Resolution on Food and Agriculture and Regional Working Relations with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST HAVING EXAMINED Document E/CN.11/41, 23 October 1947, entitled "Organisational Arrangements necessary to give effect to the substantive work of the Commission through field teams and Committees;"

CONSIDERING the vital importance of reconstruction needs which should be met to enable the countries of the Far East and Asia to supply the essential requirements of their people, and the pressing need for improvement in the production and distribution of food supplies;

TAKING NOTE of the provision of the terms of reference as adopted at the fourth session of the Economic and Social Council on 28 March 1947 as amended at its fifth session on August 1947, that recommendations may be made directly to Member Governments and Specialised agencies; and

RECOGNISING that the success of any comprehensive programme for the improvement of economic well-being will depend upon the implementation of sound measures initiated by the governments of the countries within the territorial scope of ECAFE and the enlistment of the co-operation of their peoples; (that the diversification of production is in general desirable to raise and make more stable the standard of living, improve dietary standards and avoid undue dependence on a single crop;) and that practical measures designed to contribute toward economic recovery and independent economic development should be initiated as soon as possible;

I. RESOLVES that ECAFE recommend immediately to FAO that a food programme with respect to Asiatic and Far Eastern territories for the calendar year 1948 and for 1949 be formulated as early

/ as practicable
as practicable and that data be requested on the following seven points on the basis of a close examination of the economies of the countries concerned:

1. The exact situation with respect to food and other essential requirements, and the volume of domestic production;

2. The degree to which any deficiency can be met by expansion of production and improved distribution within the region;

3. The present position in relation to supplies of fertilisers, insecticides, fungicide, poisons and veterinary requirements; and to the supply and quality of agricultural tools, implements, and the extent to which the position in respect of these may be improved;

4. Steps necessary to prevent hoarding and smuggling thus ensuring more equitable consumption at reasonable prices;

5. Measures for the expansion of food and agricultural exports to create exchange for the purchase of essential requirements; it being understood of course that such exports should not impair the basic food needs of the region.

6. The extent to which work animals may be conserved by the use for food of poultry and non-draft animals; and the possibility of improving the position in areas where shortages of work animals exist, by import from other areas.

7. The extent to which monetary and fiscal conditions effect the foregoing.
With a view to the effective implementation of the above and, in
general, to determine the best means of promoting joint activities and
continuous co-operation between ECAFE and the FAO in the ECAFE region,
the Commission:

II. RESOLVES FURTHER that the Executive Secretary be requested
to consult through the appropriate channels with the Director-General
of the FAO and that such consultations should include, but not be
limited to, the consideration:

1. The early establishment of a working party to be
selected from a panel of experts to visit the
principal areas of food production and shortages
in the Region with a view to facilitating co-
ordination of effective programming, and keeping
the Secretariat of ECAFE informed of the results
and the progress being made;

2. The early establishment by FAO of a Regional
   Committee on Food and Agriculture in Asia and the
   Far East, on which ECAFE would be duly represented.

3. The arrangement of close working relations between
   the Secretariats of FAO and ECAFE, including the
   possible attachment of members of the staff of FAO
to the Secretariat of ECAFE, pending the establishment
   of an FAO regional office in the Far East.

III. RESOLVES FURTHER

1. That in co-operation with FAO, ECAFE invite member
   and associate member-countries within the region
to report on reconstruction plans and programmes in
relation to food and agriculture and that the Executive
Secretary be empowered, at his discretion, to call a
conference of officials engaged in the task of recon-

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struction within the region, with a view to reporting
on methods by which the production of food and other
agricultural products may be most readily increased.

2. The ECAFE record its support of proposals to estab-
lish a Regional Fisheries Council, and that the
Executive Secretary consult with the Director -General
of FAO as to the best means by which ECAFE can co-opera-
te in the furtherance of the objectives of such a
council.