

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FORTY-THIRD SESSION

259 (XLIII). Declaration on the fortieth anniversary of ESCAP^{1/}

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

Taking note of the fortieth anniversary of the Commission, which has provided an opportunity to assess its past activities and consider the likely directions of its future work in the regional context of the United Nations family,

Recognizing the historic role that the Commission has played in initiating and nurturing regional co-operation in various fields and in promoting economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific,

Bearing in mind that the Commission is the unique region-wide inter-governmental body for undertaking and co-ordinating economic and social co-operation among members and associate members,

Recognizing the significance of a peaceful environment and harmonious co-operation in the pursuit of economic and social development,

Recalling the steady progress made by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), previously known as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), since its inception in 1947, in extending its functions and making them action-oriented, as marked by the various landmark declarations and resolutions cited in annex I,

Further recalling the successful establishment by the Commission of various institutions and projects such as those listed in annex II,

Convinced of its central role as the region-wide forum that most effectively

enables the aspirations of the peoples of its members and associate members for the enhancement of economic and social progress to be articulated, and that promotes regional co-operation and co-ordination with other international organizations in the fields of economic and social development,

Expressing its appreciation of the services rendered by successive Executive Secretaries of ESCAP to the region over the years,

Conscious of the efforts that the Commission has made, and will continue to make, to reform and improve the management of the secretariat and to refine the programme of work and priorities so as to meet more closely the needs of members and associate members, bearing in mind the need for budgetary restraint, avoidance of duplication of activities where appropriate, and the ongoing reform of the United Nations system,

Commending the spirit with which the members and associate members of the Commission have accepted the development challenge posed to them by the difficult economic and social environment,

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,

Reaffirming the genuine will of members and associate members to co-operate among themselves, by faithfully adhering to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Declares that the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Commission should be marked by co-ordinated efforts and new initiatives to assist in strengthening national plans and processes for economic and social development, to intensify regional economic and social co-operation, including inter alia scientific and technical co-operation, to create a*

^{1/} See paras. 175-186 above.

more favourable external environment for all members and associate members, in particular developing countries, and to bolster intercountry arrangements to help attain self-sustained growth and economic self-reliance leading to increased prosperity and well-being for the people of the region, and enhance progress in the region through increase of sub-regional, regional, interregional and international co-operation;

2. *Considers* it essential for the Commission to work with renewed vigour towards the achievement of the goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and other relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, for implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries and in carrying out special measures in favour of the island developing countries of the region;

3. *Calls upon* its members and associate members to undertake specific programmes in the field of human resources development, keeping in view the ESCAP plan of action in this field;

4. *Calls upon* its members and associate members to continue to work actively with the ESCAP secretariat for the implementation, to the extent possible, of the recommendations of the ESCAP ministerial meetings held in recent years, including recommendations of the Ministerial-level Conference on the Environment in Asia (1985), the Meeting of Ministers of Transport and Communications (1985), the Third Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development (1985), the Meeting of Ministers of Trade (1986) and the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology (1986);

5. *Calls upon* the secretariat, within the basic mandate of the Commission (annex III) and with the available resources, to further strengthen its work on the collection, analysis and dissemination of economic and social development information and data, and to organize appropriate activities relating to the further study of major economic and social development problems and experiences of common concern and interest to the developing countries of the Asian and Pacific region, continuing to adopt, where possible, an integrated multidisciplinary approach;

6. *Calls upon* its members and associate members to bear in mind the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and the Caracas Programme of Action on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries and to rededicate themselves to the strengthening and expansion of technical co-operation among developing countries at subregional, regional and inter-regional levels, as well as on a bilateral basis;

7. *Reaffirms* that the tradition built up in ESCAP over the years of conducting business in the Commission and the Committees in a spirit of goodwill, harmony and co-operation must be sustained;

8. *Calls upon* all international organizations to extend their fullest support to ESCAP in carrying out its mandate, as specified in its terms of reference and Commission resolutions;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps to provide the Commission with the means, commensurate with its status as the main general economic and social development centre within the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region, to undertake the tasks assigned to it.

661st meeting
30 April 1987

Annex I

The declaration at the seventh session of the Commission in 1951, held at Lahore, generally known as "the Lahore Convention" (see paragraphs 340-341 of the report on the seventh session)

The resolutions on Asian economic co-operation, dynamic Asian economic co-operation, and on the strategy of integrated regional co-operation adopted by the first three Ministerial Conferences on Asian Economic Co-operation, in 1963, 1965 and 1968 respectively

The resolution on the commemoration of ECAFE's twentieth anniversary and the Tokyo Declaration [resolutions 77 (XXIII) and 78 (XXIII) of 12 April 1967]

The resolution on the Second United Nations Development Decade [resolution 94 (XXV) of 26 April 1969]

The resolution on the United Nations Twenty-fifth Anniversary: ECAFE Declaration [resolution 103 (XXVI) of 23 April 1970]

