3. Welcomes the move of those donor countries which have already taken steps to reschedule debt servicing.


The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recognizing the Asian Highway project as a fully viable project that plays a dominant role in the economic, social and cultural development of all Asian Highway countries by providing a valuable means of communication between them and constituting an important instrument for regional cooperation and development,

Noting that, while tremendous advances have been made with the implementation of the Asian Highway by the countries concerned on the recommendations of the Co-ordinating Committee and with the assistance of the Transport Technical Bureau, much work still remains to be accomplished, such as the construction of feeder roads and related networks, upgrading substandard sections, completion of the remaining missing links, building of bridges over rivers with inadequate ferries and intensification of international traffic,

Recalling that the Asian Highway countries have set up zonal meetings to solve policy issues affecting international road traffic, such as customs and other formalities, international licences, international insurance and other ancillary services along the highway routes, as well as common technical problems,

AWARE that, according to the revised five-year plan (1971-1975) for the Asian Highway, while US$ 917 million (66 per cent) is to be provided by the countries from their own resources for the accomplishment of the remaining works, a further US$ 450 million (34 per cent) will be required in the form of outside assistance,

Recognizing the possibility that UNDP may reduce its contribution to the second phase of the project to a level considerably lower than that for the first phase,

Noting the recommendations of the Asian Highway Co-ordinating Committee in its draft plan of operation, for the benefit of all developing Asian nations, and bearing in mind the recommendation of the seventh and eighth sessions of the Co-ordinating Committee that the project be extended for another five years,

Calls upon UNDP, the co-operating countries and aid-giving agencies to give their fullest support, in the form of financial and technical assistance, to ensure that implementation of Asian Highway project will produce the desired far-reaching and salutary results.


The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recalling resolution 75 (XXII), adopted at its twenty-third session in 1967, deciding on, and urging the United Nations Development Programme to give urgent and favourable consideration to supporting the establishment of the Institute,

Considering (a) the continuing clear-cut needs of developing countries, including in particular the least developed among them, for basic economic, demographic and social data for development and for monitoring its progress, and (b) the serious shortage of trained statisticians in several countries of the region,

Taking cognizance of the review of the Institute by the Advisory Council for the period 1970-1973 and the recommendations contained therein on the continuation of the Institute's activities beyond its first phase and at its present site,

1. Urges the United Nations Development Programme and the Governments of member and associate member countries of ECAFE to give consideration to providing the financial and other support required by the Asian Statistical Institute during its second five-year period (1975-1979) until necessary provision has been made for ensuring this by other satisfactory means;

2. Strongly recommends that the Institute become a permanent organization and continue to function as a regional institution supported by the United Nations.


135 (XXIX). INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recalling the Declarations on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and on Social Progress and Development, adopted by the General Assembly on 7 November 1967 and on 11 December 1969, respectively,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV) on concerted international action for the advancement of women and resolution 2626 (XXV) on an International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, with particular reference to the fuller integration of women in the total development process,

Aware of the steps already taken by some Governments to ensure a fuller integration of women into the development process and to eliminate any form of discrimination against them,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to organize a regional seminar on the integration of women in
the development effort, and to include that seminar in the work programme of the secretariat for 1973/74 or 1974/75;

2. Recommends that the Executive Secretary investigate the availability of extrabudgetary financing for the seminar from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) or any appropriate donor Government or agency;

3. Invites the Governments of member countries to participate fully in the seminar by sending expert representatives;

4. Desires the Executive Secretary to select, in consultation with the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, appropriate non-governmental organizations to be represented at the seminar;

5. Urges Governments of member countries to integrate women in the decision-making processes of national development, including the review and appraisal of development plans at the national and subnational levels, and to arrange for the training of women for such purposes wherever they have not already done so;

6. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the results achieved to the Commission session immediately following upon the holding of the seminar, as a separate subitem on its agenda;

7. Recommends to Governments the inclusion of competent women in their delegations to appropriate international forums of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and other bodies, wherever this is not already being done, in order to give proper substance to the observance in 1975 of International Women's Year, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII).


136 (XXIX). ASIAN RICE TRADE FUND

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Mindful of the special importance of rice to the social well-being and economic stability of developing Asian countries and, in particular, of the disruptive effects on their development programmes that may result from balance of payments problems due to imbalances between the supply and demand for that commodity,

Realizing that a regional rice organization or fund could serve as an effective instrument for promoting intraregional trade among the developing countries with great advantage to their economies,

Welcoming the report of the intergovernmental Meeting on the Establishment of an Asian Rice Trade Fund and the approved draft Agreement for the Rice Fund's establishment appended to that report,

Noting that the resources initially required for the operation of the Rice Fund on a continuing basis have been estimated to amount to US$50 million in the form of low-interest or interest-free loans or grants,

Noting further the offer of the Executive Secretary to support the efforts of those countries interested in the Asian Rice Trade Fund to mobilize the needed resources and other requirements,

1. Invites all developing rice importing and exporting countries of the region to consider joining the Rice Fund;

2. Warmly commends the Asian Rice Trade Fund to developed countries and international financial institutions as a project eminently suitable for their generous financial support;

3. Calls earnestly upon these countries and institutions to extend all possible support to the Asian Rice Trade Fund so as to enable it to establish its resources and begin functioning at the earliest opportune moment.


137 (XXIX). ACTIVITIES OF ECAFE IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recognizing the fact that agriculture is a vital sector of the economy of most countries of the ECAFE region, accounting for a large part of their national income and particularly their export earnings, and thus requiring a well-co-ordinated agricultural development policy,

Recognizing furthermore that, in most countries of the region, a large majority of the population are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood,

Noting with concern that, in two successive years, crop failures have caused serious distress to several countries of the region,

Aware of the fact that the population growth in most countries of the region further underlines the need for developing the agricultural sector,

Noting that, while recent technological breakthroughs have opened up new perspectives of development in some of the problem areas, the green revolution has not provided all the answers and that there is an urgent need to maximize its benefits, and realizing furthermore the need for countries to establish industries related to agriculture,

1. Considers that ECAFE should intensify its efforts to contribute to the solution of the agricultural problems in collaboration with other relevant organizations, particularly FAO;