

disadvantaged groups of countries, such as least developed and island developing ones;

(ix) A regional forum for industrial restructuring in the ESCAP region could be established. To begin with, the forum could be serviced by ESCAP. A feasibility study, taking into account the views of Governments and private sector representatives could be undertaken in 1992 and if found to be feasible, the forum could eventually take the form of a regional centre for promoting industrial restructuring in the region.

IV. Time frame

16. The plan of action would require a time frame covering a reasonable number of years to ensure its effective implementation. Since industrial restructuring is inherently a long-term and dynamic process, an appropriate time span for the implementation of the plan could be the 10-year period 1992-2001.

17. The plan period leading up to 2001 could be appropriately divided into two phases: 1992-1997 and 1998-2001. The first of these periods would coincide with the phasing of the medium-term plan and the second with two biennial work programme cycles of the United Nations system. Viewed from the year of inception, these time periods could be designed, respectively, as the short- and medium-term phases of the plan period.

18. During the first phase, covering 1992-1997, the priority action discussed above would be undertaken. Among the major activities to be undertaken during this phase would be the provision of assistance to the necessary institutional framework at the national and regional levels, including the establishment of a regional forum for industrial restructuring, formulation of national plans of action in conformity with the regional guidelines and preparation of preliminary studies and pilot projects. Towards the latter part of the first phase, assistance would also be provided for the formulation of specific industrial projects aimed at efficient structural transformation in the manufacturing sector in the economies of the region.

19. The second phase would involve significant assistance in the implementation of a series of industrial projects at the national level. Regional activities would be strengthened and provided on a priority basis, especially in the fields of upgrading technology and human resources development.

47/3. Restructuring the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission³

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980 and 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987, on the conference structure of the Commission,

³ See para. 698 above.

Recalling also its observations at its forty-sixth session that the revised committee structure evolved as a result of resolution 262 (XLIII) had not functioned sufficiently effectively,

Recalling further its endorsement of the proposal of the Executive Secretary that the secretariat, with the advice of a group of eminent persons, conduct an in-depth study on the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Group of Eminent Persons on Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission,

Recalling the declaration made at the seventh session of the Commission, held at Lahore in 1951, generally known as the Lahore Convention, the Tokyo Declaration made at the thirteenth session in 1967, the Kabul Declaration on Asian Economic Co-operation and Development adopted at the Fourth Council of Ministers on Asian Economic Co-operation in 1970, and the Declaration on the Fortieth Anniversary of ESCAP adopted at the forty-third session in 1987, which have provided policy directions for regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, in particular section IV in which the regional commissions were designated as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions and directed to exercise team leadership and responsibility for coordination at the regional level,

Recognizing that the complexity of the development problems faced by the developing countries demands that they be tackled in a comprehensive manner through interdisciplinary and intersectoral action,

Emphasizing the urgent need for enhanced and broad-based regional cooperation efforts in the region with a view to ensuring sustained growth and prosperity,

Reaffirming that regional cooperation is primarily the concern and responsibility of the regional members and associate members within the geographical scope of the Commission,

Reaffirming also the central role of ESCAP as the principal arm of the United Nations in promoting regional cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region,

Having considered the proposal of the Executive Secretary formulated on the basis of the report of the Group of Eminent Persons and consultations thereon,

1. *Endorses, in general, the recommendations of the Group of Eminent Persons on Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission relating to the progressive reorganization of the work of the Commission on a thematic basis;*

2. *Agrees, in principle, to set up three thematic committees: on regional economic cooperation, on the environment and sustainable development, and on poverty alleviation and economic growth;*

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to convene, before the end of 1991, a meeting of senior officials of members and associate members to consider and finalize the detailed recommendations to encompass the terms of reference, operational modalities, frequency of meetings and other relevant aspects of the revised subsidiary structure of the Commission on the basis of the report of the Group of Eminent Persons;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to submit the report of the meeting of senior officials, together with his assessment of the organizational, staffing and financial implications, to the Commission at its forty-eighth session for consideration and adoption.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

47/4. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 42/177 of 11 December 1987, 43/186 of 20 December 1988 and 44/220 of 22 December 1989 concerning the organization of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in September 1990, as well as its resolution 45/206 of 21 December 1990 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Recalling further the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, in which Member States stressed, *inter alia*, the need for full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Noting with appreciation the preparatory work carried out by the secretariat, in response to its resolutions 271 (XLIV) of 20 April 1988 and 46/4 of 13 June 1990, in connection with the organization of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of France for hosting the Conference,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing deterioration in the overall economic and social conditions of the least developed countries in spite of all the efforts made thus far,

1. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries have the primary responsibility for the formulation and effective implementation of national policies and priorities for their growth and development;

2. *Stresses* that successful implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s will depend on shared responsibility and strengthened partnership for the growth and development of the least developed countries;

3. *Urges* all Governments, international and multilateral organizations, financial institutions and development funds, organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and other organizations concerned, to take immediate, concrete and adequate steps to implement the Programme of Action;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close coordination with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(a) To review and monitor progress in economic cooperation between the least developed countries and other developing countries, particularly in the same region;

(b) To organize cluster meetings, preferably every two years, with all countries concerned, in order to improve and strengthen existing cooperation arrangements at the regional and subregional levels;

(c) To ensure extended coverage of the expressed needs and problems of the least developed, land-locked and small island countries of the region within the framework of the Programme of Action;

(d) To ensure that the needs and problems of the least developed countries of the region are addressed as part of the ongoing programme of work and priorities of the secretariat and to contribute to the follow-up process of the Programme of Action;

(e) To assist the least developed countries in the formulation of appropriate sectoral development strategies and policies, paying due regard to the diverse development circumstances and constraints facing the least developed countries, in accordance with the Programme of Action;

(f) To undertake the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of information on the implementation of the Programme of Action on a yearly basis, and identification and adoption of measures for full implementation of the Programme of Action during the 1990s;

5. *Endorses* subprogramme 12, Special programmes for the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, of the programme of work and priorities;

6. *Invites* the member countries in a position to do so, other donor countries, multilateral funding agencies and financial institutions to provide extrabudgetary support to the secretariat in its efforts to implement the Programme of Action;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

724th meeting
10 April 1991

⁴ See para. 231 above.