144 (XXX). Decentralization of technical assistance activities and strengthening of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recalling the resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council on decentralization and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions, in particular General Assembly resolutions 1518 (XV), 1709 (XVI), 1823 (XVIII), 1941 (XVIII), 2803 (XXVI) and Economic and Social Council resolutions 793 (XXX), 823 (XXXII), 879 (XXXIV), 955 (XXXVI) and 1601 (LI),

Recalling further Commission resolutions 35 (XVII), 41 (XVIII) and 119 (XXVII) on decentralization and strengthening of the regional economic commissions, and resolution 127 (XXVIII) on increase and co-ordination of assistance for regional projects,

Noting the lack of progress since the adoption of these resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation of the strong support accorded by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to the Commission and to the Asian Population Programme,

Gravely concerned over the fact that the allocation of United Nations Development Programme resources to regional projects in Asia is not commensurate with the magnitude of the problems of the region and the size of its population,

Taking into account its proximity to, experience of and multidisciplinary engagement in the region's development problems - elements which are at the base of the resolutions cited in this preamble,

Recognizing the pressing need to promote the fullest possible development of the potential of the Commission in regard to the formulation and implementation of regional and subregional projects funded through the Development Programme and the Fund for Population Activities or directly by member countries,

Warmly welcoming the increasing assistance being furnished to regional projects through the Commission by some developed countries,

1. Requests all developed member countries and other interested countries to support or continue to support its activities;

2. Calls for the rapid decentralization to the Commission of all those regional and subregional projects within the region of which the United Nations is at present, or could in future have been expected to become, the executing agency;

3. Recommends that the Commission be designated executing agency for such projects, after consultation between the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the Commission;

4. Further recommends that such decentralization and designation be accompanied by the requisite decentralization of the means to implement projects, including appropriate suballocation to the Commission of overhead costs;

5. Urges further strengthening of the cooperation between the Programme, the Fund and the Commission in order to ensure the Commission's active participation in the former's inter-country programming, in the latter's regional and subregional programming, and in the evaluation of projects within the region;

6. Requests that the text of this resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the Development Programme for consideration at the June 1974 session of its Governing Council.

48th meeting, 4 April 1974.

145 (XXX). Establishment of the Asian Centre for Agricultural Machinery

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recognizing that agriculture is a vital sector of most countries of the region and that industrial development, particularly, the development of agro-related industry is also very important to their economic development,

Aware that most countries in the region, confronted by grave problems resulting from insufficient food production coupled with rapid population increases, are introducing crop diversification and multi-cropping,

Recognizing furthermore that there is an urgent need to maximize the benefits of the green revolution and to extend them to the majority of Asian small farmers who have been left behind by the green revolution,

Considering that, to achieve this end, small-scale farmers of the region must increasingly be equipped with more suitable tools and machinery,

Noting with gratification the activities of the Asian Industrial Development Council and the secretariat in the field of the agricultural machinery industry,

1. Endorses the decision by the Asian Industrial Development Council at its ninth session to establish an Asian Centre for Agricultural Machinery and decides to set it up in the Philippines as soon as possible;

2. Expresses gratitude to the Government of the Philippines for its offer of host facilities;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for the prompt establishment of the Centre in the Philippines, including the dispatch of a joint mission by the Economic
Commission for Asia and the Far East, United Nations Development Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and United Nations Industrial Development Organization to interested countries, to finalize the project document, and the convening of a meeting of the Governments of those countries to adopt the terms of reference and to decide upon matters relating to the Centre's establishment;

4. Urges the Development Programme to give the most favourable consideration to providing assistance to this project;

5. Urges the international organizations and the institutions concerned with the development and adaptation of suitable agricultural machinery, such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the International Rice Research Institute, to extend all possible assistance for the establishment of the Centre.

490th meeting, 5 April 1974.

146 (XXX). Financing the pressing balance of payments needs and long-term developmental requirements of developing countries

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Gravely concerned over the adverse effects that the current world-wide inflation, the sharply increased prices of oil, foodgrains, fertilizers and many industrial goods, the shortages in the supply of some of these commodities as well as shipping difficulties and rising freight charges are having on the balance of payments of most countries of the region and, in particular, on the welfare of the people and on the economic development of the developing countries of the region, thus compounding the difficulty of attaining the targets envisaged for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Noting with satisfaction that a special session of the General Assembly will be convened to deal with problems of raw materials and development and the efforts of the United Nations system to mitigate the adverse effects of the current economic situation,

Recognizing that one immediate remedy would be the provision of adequate financial assistance, on concessional terms, at low interest and with a long-term repayment period, to developing countries whose balance of payments and import capacity have been most seriously affected by a series of adverse developments,

Welcoming the various initiatives and measures being taken by countries and organizations to assist the developing countries in this regard,

Warmly welcoming the initiatives which the oil-exporting countries are taking to help other developing countries and in particular the commitments of His Imperial Majesty the Shahnas-Arya-Mohr of Iran to provide the equivalent of not less than $US 1,000 million to international financial institutions and his initiatives for the establishment of a fund on soft terms, to which major oil-exporting countries and industrialized countries would be invited to contribute, for the purpose of assisting the developing countries in alleviating their immediate balance of payments difficulties and in implementing their development projects and programmes,

1. Draws the attention of the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to the initiative of His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah and to the other initiatives and invites it to consider means of giving early effect to the basic objectives envisaged;

2. Requests the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other international financial institutions to extend their fullest assistance in the mobilization of additional resources and the channelling of these funds to the developing countries;

3. Recommends separately that the developed countries maintain at least their level of assistance on concessional terms and in forms suitable for speedy balance of payments assistance to the countries most seriously affected by adverse developments, and that, in particular, they complete as soon as possible the arrangement for replenishing the resources of the International Development Association;

4. Further recommends that all other appropriate measures be taken by countries to curb the inflationary price increases that are burdening the balance of payments of developing countries;

5. Invites the Executive Secretary to transmit this resolution to the President of the Economic and Social Council with the request that it be brought to the notice of the General Assembly at its special session.

490th meeting, 5 April 1974.

147 (XXX). Development of Lumbini Garden, Nepal

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,

Recalling its resolution 129 (XXIX) on the development of Lumbini,

Realizing the economic importance of the regional development of the Gandaki-Lumbini zone to the over-all development programme of Nepal and the significance of the development of the Lumbini Garden to Asia and the world at large,

Noting with appreciation the progress made in the development of the project by the Royal Government of Nepal,