226 (XXXVIII). Food supply and distribution in Asia and the Pacific: medium-term outlook and regional co-operation

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Considering the special study by the secretariat on food supply and distribution in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling that the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade includes as an essential element the recommendation that hunger and malnutrition be eradicated as soon as possible and certainly by the end of this century,

Noting with concern the stalemate in the negotiations on the International Wheat Trade Agreement,

Taking note of the findings of the special study regarding inadequate food production and distribution, the increasing number of the hungry and malnourished, rising food imports and surpluses in some food exporting countries of the region,

Expressing grave concern over the unstable food supply situation in many countries of the region,

Aware of the urgent need to ensure adequate food for all in the region,

Noting the progress made towards increasing food and agricultural production by some countries of the region,

Recognizing the continuing necessity and importance of increasing food production and investment in agriculture in all developing countries of the region,

Recognizing also the importance of national efforts and subregional and regional co-operation to enhance food supply and improve food distribution systems,

Further recognizing the steps already taken by the Association of South-East Asian Nations in the establishment of a food security reserve,

Stressing the desirability of co-ordination of the efforts being made in the various international forums concerned with regard to world food security,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary, with the assistance of a high-level group of experts nominated by relevant international organizations and agencies and by participating Governments of the Commission, to undertake studies on the feasibility and viability of the proposals on:

(a) Subregional and regional food security arrangements;

(b) A trade information and management network relating to food and agricultural input;

(c) Increasing the flow of financial resources from both external and internal sources for food and agriculture;

and to submit conclusions on the possible timing, funding, functional and operational modalities and organizational framework, paying due regard to the proposal in the special study to establish an Asia-Pacific food bank, to the comments made on the study at the thirty-eighth session and to the special features of the production and distribution systems in the different countries of the region;

2. Recommends that the report of the expert group should be referred to the Committee on Agricultural Development or, if that is not feasible, to an intergovernmental meeting to be convened by the Executive Secretary after consultation with members and associate members to examine the question and advise on further action;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to seek the co-operation of relevant international organizations and agencies, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Council, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Asian Development Bank, in the preparation of the above-mentioned studies with a view to ensuring a well-co-ordinated approach to food security in the region;

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary to take appropriate steps for the implementation of the present resolution and to submit a report on the progress achieved to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session.

583rd meeting 1 April 1982

227 (XXXVIII). Early launching of global negotiations

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting General Assembly resolution 34/138 of 14 December 1979, and other resolutions referred to therein, in which the Assembly, inter alia, decided to launch a round of global and sustained negotiations on international economic co-operation for development, including major issues in the field of raw materials, energy, trade, development, money and

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7 See paras. 333-348 above.

8 See paras. 312-313 above.