

70 (VI). Co-operation among developing countries

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

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, and Commission resolution 46 (IV) of 26 April 1977 on co-operation among developing countries, as well as Commission resolutions 47 (IV) of 28 April and 54 (V) of 5 October 1978 on regional co-operation and co-ordination,

Further recalling General Assembly resolutions 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 on the capacity of the United Nations development system, in particular its provisions relating to the definition of priorities, and 3405 (XXX) of 28 November 1975 on new dimensions in technical co-operation, especially the aspects of this resolution relating to technical co-operation among developing countries, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution-1978/74 of 4 August 1978 on regional co-operation and development,

Further recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, endorsed in General Assembly resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978 on the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,

Affirming the importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries as an instrument for collective self-reliance and for the attainment of the new international economic order,

Recognizing both the primary responsibility of developing countries for such co-operation and the need for supplementary external assistance in addition to present aid flows, especially with respect to the least developed countries, as well as the scope for the Commission and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify efforts to assist such co-operation systematically at the bilateral, subregional, regional and international levels,

Stressing the importance of the efforts being made by the Executive Secretary of the Commission to develop and implement the Commission's role as a regional focal point and catalyst for the promotion, monitoring and strengthened implementation of such co-operation, in accordance with the role assigned to it in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

1. Urges its member countries to participate actively in all forms of co-operation among themselves consistent with their national development objectives, laying due emphasis on:

(a) the intensification of technical co-operation among themselves in order, inter alia, to facilitate economic co-operation;

(b) The development and utilization of networks and other links to facilitate co-operative research among national institutions;

(c) Co-operation in training, the use of expert and consultancy services and the procurement of equipment;

(d) The special needs of the least developed countries of the region;

2. Invites developed countries to play their role in support of technical co-operation among developing countries in the ECWA region, as provided for in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries;

3. Further invites developed countries, as well as intergovernmental organizations, bodies and institutions, including the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations within the United Nations system, in the context of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, to support economic and technical co-operation among developing countries by providing increased assistance to supplement, where necessary, the resources contributed for the purpose of implementing such co-operation activities by the countries participating in them, especially the least developed countries;

4. Invites its member States and their institutions to collaborate in the development and operation of a regional information system to promote economic and technical co-operation among developing countries at the regional and interregional levels and to serve as the regional arm of the information referral system for technical co-operation among developing countries operated by the United Nations Development Programme, part of the resources of which would be allocated to the regional information system;

5. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in co-operation with other organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as appropriate, to promote and support the implementation of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries by intensifying his efforts to:

(a) Develop, co-ordinate and service the regional information system;

(b) Monitor and review, on a continuing basis at the regional level, progress in such co-operation with which the United Nations system is associated;

(c) Place increasing emphasis on such co-operation in the research and analytical work of the Commission in various sectors, especially in the context of the formulation and review of international development strategies for the 1980s.

(d) Assist developing countries of the region, together with subregional economic and other functional groupings, upon their request, in identifying and exploiting increased opportunities for effective co-operation through, inter alia, the preparation of intensified programmes of co-operation as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1978/74, including the formulation of intercountry projects;

(e) Collaborate with the other regional commissions and intergovernmental organizations in the implementation of joint projects to promote co-operation between countries in two or more regions through interregional action programmes;

(f) Attract and channel additional financial and other forms of contributions to assist economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, including the supply of financial resources to facilitate the participation of the least developed countries and the expansion of fellowships and trainee programmes;

6. Calls upon the Executive Secretary, in co-operation, where feasible, with the Executive Secretaries of the other regional commissions, to consult the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, with a view to reviewing present practices for determining the utilization of regional indicative planning figures, in order to involve developing countries, through their respective regional commissions, in the collective setting of priorities for this purpose;

7. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take urgent steps to provide adequate resources and other support to enable the Commission's secretariat to undertake these activities effectively and to help to achieve the objective referred to in the present resolution;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its seventh session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.