1. *Takes note* of the progress report on the implementation of resolution 205 (XXXVI) on the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries and generally endorses the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, while intensifying the activities of the Commission in the field of training qualified national personnel through, *inter alia*, effective utilization, and subject to the availability of all forms of assistance provided by members and associate members of the Commission and the United Nations development system, to pay special attention to the priority areas of the activities of the Commission and the needs of the developing countries in the light of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and General Assembly resolution 35/80;

3. *Recommends* that the Asian and Pacific Development Centre should provide in its programmes for the intensified training of personnel from developing countries, particularly from the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries;

4. *Recommends* that appropriate attention should be given to increasing the national capacities and facilities of the developing countries for the training of qualified national personnel;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session.

*570th meeting*
*19 March 1981*

218 (XXXVII). Impending retirement of J.B.P. Maramis, Executive Secretary of the Commission

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

*Aware* that the thirty-seventh session will be the final session attended by Mr. J.B.P. Maramis in his capacity as Executive Secretary,

*Recognizing* the untiring and distinguished service which he has rendered in his role as head of the Commission secretariat,

*Noting* that, during his years of leadership, the Commission has grown substantially in terms of both membership and resources,

*Noting with appreciation* the innovative changes which he has brought to the work of the Commission, in particular its secretariat and work programme, in an era of rapid social and technological change,

*Noting also with appreciation* the inspiration and guidance which he has lent to the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre,

*Acknowledging* the support which he has given to the further strengthening of harmonious relations among Asian States,

*Acknowledging in particular* his personal commitment to fostering a greater role for the Commission in the Pacific subregion and encouraging a greater sense of involvement of the Pacific island countries in the activities of the Commission,

*Acknowledging further* his contribution to promoting the interests of the least developed, landlocked and developing island countries,

1. *Wishes* to extend a profound tribute to him for his contribution to subregional and regional understanding and co-operation during his years as Executive Secretary;

2. *Expresses* its lasting gratitude for the inestimable assistance which his leadership has given to the economic and social development of the Asia and Pacific region;

3. *Conveys* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations its appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Maramis in a manner fulfilling all the ideals of the international civil service;

4. *Extends* its sincere wishes for his health and happiness in the years ahead.

*570th meeting*
*19 March 1981*

219 (XXXVII). Expanding and strengthening the functions of the Commission in the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system

*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, in which the General Assembly initiated the process of restructuring of the United Nations system,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 33/202 of 29 January 1979 and 34/206 of 19 December 1979 and Commission resolution 193 (XXXV) of 14 March 1979 on the implementation of resolution 32/197,

*Noting with appreciation* the progress that has been made in establishing the Interagency Committee

8 See para. 847 above.

9 See paras. 272-282 above.
on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, in conferring on the Commission the status of executing agency and in streamlining the conference structure of the Commission.

Recognizing the need for more vigorous action to implement the United Nations General Assembly resolutions referred to in the preceding paragraph in order to enable the regional commissions fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions,

Emphasizing the need to enhance the responsiveness of the United Nations in all appropriate sectors to the needs of the developing countries,

Emphasizing also that the necessary authority should be delegated to the regional commissions to discharge effectively their enhanced responsibilities and that adequate budgetary and financial provision should be made available to them for their activities,

Noting General Assembly decision 35/440 of 16 December 1980, in which the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to “invite the regional commissions to consider further at their plenary sessions in 1981 the implications for their role and functions of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202, in the light, inter alia, of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General, particularly paragraphs 76 to 79 thereof, and to report thereon, for action by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, in the context of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General called for under General Assembly resolution 34/206 of 19 December 1979”,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system entitled “Implications of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202 for the regional commissions”, and of the Executive Secretary’s note on the implications for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

2. Takes note also of the observations contained in paragraphs 13 to 20 and 76 to 79 of the Secretary-General’s report;

3. Requests the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, with due regard to the observations contained in the Secretary-General’s report and taking into account the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, to provide for effective participation of the regional commissions within their respective regions in the context of their inputs into the global policymaking processes of the competent global organs of the United Nations, and without prejudice to the respective functions of these organs:

(a) In the formulation of objectives of global programmes in the execution of which the regional commissions are expected to participate;

(b) In the preparations for negotiations at the global and the regional levels, with due regard to the pressing needs of the developing members and associate members of the regional commissions and in accordance with established United Nations practices in the matter;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary, in order to enhance co-ordination of activities and to avoid duplication of efforts in the field of socio-economic development undertaken by the United Nations system at the regional level, to consult with the heads of the organizations of the United Nations system maintaining regional programmes, and other subregional bodies within the region, with a view to identifying areas in which there may be a need to strengthen co-ordination and harmonization of programmes in various fields of interest to member Governments and, should such areas be identified, investigating the possibilities of setting up appropriate interagency arrangements, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/197;

5. Urges donor countries, agencies and institutions to reflect the priorities established by the Commission, in responding to proposals and in extending assistance for inter-country activities of the Commission to be funded by them;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to consult the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, with a view to:

(a) Continuing to associate the Commission at the intergovernmental level with the setting of priorities and preparation of proposals for the inter-country programmes of the United Nations Development Programme in the region;

(b) The Programme giving appropriate support to the Commission as executing agency in operational activities of the types defined in paragraph 23 of section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, having due regard to the priorities of the Commission and to the need to ensure full collaboration and co-ordination with the organizations of the United Nations system maintaining regional programmes and with subregional bodies within the region;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to consult United Nations Headquarters on the delegation of the necessary authority to be provided to the Commission in respect of programme planning and co-ordination;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary to consult United Nations Headquarters in order to take measures in all appropriate sectors designed to contribute to:
(a) The synchronization of programme cycles and harmonization of programme formats between the regional commissions and the global United Nations bodies;

(b) The immediate analysis of the scope for improved distribution of tasks and responsibilities between the regional commissions and the global United Nations bodies, as called for by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twentieth session;

9. Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the regional commissions in the promotion of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries in the region, requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist developing countries, at the request of the Governments concerned, in order to strengthen and enlarge economic and technical co-operation among the developing countries at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and taking into account the relevant provisions of resolution 127 (V) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

(b) To consult the executive secretaries of the other regional commissions with a view to strengthening and expanding the promotion of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries on an interregional basis;

(c) To consult further the executive secretaries in order to promote co-operative activities among the regional commissions;

(d) To maintain close liaison with the United Nations resident co-ordinators on interest expressed by individual developing countries in economic and technical co-operation activities;

10. Urges the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, in considering the budgetary needs of the regional commissions, to ensure that:

(a) Adequate budgetary and financial provision is made to enable the regional commissions effectively to discharge the responsibilities indicated in General Assembly resolution 32/197;

(b) Greater discretion is provided to the regional commissions with regard to decisions on the use of such funds so that they may be enabled to respond more quickly and more flexibly to the needs of their member Governments, with due respect for the authority of the General Assembly regarding the budgetary accountability of the Commission;

(c) Additional resources for the new functions delegated to the regional commissions are made available through corresponding adjustments in resources at United Nations Headquarters and/or in the global programmes;

11. Requests the Executive Secretary to take measures further to rationalize and streamline the subsidiary machinery of the Commission, in consultation with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission;

12. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session on the implementation of the measures outlined in the present resolution, in the light of further pertinent decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

571st meeting
20 March 1981