207 (XXXVI). International Year of Disabled Persons

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 proclaiming the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,

Noting General Assembly resolution 2856 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 proclaiming the Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 3447 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 proclaiming the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 31/123 of 16 December 1976 proclaiming the year 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons,

Taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 34/154 of 17 December 1979, in which the General Assembly adopted a Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

1. Urges its members and associate members to mobilize their resources in order to accelerate the preparatory work towards the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of Disabled Persons, including the establishment of a national mechanism, where appropriate, for planning and co-ordinating at the national level all activities of the Year in the field of disability prevention and rehabilitation of disabled persons, with special emphasis on the needs of the population in the rural areas;

2. Requests its members and associate members to attend technical meetings of officers responsible for national programmes and the regional meeting of policy makers, preferably at the ministerial level, to be held at Bangkok under the joint auspices of the Commission and the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in September 1980, in order to exchange experiences and consider the most effective ways of implementing and following up the objectives of the Year at the regional level;

3. Further requests its members and associate members to make an effective contribution to the international symposium to be organized by the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in July 1981 on technical co-operation among developing countries and technical assistance for disabled persons, particularly as regards the application of science and technology to the fabrication of prototypes and the mass production of medical, educational and vocational equipment, by utilizing indigenous resources and expertise;

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary, in close co-operation with the specialized agencies and United Nations bodies concerned, to strengthen the work of the Commission in the field of disability prevention and rehabilitation of disabled persons within the framework of the social development component of the programme of work and priorities, taking into consideration already existing programmes and projects and the long-term programme of action to be adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session in this field as well as the preparatory work for the international development strategy for the 1980s.

558th meeting 29 March 1980

208 (XXXVI). The Commission's activities in the South Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 173 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977 on increased participation by the developing island countries of the Pacific in the Commission's activities and 188 (XXXIV) of 17 March 1978 on the Commission's activities in the Pacific,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 3338 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, in which the General 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,

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, and resolution 111 (V) of 3 June 1979 of the Conference on specific action related to the particular needs and problems of island developing countries,

Reaffirming the desire of the developing Pacific island countries to participate effectively in the affairs of the Commission as a whole,

Noting that special financial and geographic constraints have restricted the ability of Governments of the small and remote developing Pacific island countries to participate effectively in the Commission's activities,

1. Commends the Executive Secretary on his continuing efforts to increase the Commission's role in the development of the developing Pacific island countries and assures him of the continuing support and cooperation of all South Pacific member and associate member countries;

2. Expresses appreciation to those Governments, financial institutions and international organizations which have assisted in the development of the small developing Pacific island countries;
3. Notes the arrangements already made and looks forward to further progress in the implementation of the objectives identified in Commission resolution 188 (XXXIV) of 17 March 1978, inter alia, increasing to an appropriate number the nationals of developing Pacific island countries on the Commission's professional staff, providing in-service training at the secretariat for nationals of developing Pacific island countries and facilitating the involvement of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre and other regional and national research and training institutions of the ESCAP region in meeting the needs of the developing Pacific island countries;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts, in particular, to find further ways and means of mitigating the aforementioned special financial constraints, in order to assist the small and remote developing island countries of the South Pacific in participating in the activities of the Commission, especially its annual sessions;

5. Welcomes the creation of the position of a Pacific Liaison Officer to be based in the South Pacific, looks forward to the appointment of a suitably qualified officer in the near future and expresses its appreciation of the valuable work undertaken by the Team Leader of the United Nations Development Advisory Team for the South Pacific acting in the temporary and part-time role of Pacific Liaison Officer since its thirty-fifth session;

6. Expresses its confidence that the efforts of the Pacific Liaison Officer, working in close co-operation with the Executive Secretary and the South Pacific countries, will greatly facilitate the attainment of the objectives of resolution 188 (XXXIV);

7. Urges the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts to expand and intensify activities relevant to the development of the developing Pacific island countries;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution and of resolution 188 (XXXIV).

558th meeting 29 March 1980

209 (XXXVI). Scheme for TCDC arrangements in respect of disadvantaged ESCAP countries

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the need for appropriate additional arrangements to assist in the effective implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978 on the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, and especially recommendations 28, 31 and 35 of that Plan,

Recommending General Assembly resolutions 34/117 of 14 December 1979 on technical co-operation among developing countries and 34/202 of 19 December 1979 on economic co-operation among developing countries, as well as resolution 127 (V) of 3 June 1979 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on economic co-operation among developing countries,

Recalling its resolution 194 (XXXV) of 14 March 1979, in which it endorsed generally the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Working Group of Senior Officials Concerned with TCDC in Developing Asian and Pacific Countries and urged that due emphasis be laid, inter alia, on the special needs of least developed, land-locked and developing island countries,

Noting the pertinent decisions taken at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Seventy-seven, held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in February 1979, and at the Fifth and Sixth Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo in August 1976 and at Havana in September 1979 respectively,

Noting further that during 1979 several of its members and associate members participated in preparations for a scheme to assist such countries, as proposed by the Regional Working Group and supported by the Commission at its thirty-fifth session,

1. Approves, and calls for speedy implementation of the annexed arrangement among Governments of developing ESCAP countries and other interested parties to co-operate in the implementation of a scheme for TCDC arrangements in respect of disadvantaged ESCAP countries, as one way in which the Commission should promote and support technical co-operation among developing countries;

2. Urges the Governments of its developing member countries to establish and strengthen technical co-operation programmes in all possible ways, inter alia, on the basis of the annexed arrangement, on terms favourable to the disadvantaged countries, with a view to meeting the needs of those countries;

3. Calls upon Governments of its developed member countries and multilateral financing agencies to make all efforts to support the scheme through the timely provision of funds for supplementary finance as well as other support, on request, for TCDC activities arranged under the scheme;

4. Urges the United Nations Development Programme, other United Nations organizations and spe-