of Action, so as to achieve, in that regard, a substantial increase in resources for the accelerated development of the least developed countries of the region and urgently to improve further the quality and effectiveness of official development assistance in order to increase its responsiveness to the requirements of the least developed countries, as called for in paragraph 70 of the Substantial New Programme of Action;

3. *Expresses satisfaction* at the holding of a round-table meeting at Geneva from 9 to 18 May 1983 under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme to review and monitor progress and ensure the speedy implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for five of the seven least developed countries of the region;

4. *Calls upon* the Executive Secretary to conduct a comprehensive review within existing resources of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in the region, paying particular attention to the identification of the measures needed for the acceleration of the pace of implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in favour of the least developed countries of the region and to report to the Commission at its fortieth session on the results of the review and the recommendations which emerge from it.

234 (XXXIX). Transport and communications decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994⁵

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, containing the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, in particular the development objectives for the transport and communications sectors contained in paragraph 30 of the Strategy,

Recalling also Commission resolution 230 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982 on a transport and communications decade for Asia and the Pacific and noting the efforts undertaken by the Executive Secretary to make an assessment of that resolution with a view to the proclamation of a transport and communications decade for Asia and the Pacific during the period 1985-1994 and the support given to the proposal by the Commission's members and associate members,

Noting that the Intergovernmental Railway Group Meeting held in August 1982, the Intergovernmental Meeting of Highway Experts held in February 1983, the Intergovernmental Meeting on Tourism Development held in March 1983 and, in particular, the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Railways held in February-March 1983 supported or recommended the proclamation of a transport and communications decade for Asia and the Pacific during the above-mentioned period,

Convinced of the critical role of all modes of transport as enabling elements in economic development and the importance, therefore, of the improvement and growth of transport infrastructure and services in a manner commensurate with the anticipated growth of various sectors of the economy generating the demand for transport as well as the importance of communications in modernizing transport and other sectors of the economy,

Aware of the need for an integrated approach to the planning of transport and communications, and taking into account the positive contribution which the proclamation of a transport and communications decade for Asia and the Pacific during 1985-1994 could make towards the mobilization of political support for such an integrated approach,

Bearing of mind the United Nations resolutions relevant to the subject,

1. *Recommends* that account be taken of the need for the early proclamation of a transport and communications decade for Asia and the Pacific;

⁵ See paras. 686-692 above.

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consider, if necessary, the setting up of an *ad hoc* inter-governmental group:

(a) To prepare a phased programme of action for the decade with a view to ensuring the development of well-balanced, co-ordinated, modern and efficient transport and communications systems to enable the members and associate members of the region to accelerate their socio-economic development and to attain self-reliance in those sectors, and to promote subregional and regional co-operation, and collaborative arrangements, particularly among the developing countries, for achieving collective self-reliance in the fields of transport and communications;

(b) To assess the financial implications of the programme of action and make appropriate recommendations in respect of the mechanism to ensure the

implementation of the programme at the country and regional levels;

(c) To take appropriate steps to ensure United Nations interagency co-ordination and avoid duplication of work;

3. *Requests* the Governments of developing members and associate members to consider the installation of appropriate co-ordination mechanisms to integrate their country-level programmes of action with the regional programme of action for the decade, keeping in view their respective needs and goals, and to ensure close co-ordination with the Commission in respect of the regional programme;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fortieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*598th meeting
29 April 1983*