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,

Bear in mind 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-
cialized agencies, multilateral technical co-operation agencies and other intergovernmental organizations in the region to extend their active co-operation in the implementation of the scheme;

5. Requests its legislative committees and other bodies under its auspices to continue to enhance the dimension of technical co-operation among developing countries in their respective programmes, taking into account the characteristics of their respective sectors;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To intensify action with regard to disadvantaged countries as requested in its resolution 194 (XXXV);

(b) To ensure the proper administration of the scheme, utilizing existing organizational mechanisms;

(c) To review progress and report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its thirty-seventh session and to other appropriate forums.

538th meeting
29 March 1980

Annex

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

Objectives

1. The general objective of the scheme for TCDC arrangements in respect of disadvantaged ESCAP countries is to facilitate increased technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) in favour of least developed, land-locked, developing island and most seriously affected (collectively, "disadvantaged") countries of Asia and the Pacific. Individual TCDC arrangements facilitated by the scheme remain the responsibility of their participating parties. These arrangements will apply to TCDC programmes which are drawn up in agreement with participating developing countries.

2. Needs on which the scheme should be focused are those which (a) have significant priority in terms of the disadvantaged countries' national development objectives, (b) may not be met fully or satisfactorily under existing external assistance arrangements and (c) could be amenable to matching with capabilities and available capacities of other developing ("potential source") countries under bilateral or multilateral TCDC arrangements. All socio-economic sectors could be represented in such arrangements, which could involve the provision of expert services, group or individual consultancy services, institutional or on-the-job training, equipment for development projects, collaborative research or other means of collectively developing, adapting and transferring appropriate technology, skills, technical materials and development experience.

3. As far as possible the scheme and arrangements made under it should complement and support, but not replace, satisfactory existing arrangements for assisting the disadvantaged countries, whether such arrangements constitute TCDC or external assistance from developed countries and multilateral funding and executing agencies. Indeed, care should be taken to avoid misunderstanding and inappropriate duplication in this regard. However, the scheme should also contribute to the increased involvement of developing countries' technical capabilities in development projects implemented under other auspices.

4. While the scheme should facilitate the provision of developing countries' technical services and facilities, there may be a frequent need for supplementary external financial assistance to cover international transfer costs etc. Thus, some TCDC arrangements made under the scheme may be of a trilateral nature, with financial inputs from developed countries and multilateral funding agencies complementing those provided by the developing countries concerned. In other cases, technical resources may be provided partly by developed countries and multilateral agencies. In order that many individual trilateral arrangements may be made expeditiously, advance financial commitments should be made by "third parties" wishing to support the scheme.

5. The scheme is intended to help to compensate for the relatively limited administrative capabilities of disadvantaged countries, including those with respect to their government-to-government relations and other external mechanisms for planning and arranging TCDC. It is essential, therefore, that the scheme should not impose additional strains on national administrations; instead, it should provide a mechanism through which the United Nations development system and other intergovernmental institutions can assist the countries in the identification and realization of enhanced TCDC opportunities.

6. Initially the scheme should contribute to the expansion of TCDC within the ESCAP region and ensure that the most economically or geographically disadvantaged countries are accorded in this context the priority which their special needs dictate. Later, as interregional contacts are increased through other TCDC promotion efforts, the capabilities of developing countries of Latin America, Africa and western Asia should also be tapped to assist the disadvantaged ESCAP countries.

7. Although developing ESCAP countries are grouped as disadvantaged and potential source countries for the purpose of describing the scheme, the two categories are not mutually exclusive. Indeed, many disadvantaged
countries themselves have particular capabilities and capacities of interest to other countries, and it is anticipated that the scheme will facilitate the sharing of these where this would be of mutual benefit, particularly in a subregional context.

**Procedures and parties**

8. It is expected that the scheme will function to help to meet needs for technical services through the following procedures:

(a) Effective arrangements will continue to be worked out to enable the international agencies to provide a conduit for the transmittal of needs and offers where requested by countries. Apart from discussion between the ESCAP secretariat and other organizations, this will involve further consultation with the TCDC focal points of both disadvantaged and potential source countries to ensure that procedures are appropriate to their situations. Related preparatory work includes the negotiation of funding to ensure that supplementary finance will be available when it is required, and the improvement of information flows regarding TCDC capacities;

(b) Individual needs will be identified by sectoral departments and development projects in the disadvantaged countries and co-ordinated by their TCDC focal points. At the request of the countries, this process may be assisted by country-level personnel of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international agencies such as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United Nations Development Advisory Team for the South Pacific (UNDAT) and all other appropriate organizations in the course of their own work. Assistance may be required particularly to help the focal points to specify each need in a form which will facilitate the later formulation of relevant offers by potential source countries, e.g., job descriptions for consultants, details of training required with candidates background, specifications of equipment, definition of problems requiring collaborative research or clarification of technologies for transfer or adaptation;

(c) The third step involves the transmittal of the specified needs, collated into batches where appropriate, from the disadvantaged to potential source countries. In some cases, this may occur directly between the Governments, but usually the UNDP representatives and/or the ESCAP secretariat will facilitate the process and help to identify potential sources on the basis of information being assembled on TCDC capacities. Regional offices of other international organizations will often be in a position to assist in this regard. Those needs which could be amenable to interregional cooperation would be transmitted through other United Nations regional commissions and/or the global TCDC unit of UNDP;

