Chapter III

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

161 (XXXII). Integrated programme on rural development

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 154 (XXXI) containing the New Delhi Declaration, which recommended the importance of bringing about rural development through the active participation of the people in the planning and implementation process, and defined the regional contribution to the establishment of a New International Economic Order and to a new development strategy by focusing special attention on the common people and the improvement of the quality of their life and living conditions.

Further recalling the decisions of the General Assembly at its seventh special session, particularly those relating to integrated rural development,

Having considered the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1975, on rural development, the small farmer and institutional reform,

Taking into account the document containing proposals for the formulation of an integrated programme for rural development and the relevant portions of the medium-term plan, 1978-1981 submitted to the Commission at its thirty-second session,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 3523 (XXX), which urges all Governments to accord higher priority to women in rural and low-income areas, including the gathering of relevant data on their status and role,

Bearing in mind the importance of integrated rural development in promoting the self-reliance of the developing countries,

Gravely concerned at the complexity and magnitude of the problem of mass poverty in the region, which particularly affects the rural areas,

Aware of the increasing attention being given by national Governments and international organizations to the problems of rural development,

Recognizing the important and special role played by women in the process of development in most countries of the region,

Noting, however, that activities in the field of rural development continue to remain fragmented and sectoral in nature with, consequentially, a marginal impact on the problems of rural development,

Convinced of the necessity of adopting an integrated approach to rural development with inputs from several disciplines and the need for political decisiveness and commitment to ensure an appropriate allocation of resources of all kinds to the rural sector with a view to securing growth with social justice,

Recognizing that an integrated rural development programme having the objectives of drawing the entire rural labour force into the mainstream of economic activity, realizing the creative energies of the rural people, and checking the drift of the rural population to urban centres should be based on the following essentials:

(a) Knowledge of local needs and aspirations;

(b) Assessment of the resource endowment and potential of each area;

(c) Creation of a scientific temper for harnessing appropriate science and technology for the development of the rural economy;

(d) Generation of employment opportunities in rural areas through agro-based industries and activities allied to crop production;

(e) Establishment and further strengthening of
organizational and institutional instruments for intensifying rural regeneration and mobilization; and

(f) Further studies of various aspects of agrarian reforms and problems arising in their implementation,

Reiterating that the responsibility for promoting and implementing rural development lies primarily with the national Governments,

Believing that possibilities may exist for subregional and regional co-operation in assisting national endeavours to deal with the problems of rural development, in particular through the role of the Commission in providing the relevant over-all conceptual framework for rural development, and in co-ordinating, in close consultation with the agencies and organizations concerned, and implementing activities in this field at the subregional and regional level,

Taking into account the programmes and activities on rural development of various international agencies,

Motivated by a common desire to alleviate mass poverty in the region and to ensure the optimum utilization of available resources to achieve results in the field of rural development,

1. Invites member Governments to give increasing attention to the problems of rural development, including the adoption of policies aimed at evolving integrated rural development programmes;

2. Calls upon the legislative committees of the Commission and the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission to give increased attention in their deliberations and recommendations to the formulation and implementation of activities which have relevance to rural development, bearing in mind the necessity of ensuring the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of rural development projects, and keeping in view the need to give special attention to the requirements of the least developed and the land-locked countries;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to draw up a detailed programme of work on rural development and land reforms in the light of the discussions at the thirty-second session of the Commission and in partnership with the agencies and international organizations concerned, to take all necessary measures conducive to its successful implementation, including the convening of an intergovernmental expert meeting and a regional conference, and to submit a progress report in this regard to the Commission at its thirty-third session;

4. Urges member countries and all other developed countries to continue and increase to the extent possible their assistance to member countries of the Commission in implementing activities relating to rural development;

5. Requests international agencies and organizations to participate and assist in the successful implementation of activities relating to rural development.

509th meeting, 31 March 1976.

162 (XXXII). Technical co-operation among developing countries

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3251 (XXIX) and 3461 (XXX) on the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries,

Further recalling the decisions of the General Assembly at its seventh special session, which laid special emphasis on the intensification of co-operation among the developing countries,

Also recalling Commission resolution 154 (XXXI) containing the New Delhi Declaration, which recommended that the developing countries, wherever appropriate, increasingly utilize the technologies developed by them and suited to their needs and requirements through genuine technological co-operation, and urged the maximum utilization of regional skills, capabilities and expertise in the implementation of the activities of the Commission,

Noting the enormous potential for technical co-operation among developing countries in the region, not only through traditional forms of mutual co-operation but also through new and innovative approaches in matching the capabilities and requirements of developing member countries, taking into account the need to maintain quality and standards, and through cooperative efforts to solve specific common problems and needs,

Recognizing the considerable level of technical co-operation among developing countries in the region, both bilateral and multilateral, and the fact that the programme of work of the Commission is primarily geared towards the promotion of such co-operation,

Conscious, however, of the general lack of knowledge and awareness regarding the capabilities of developing countries of the region for technical co-operation among developing countries and their relevance to the requirements of development, and of the importance