Annex III

The basic mandate of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

To facilitate concerted action for the economic and social development of Asia and the Pacific by sponsoring investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments, undertaking the collection, evaluation and dissemination of economic, technological and statistical information, organizing training, consultations, research and development, and networking among national institutions; in the process, the Commission will make available technical and advisory services and promote economic and technical co-operation among the countries of the region, in particular developing countries, in the fields of:
(a) food and agriculture, including rural development;
(b) development planning;
(c) transnational corporations;
(d) industry and technology, with particular emphasis on industrial development, science and technology, and transfer of technology;
(e) human settlements and the environment;
(f) water, energy and mineral resources development;
(g) population;
(h) shipping, ports and inland waterways;
(i) transport and communications, tourism and facilitation of international traffic;
(j) social development, including the fostering of the welfare of children, popular participation and integration and greater participation of women and youth in the development process, social defence, social consequences of the problem of displaced persons, alleviation of poverty, promotion of equitable distribution of development benefits and improvement of the quality of life;
(k) statistics;
(l) regional, subregional and inter-regional trade, and commercial policies, including matters relating to financial institutions and financing of trade, export credit insurance, insurance and re-insurance, debt servicing, standardization of commodities, commercial arbitration, customs administration, marketing and market research, product development and packaging, raw materials and commodities.

Recalling its resolution 247 (XLII) of 1 May 1986 on forecasting, planning and development of technological human resources and 256 (XLII) of 2 May 1986 on the ESCAP Plan of Action on National and Regional Initiatives for Human Resources Development: Its Technological Dimensions,

Recognizing that economic and social development involves basic structural changes requiring progressively better levels of human resources development with diversified skills, especially in the context of global dynamic technological changes,

Also recognizing that human resources development is a broad concept encompassing many components and requires sustained efforts over long periods,

Bearing in mind that the Commission at its forty-third session examined as its main theme the issue "Human resources development in Asia and the Pacific: policy options",

Recognizing the need to formulate an ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development,

Welcoming the proposal by the Government of Japan to host an expert group meeting in Tokyo to assist in the formulation of guidelines on an ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development and to provide substantial funding therefor,

1. Resolves that the theme of the forty-fourth session of the Commission shall again be human resources development, so that special attention can be given at that session to the formulation of an ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development, taking into account all its relevant components;

2. Notes that the relevant issues of employment and manpower development should be fully addressed in the formulation of an ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development;

3. Calls upon members and associate members in the region to continue and strengthen efforts to devise and execute their operational plans and programmes for human resources development;

4. Invites members and associate members in a position to do so, as well as other interested countries, to continue to support the Commission’s efforts to
promote human resources development through the provision of financial and other assistance in consultation with and for the benefit of countries of the Asian and Pacific region;

5. Requests relevant agencies, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental bodies, to extend early and effective support to the preparation of an ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development and participate actively in the implementation of specific programmes included in the plan;

6. Also requests the Executive Secretary, upon the availability of the necessary extrabudgetary resources:

(a) To convene an expert group meeting to formulate guidelines for an ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development;

(b) To formulate a draft ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development, in pursuance of the decisions and recommendations of the Commission at its forty-second and forty-third sessions and in the light of the report of the above-mentioned expert group meeting;

7. Further requests the Executive Secretary to consult members and associate members for the purpose of obtaining their suggestions on the formulation of the draft ESCAP integrated plan of action on human resources development and to report to the Commission at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

661st meeting
30 April 1987

261 (XLIII). Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries3/ The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, adopted by the

3/ See paras. 209-217 above.

United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981,


Further recalling General Assembly resolution 40/205 of 17 December 1985 endorsing the conclusions and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group on the Least Developed Countries on the mid-term global review of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Recalling also Commission resolutions 242 (XLII) of 29 March 1985 and 257 (XLII) of 2 May 1986 on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Recognizing that the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development will provide an opportunity for the international community to discuss the problems of least developed countries in enhancing the implementation of the Programme during the rest of the 1980s,

Expressing serious concern at the critical economic and social conditions in the least developed countries in spite of their national efforts as well as efforts made by the international community since the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action, and stressing the urgent need for increased support measures, as well as enhanced national efforts, towards self-reliance so that the objectives of the Programme can be fully realized during the remaining period of the decade,

1. Calls upon the international community to exert every effort towards providing increased transfer of resources and commercial policy support measures to the least developed countries of the Asian and Pacific region;

2. Urges those donor countries whose official development assistance contributions have not yet reached 0.15 per cent of their gross national product, or which have not yet doubled their official development assistance to least developed countries, to make every possible effort to attain those targets as contained in the Substantial New Programme of Action;