(d) Upon being advised of needs, TCDC focal points in potential source countries would consult with relevant sectoral departments and national institutions which might have the required capacities. Where the needed technical services were available, consultation would also take place with budgetary and other authorities to work out organizational details and formulate offers. In some cases, UNDP representatives might be invited to assist this process;

(e) Formulated offers will be transmitted to the disadvantaged countries concerned, either bilaterally between the two national TCDC focal points or through the ESCAP secretariat. The latter channel would be used to enable various offers to be collated for easy consideration by the disadvantaged countries. In cases where the offers emanating from potential source countries do not cover all of the costs of delivering the technical services, recourse may be had to the TCDC supplementary funds facility of ESCAP or other appropriate third-party sources. In addition, any needed suggestions with respect to the modalities of the intended TCDC may be made at this stage. The resulting composite offers, covering all necessary resources, will then be passed on as speedily as possible;

(f) National TCDC focal points in disadvantaged countries will consider the offers which they receive, in consultation with the concerned sectoral departments and development projects. They will also consult their budgetary and other authorities concerning the receipt of the offered services and, where appropriate, the provision of counterpart resources. In some cases, UNDP representatives and international agencies' project personnel may be able to help to make such arrangements. The focal points will then indicate their Governments' acceptance of certain offers;

(g) Acceptances will be transmitted to the TCDC focal points of the source countries concerned, either bilaterally or through the ESCAP secretariat. Where necessary, the latter will assist in the finalization of organizational arrangements for TCDC, especially where supplementary finance or other support may be involved under ad hoc trilateral arrangements. Once agreement is reached between the Governments and institutions to be involved, each TCDC activity should proceed as planned;

(h) As well as assisting at various points of the identification/transmission/organization processes, the ESCAP secretariat will monitor the TCDC activities arranged under the scheme in consultation with and in order to facilitate its review by the Governments concerned.

9. The parties expected to participate in the scheme include:

(a) The Governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal,
the New Hebrides, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Tuvalu and other economically or geographically disadvantaged countries such as those most seriously affected;

(b) The Governments of developing ESCAP countries and territories (including any of the above) that wish to associate themselves with the scheme as potential source countries;

c) The Governments of Australia, France, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and other developed countries, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and other multilateral financial institutions and foundations.

Review and administration

10. As the major parties to it are developing ESCAP countries, the scheme will operate under the auspices of the Commission. Intergovernmental review of progress will occur annually in the context of the Commission’s formal consideration of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries and also in the Special Body on Land-locked Countries. Sectoral aspects should also be reviewed by the various ESCAP legislative committees and by governing and advisory bodies of other United Nations organizations and specialized agencies at the regional level.

11. Day-to-day management of the matching aspects of the scheme will be the responsibility mainly of the ESCAP secretariat in co-operation with UNDP resident representatives and in consultation, through appropriate channels, with national and agency focal points for TCDC. Within the ESCAP secretariat, ECDC TCDC Services, in the Office of the Executive Secretary, is expected to co-ordinate the scheme in close co-operation with substantive divisions with respect to work in their sectors. Co-operation among United Nations organizations and regional offices of specialized agencies in supporting the scheme will be facilitated by the Regional Interagency Working Group on ECDC and TCDC.

12. For the Pacific segment, the ESCAP Liaison Officer in the South Pacific will assist in promoting the exchange of information on which the scheme depends, in co-operation with the South Pacific Commission, the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, UNDAT, the UNDP offices at Suva, Port Moresby and Apia and agency projects located in the Pacific.

Complementary developments

13. An important factor for promoting and supporting ECDC and TCDC in the ESCAP region should be the emerging regional information system to promote ECDC and TCDC (Commission resolution 194 (XXXV)), especially with respect to referral information being produced under the TCDC publications programme of ESCAP and through directories published by other organizations. Wide dissemination of these will increase knowledge of the capacities that could be utilized through the scheme.

14. Another approved ESCAP exercise is the development of guidelines for the employment of experts and consultants under TCDC arrangements, since many countries have expressed concern about the use of standard United Nations rates for such employment. It is anticipated that this exercise will facilitate the determination of appropriate rates for services supplied under the scheme.

15. The Governments of several developing ESCAP countries have already designated official TCDC focal points to co-ordinate the operational as well as policy aspects of TCDC. Other countries have yet to develop appropriate mechanisms to facilitate expeditious participation of their institutions in TCDC activities. The scheme’s effective implementation would be assisted by the early strengthening or establishment of such national focal points, in order to ensure that the responses of potential TCDC source countries to the needs of disadvantaged countries can be generated without delay. Regional or subregional seminars for national focal points to strengthen national institutions and launch concrete TCDC activities are expected to facilitate the operation of the scheme.

16. It will also be desirable for potential source and disadvantaged developing countries to make appropriate budgetary provision for their respective shares of the financing of the TCDC activities arranged under the scheme. The Commission indicated at its thirty-fifth session that national budgets and/or portions of country indicative planning figures could be used for that purpose, at the discretion of the Governments concerned. In that connexion, it may be noted that one objective of the scheme would be to increase the inter-country activity which a given amount of external finance could facilitate.

210 (XXXVI). Streamlining of the conference structure of the Commission

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, by which it rationalized the conference structure of the Commission, having considered that it was desirable: (a) to establish a structure which would accord with the major problem areas of the region but, at the same time, be sufficiently flexible to cope with identified priority areas; (b) to limit the number and duration of meetings in order not merely to secure economies of time and resources but also to ensure the most