Noting with appreciation the activities undertaken by the secretariat in the area of integrated rural development,

1. Invites the Governments of members and associate members to give special attention to the social impact of policies relating to integrated rural development programmes;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to invite interested Governments of members and associate members to present country papers on social aspects of rural development policies and programmes for distribution at the fortieth session of the Commission together with his report on the secretariat’s activities in this field for further consideration.

597th meeting
28 April 1983

233 (XXXIX). Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recalling also resolution 122 (V) of 3 June 1979 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/210 of 19 December 1979,

Reaffirming the statement in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, that as an essential priority within the Strategy, the least developed countries — the economically weakest and poorest countries with the most formidable structural problems — require a special programme of sufficient size and intensity consistent with their national plans and priorities to make a decisive break from their past and present situation and their bleak prospects,

Reaffirming the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, adopted unanimously by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981,

Recalling its resolution 214 (XXXVII) of 19 March 1981 on the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the positive role played by the Commission in the preparatory phase of the Conference, including the holding of the Ministerial Meeting on the Least Developed Countries of the ESCAP and ECWA Regions at Bangkok in August 1981,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/224 of 20 December 1982, in which the Assembly urged that the Substantial New Programme of Action should be implemented fully,

Bearing in mind that more than 40 per cent of the population of the least developed countries live in the seven least developed countries of the region under dismal and deteriorating social and economic conditions, even after the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Reaffirming also that the main objectives of the Substantial New Programme of Action are to transform the economies of the least developed countries towards self-sustaining development, to promote the structural changes necessary to overcome the extreme economic difficulties of the least developed countries, to provide fully adequate and internationally accepted minimum standards of nutrition, health, transport and communications, housing and education as well as job opportunities to all their citizens, to identify and support major investment opportunities and priorities, and to mitigate the adverse effects of natural disasters,

Expressing deep concern that the economic growth experienced by the least developed countries of the region has lagged far behind the desirable rates, especially when compared with the targets contained in the Substantial New Programme of Action, and that several of the least developed countries are also falling far behind the sectoral targets envisaged,

Keeping in mind that the least developed countries have primary responsibility for their overall development and recognizing that these countries of the region have already taken significant steps in that direction and that, although international support measures are vitally important, the domestic policies which these countries pursue will continue to be of critical importance for the success of their development efforts,

---

3 See paras. 318-323 above.
4 General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex, para. 136.
Noting with concern that, despite the progress made by some of the donor countries towards the implementation of their commitments, the present external flows to the least developed countries are not in keeping with the substantial increase envisaged in the Substantial New Programme of Action, thus contributing to the slow implementation of the Programme,

Bearing in mind that suitable restructuring of the regional commissions is called for in accordance with paragraph 125 of the Substantial New Programme of Action to ensure more effective and meaningful follow-up and monitoring of the Programme at the national, regional and global levels, and that the Commission has taken some steps in that regard,

1. **Strongly urges** donor countries, multilateral development and financial institutions, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and all others concerned to take immediate, concrete and adequate measures as agreed upon in the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries and to intensify efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action;

2. **Also strongly urges** donor countries to implement their commitments, as stated in paragraphs 61 to 69 of the Substantial New Programme of Action, so as to achieve, in that regard, a substantial increase in resources for the accelerated development of the least developed countries of the region and urgently to improve further the quality and effectiveness of official development assistance in order to increase its responsiveness to the requirements of the least developed countries, as called for in paragraph 70 of the Substantial New Programme of Action;

3. **Expresses satisfaction** at the holding of a round-table meeting at Geneva from 9 to 18 May 1983 under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme to review and monitor progress and ensure the speedy implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for five of the seven least developed countries of the region;

4. **Calls upon** the Executive Secretary to conduct a comprehensive review within existing resources of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in the region, paying particular attention to the identification of the measures needed for the acceleration of the pace of implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in favour of the least developed countries of the region and to report to the Commission at its fortieth session on the results of the review and the recommendations which emerge from it.

597th meeting
28 April 1983

234 (XXXIX). Transport and communications decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

Recalling the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/56 of 5 December 1980, containing the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, in particular the development objectives for the transport and communications sectors contained in paragraph 30 of the Strategy,

Recalling also Commission resolution 230 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982 on a transport and communications decade for Asia and the Pacific and noting the efforts undertaken by the Executive Secretary to make an assessment of that resolution with a view to the proclamation of a transport and communications decade for Asia and the Pacific during the period 1985-1994 and the support given to the proposal by the Commission's members and associate members,

Noting that the Intergovernmental Railway Group Meeting held in August 1982, the Intergovernmental Meeting of Highway Experts held in February 1983, the Intergovernmental Meeting on Tourism Development held in March 1983 and, in particular, the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Railways held in February-March 1983 supported or recommended the proclamation of a transport and communications decade for Asia and the Pacific during the above-mentioned period,

Convinced of the critical role of all modes of transport as enabling elements in economic development and the importance, therefore, of the improvement and growth of transport infrastructure and services in a manner commensurate with the anticipated growth of various sectors of the economy generating the demand for transport as well as the importance of communications in modernizing transport and other sectors of the economy,

Aware of the need for an integrated approach to the planning of transport and communications, and taking into account the positive contribution which the proclamation of a transport and communications decade for Asia and the Pacific during 1985-1994 could make towards the mobilization of political support for such an integrated approach,

Bearing in mind the United Nations resolutions relevant to the subject,

1. **Recommend** that account be taken of the need for the early proclamation of a transport and communications decade for Asia and the Pacific;

---

5 See paras. 686-692 above.