

Office in Beirut to initiate multinational interdisciplinary United Nations Development Advisory Teams.

Noting that a number of those Teams have been launched on a sub-regional basis, as indicated in the report of the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions held in 1971,²

Recalling further that the General Assembly, in its resolution 2687 (XXV) of 11 December 1960, requested the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut to continue and further intensify their efforts in helping to promote, on a regional, sub-regional or inter-regional basis, trade expansion, economic co-operation and integration among their member countries, as a concrete step towards the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Considering that the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut will be called upon to assume major responsibilities for review and appraisal at the regional level of the progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy,

Recognizing that the accretion of such responsibilities to the regional economic commissions has meant a considerable strain on their organizational and administrative resources,

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 2687 (XXV), urged that the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut be provided with the means and resources necessary to fulfil their role for the benefit of their member countries,

Stressing that the increasing responsibilities being discharged by the regional economic commissions in the operational field are an integral part of their mandatory and policy functions and any distinction between these two categories of functions is arbitrary,

Taking note that the regional advisory services under the United Nations regular programme have in recent years been utilized by the regional economic commissions for the discharge of these responsibilities,

Welcoming the new orientation being imparted to the regular programme, in both its country and regional components, particularly through its concentration in the least developed among the developing countries and in areas which are of crucial importance to the development process of these countries,

1. *Recommends* that, as a first step and at least partially to relieve the financial and administrative burden on the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut imposed by the expanded scope of these responsibilities, the General Assembly should decide to establish at its twenty-sixth session a separate section in the United Nations regular budget to make provision for a unified system of regional and sub-regional advisory services, earmarked for the operations of the regional economic commissions and the

² E/5039.

United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, and to transfer to this section the existing regional advisory services at present under part V;

2. *Further recommends* that the existing section 13 of part V of the United Nations budget for the regular programme of technical assistance be maintained for 1972 at its current level of \$5,408,000 and concentrate its operations substantially to support country programmes of the least developed among the developing countries, as well as regional and sub-regional programmes of special interest to those countries

*1785th plenary meeting,
20 July 1971.*

1602 (LI). Annual report of the Economic Commission for Europe

The Economic and Social Council

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Europe for the period 25 April 1970 to 30 April 1971,³ of the views expressed during the discussion, and the resolutions and the other decisions adopted by the Commission during its twenty-sixth session;⁴

2. *Endorses* the programme of work and priorities contained in the report.⁵

*1785th plenary meeting,
20 July 1971.*

1603 (LI). Inclusion of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate within the geographical scope of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and admission of the Protectorate to the Commission as an associate member

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East with regard to the request of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the inclusion of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate within the geographical scope of the Commission and the admission of the Protectorate as an associate member,⁶

1. *Approves* the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East that the British Solomon Islands Protectorate be included in the geographical scope of the Commission and admitted as an associate member of the Commission;

³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 3 (E/5001).*

⁴ *Ibid.*, part III.

⁵ *Ibid.*, part V.

⁶ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 2 (E/5030), para. 233