Aware that the vast majority of the world's poor children live in the countries of the ESCAP region,

1. **Decides** to hold a regional consultation meeting in 1978 with a view to strengthening and supporting the preparation of activities for the International Year of the Child at the national level;

2. **Accepts** with appreciation the kind offer of the Government of the Philippines to provide the necessary host facilities for the regional consultation meeting at Manila;

3. **Urges** member and associate member countries of ESCAP, representatives of all concerned United Nations bodies and appropriate non-governmental organizations in the region to participate in the meeting;

4. **Requests** the Executive Secretary to undertake preparations and the organization of activities in connexion with the meeting, in collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund and the heads of other United Nations agencies concerned.

31st meeting
15 March 1978

188 (XXXIV). The Commission's activities in the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

**Recalling** its resolution 173 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977 on increased participation by the developing island countries of the Pacific in its activities,

**Recalling** General Assembly resolution 3338 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 and subsequent resolutions in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, invited the executive heads of the organizations concerned within the United Nations system to intensify their efforts with respect to developing island countries within their fields of competence, and also resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

**Recalling** Economic and Social Council resolution 2126 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977 on specific action in favour of developing island countries,

**Recalling further** resolution 98 (IV) of 31 May 1976 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the least developed among the developing countries, developing island countries and developing land-locked countries, in which the Conference, *inter alia*, urged international organizations to pursue and intensify studies and technical assistance efforts to help small islands to overcome the peculiar problems of their geographical situation and characteristics,

**Reiterating** the desire expressed by the developing island countries of the Pacific to play a more active role in the affairs of the Commission and the development of the region as a whole,

**Recognizing** that the Governments of developing Pacific island countries have expressed the wish that the Commission, in order to be effectively involved in the development of the Pacific area, should develop suitable programmes to meet the needs of the area,

**Noting** that financial and geographic constraints have restricted the ability of Governments of developing Pacific island countries to participate fully in ESCAP activities,

**Commending** the Executive Secretary's efforts so far in trying to develop a programme of activities relevant to the Pacific area, including particularly the United Nations Development Advisory Team for the South Pacific,

1. **Urges** that the Executive Secretary, in the detailed formulation of such activities, maintain close co-operation and consultation with Governments of developing Pacific island countries, the United Nations Development Programme, the South Pacific Commission and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, in order that these activities may meet identified needs and priorities;

2. **Requests** the Executive Secretary, after due consultation with the developing Pacific island Governments, and where appropriate the South Pacific Commission and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, to consider urgently:

   (a) The appointment of a suitably qualified senior officer in the Pacific area in order to improve working linkages and maintain effective liaison between the Commission and the countries of that area and to assist the Executive Secretary in the programming and implementation of activities relevant to the needs of the area;

   (b) Increasing to an appropriate number the nationals of developing Pacific island member countries on the Commission's professional staff, in accordance with established United Nations recruitment procedures, in order to improve that area's geographic representation in the United Nations Secretariat;

   (c) The possibility of providing appropriate in-service training at the secretariat for nationals of developing Pacific island countries;

   (d) Ways and means of mitigating the constraints referred to above, in order to enable representatives of developing Pacific island countries to attend Commission sessions;

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9 See paras. 573-579 above.
(e) Taking steps to encourage and facilitate greater involvement of the regional training and research institutions in and for the developing Pacific island countries.

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session on the implementation of this resolution.

532nd meeting
17 March 1978

189 (XXXIV) Mekong Committee

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Noting with satisfaction that the Governments of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam have established the Interim Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin to promote the development of the water resources of that basin in order to meet effectively the needs for reconstruction and growing development of Laos and Viet Nam and the growing economic development needs of Thailand,

Recognizing that such regional co-operation would enhance the prospects for peace and stability in the region,

1. Expresses the hope that Democratic Kampuchea will soon resume its active participation in the full Mekong Committee,

2. Endorses the appeal made by the Interim Committee for support from countries and organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, that wish to assist them in their economic and social advancement by exploiting the enormous potential represented by the water resources of the lower Mekong basin,

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to assist the Interim Mekong Committee to the best of his ability with the resources at his disposal.

532nd meeting
17 March 1978

190 (XXXIV) Support for the Lumbini development project in Nepal

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Recognizing the regional importance of Lumbini as a centre of cultural, religious, historical and touristic importance,

Noting the high priority assigned by the Government of Nepal to the development of the Lumbini-Gandaki zone as an important element in the economic development of the country,

Recalling its resolutions 129 (XXIX) of 21 April 1973 and 147 (XXX) of 4 April 1974, demonstrating the deep interest of the member States in the early implementation of the project,

Also noting that an intergovernmental committee made up of representatives of Afghanistan, Burma, Democratic Kampuchea, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand was established in February 1970 to promote the development of Lumbini,

Expressing its appreciation of the interest, assistance and support given to the project to date by the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, and the countries of the Asia and Pacific region,

Noting with satisfaction that with the assistance of the United Nations the final master plan and detailed site plans for Lumbini have already been prepared,

Further recognizing that continued United Nations and United Nations Development Programme involvement and support are essential to carry the project to the next stage of implementation,

1. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue to provide their valuable assistance to this regional project,

2. Further requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to assign a specific role to the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in the context of the Lumbini development project as a regional project,

3. Appeals to all member and associate member countries to extend their support to the project with a view to its early implementation,

4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to take the necessary action to assist the project, including an appeal to the Governments of the member and associate member countries for contributions,

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session on the implementation of this resolution.

531st meeting
15 March 1978

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See paras 625-629 above
See para 531 above