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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

CHAPTER II

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY  
INCLUDING REGIONAL AND SECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS

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\* The present document is a mimeographed version of chapter II of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1980. The full report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/35/3/Rev.1). For the contents see A/35/3 and Corr.1.

1. The general discussion in the Council dealt not only with recent trends in the world economy, but also with basic issues of paramount importance to economic and social progress throughout the world, and particularly to the development of the developing countries. The main structural changes leading to, or obstructing, the establishment of the new international economic order, the state of global negotiations and the preparations for a new international development strategy figured prominently in the general discussion. The international payments outlook and the role of financial transfers, as well as trade and energy issues, also received special attention throughout the general debate.

2. As background material for the general discussion, the Council had before it the World Economic Survey 1979-1980 (E/1980/38); the report of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy (A/S-11/2); 1/ the report of the Secretary-General on distribution of income in the nation: rural-urban differentials (A/35/231); the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its sixteenth session (E/1980/3); 2/ and summaries dealing with recent economic development in the ECE region (E/1980/62), economic and social conditions in Asia and the Pacific, 1979 (E/1980/33), the evolution of the Latin American economy in 1979 (E/1980/71), economic and social conditions in Africa, 1978-1979 (E/1980/56) and economic and social developments in the ECWA region, 1979 (E/1980/66). In addition, the Council drew upon several reports and studies by the United Nations Secretariat and the governing bodies of specialized agencies, 3/ and other international institutions. The Council also received statements on economic and social conditions in the world and in particular regions, submitted by various non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council.

#### Opening Statements

3. Declaring the session open (E/1980/SR.24), the President of the Council said that the Council was meeting in a year which marked the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Although the tasks of the Council remained immense and urgent, it could be proud of its achievements: in 1945, information on world conditions had been very scanty, even about the earth's population, whereas today, thanks to the Council's functional commissions, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions, an unprecedented amount of information about the human family and its planetary abode was available. Great progress had been achieved in world co-operation. Yet, despite that progress,

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1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Eleventh Special Session, Supplement No. 2 (A/S-11/2).

2/ To be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 2 (E/1980/3).

3/ A detailed list of the documentation appears in the annotations to the provisional agenda for the Council's second regular session of 1980 (E/1980/100).

international relations and the world economy were still going through a series of crises which would grow more serious unless the international community found solutions for the problems it was faced with.

4. During the 1970s, just when a clearer perception had begun to emerge of how the world was interrelated and how the North and the South depended upon each other, the gap between the rich and the poor countries had widened, protectionist measures had increased, the terms of trade of developing countries in general had deteriorated, official development assistance as a percentage of the gross national product (GNP) had declined, the external debts of developing countries had reached an alarming level, and the international monetary system had yet to be reformed to take into account the needs of developing countries. All those factors pointed to the urgent need for drastic modifications in international economic relations. That would require a new approach based on the recognition that structural changes were the only way to achieve sustained and healthy world economic growth. He hoped that during the current session the Council would make further progress in preparing the new international development strategy and in reaching agreement on the agenda and procedure for the new round of global negotiations.

5. The Council had also been entrusted with the task of undertaking a comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development and preparing guidelines for future reviews. It should be noted that, despite an agreement in the restructuring exercise that the flow of resources for operational activities should be increased in real terms, progress had yet to be made in the attainment of that objective. On the other hand, in the exercise about to be undertaken, it was essential to ensure that the operational activities of the United Nations system were managed and executed in the most efficient manner.

6. Much had been said about the need for the Council to revitalize itself and become more effective in co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system as a whole. There was no doubt that in the course of the 1980s, the restructuring of international economic relations would become the primary concern of the international community. The United Nations system would be entrusted with more responsibilities in international negotiations and in the provision of technical assistance. The Council must be restructured in order to discharge effectively its function as a central forum for the consideration of economic, social and humanitarian problems. He urged members to make use of the present opportunity to reflect upon that question and to take the necessary decisions to enable the Council to accomplish its unfulfilled tasks.