The resolution on strengthening and co-ordination of the regional structures of the United Nations [resolution 119 (XXVII) of 28 April 1971]

The Kabul Declaration on Asian Economic and Development Co-operation issued by the Fourth Council of Ministers on Asian Economic Co-operation in 1970

Declaration adopted on the twenty-fifth anniversary of ECAFE [resolution 120 (XXXVIII) of 25 March 1972]

The Colombo Declaration issued on the occasion of the thirtieth session of the Commission [resolution 140 (XXX) of 5 April 1974]

The New Delhi Declaration on a regional contribution to the establishment of a New International Economic Order [resolution 154 (XXXI) of 6 March 1975]

The resolution on regional inputs into the New International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade [resolution 199 (XXXV) of 16 March 1979]

The resolution on expanding and strengthening the functions of the Commission in the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system [resolution 219 (XXXVII) of 20 March 1981]

The resolution on the Tokyo Programme on Technology for Development in Asia and the Pacific [resolution 235 (XL) of 27 April 1984]

The proclamation of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 [resolution 236 (XL) of 27 April 1984]

The ESCAP Plan of Action on National and Regional Initiatives for Human Resources Development: Its Technological Dimensions [resolution 256 (XLII) of 2 May 1986]

The Declaration and Framework for Action Plans for the Management of the Asian Environment, 1985, as adopted by the Ministerial-level Conference on the Environment in Asia and endorsed by the Commission at its forty-first session (E/ESCAP/417 and Corr.1)

The Declaration of the Ministers of Trade of Members and Associate Members of ESCAP, June 1986 (E/ESCAP/547)

Annex II

(In order of establishment)

Asian Development Bank

Asian Industrial Development Council

Asian and Pacific Coconut Community

Asian Highway

International Pepper Community

Asian Population Programme

Typhoon Committee

Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries

Asian Telecommunication Network

Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre

Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin

Joint prospecting for mineral resources in Asian offshore areas

Asian and Pacific Development Centre - integrating the previously established Asian and Pacific Development Institute, Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre, Social Welfare and Development Centre for Asia and the Pacific and Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development

Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre

Regional Co-ordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

Annex III

The basic mandate of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

To facilitate concerted action for the economic and social development of Asia and the Pacific by sponsoring investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments, undertaking the collection, evaluation and dissemination of economic, technological and statistical information, organizing training, consultations, research and development, and networking among national institutions; in the process, the Commission will make available technical and advisory services and promote economic and technical co-operation among the countries of the region, in particular developing countries, in the fields of: (a) food and agriculture, including rural development; (b) development planning; (c) transnational corporations; (d) industry and technology, with particular emphasis on industrial development, science and technology, and transfer of technology; (e) human settlements and the environment; (f) water, energy and mineral resources development; (g) population; (h) shipping, ports and inland waterways; (i) transport and communications, tourism and facilitation of international traffic; (j) social development, including the fostering of the welfare of children, popular participation and integration and greater participation of women and youth in the development process, social defence, social consequences of the problem of displaced persons, alleviation of poverty, promotion of equitable distribution of development benefits and improvement of the quality of life; (k) statistics; (l) regional, subregional and inter-regional trade, and commercial policies, including matters relating to financial institutions and financing of trade, export credit insurance, insurance and re-insurance, debt servicing, standardization of commodities, commercial arbitration, customs administration, marketing and market research, product development and packaging, raw materials and commodities.

260 (XLIII). ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development^{2/}

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

^{2/} See paras. 218-237 above.

Recalling its resolution 247 (XLII) of 1 May 1986 on forecasting, planning and development of technological human resources and 256 (XLII) of 2 May 1986 on the ESCAP Plan of Action on National and Regional Initiatives for Human Resources Development: Its Technological Dimensions,

Recognizing that economic and social development involves basic structural changes requiring progressively better levels of human resources development with diversified skills, especially in the context of global dynamic technological changes,

Also recognizing that human resources development is a broad concept encompassing many components and requires sustained efforts over long periods,

Bearing in mind that the Commission at its forty-third session examined as its main theme the issue "Human resources development in Asia and the Pacific: policy options",

Recognizing the need to formulate an ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development,

Welcoming the proposal by the Government of Japan to host an expert group meeting in Tokyo to assist in the formulation of guidelines on an ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development and to provide substantial funding therefor,

1. Resolves that the theme of the forty-fourth session of the Commission shall again be human resources development, so that special attention can be given at that session to the formulation of an ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development, taking into account all its relevant components;

2. Notes that the relevant issues of employment and manpower development should be fully addressed in the formulation of an ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development;

3. Calls upon members and associate members in the region to continue and strengthen efforts to devise and execute their operational plans and programmes for human resources development;

4. Invites members and associate members in a position to do so, as well as other interested countries, to continue to support the Commission's efforts to