7. The Secretary-General, in his address to the Council (E/1980/SR.24), recalled that, the year before, he had pointed out to the Council how difficult the outlook was for the world economy and had noted with concern that no significant results had been achieved in the international economic negotiations aimed at resolving some of the difficulties. That forecast, which might have seemed pessimistic, had been borne out by developments: the economic outlook, immediate as well as longer-term, was bleak and the North-South dialogue was not making any real progress. Against a background of reviving political tensions, those economic difficulties could themselves introduce an additional source of tension.

8. In a few weeks the General Assembly would hold a special session whose

purpose was to give needed impetus to international co-operation for development and to the negotiations which served as its instrument. On the basis of an analysis of the progress made in implementing the new international economic order, the special session was to adopt an international development strategy for the coming decade and to take the decisions required to launch a new round of global negotiations early in 1981. In recent months, two intergovernmental committees had been actively engaged in preparing for the session. There were still substantial disagreements concerning the texts to be adopted and an effort must be made to arrive at the necessary compromises. He hoped that the Council's deliberations would contribute to that end, for its task was precisely that of preparing the way for, and facilitating the work of, the General Assembly in the economic and social field.

9. If action was to be taken along the correct lines and with the requisite vigour, the first necessity was to make an accurate assessment of the many difficulties facing the world economy. A detailed analysis of them was to be found in the World Economic Survey, 1979-1980. He wished to draw attention to certain elements of that analysis which gave particular cause for concern.

10. First, the growth rate of most of the petroleum-importing developing countries had in recent years failed to meet the requirements of their development. Their growth was being slowed by the economic recession now making itself felt in the developed market-economy countries and by the rising tide of protectionism in those countries. They were also feeling the negative impact of a deterioration in the terms of trade resulting from the increased cost of their imports of energy and manufactured goods. Their external deficit was increasing steeply while, except in the case of a very few, their ability to adjust to unsettling external factors remained limited.

11. Secondly, the plight of the low-income countries was, in those circumstances, particularly alarming. A number of them were already experiencing stagnation in production, which meant that their per capita output was declining. As matters stood, those countries were dependent upon official development assistance. He wished to emphasize strongly how serious it was that the average level of official development assistance had remained stationary and was still less than half the target figure set by the international community more than 10 years earlier.

12. Thirdly, the petroleum-exporting developing countries were themselves confronting serious problems. Their efforts to diversify their economies and create the basis for autonomous development were encountering difficulties with regard to access to the markets and technology of the developed countries. The precarious nature of the financial assets available to them made it increasingly less advantageous for them to maintain or expand oil production at levels which went much beyond the immediate requirements of the financing of their development.

13. Fourthly, growth of the planned-economy countries had continued to slacken because of the structural difficulties facing their economies and, in 1979, the impact of unfavourable climatic factors on the agricultural sector. Their performance had also been affected, particularly in the case of the East European countries, by balance-of-payments difficulties resulting from the deterioration of their terms of trade and the economic slow-down in the developed market economies.

14. Fifthly, the recession in the developed market economies appeared to be even more severe than had been anticipated when the Survey had been prepared. At the same time, the rate of inflation had recently accelerated. That situation not only caused unemployment, but also created conditions which fostered an increase in protectionist trends. It discouraged the investment required in order to effect adjustments in production structures, particularly in the field of energy production and conservation. The high priority given by the leaders of those countries to the fight against inflation was a positive factor in the world economy. It would be unfortunate, however, if the measures taken were directed too exclusively towards restrictive policies in the matter of demand. Experience had shown that such measures were not by themselves sufficient to control inflation. More emphasis should therefore be placed on national as well as international policies to deal with the structural and institutional factors in inflation.

15. Sixthly, the transition from a period in which oil had been the main source of cheap, abundant energy to a period in which energy sources would be more varied and more expensive was taking place under difficult and unsettled conditions. Some progress had been made in the developed countries in the field of energy conservation, but it was less than might have been achieved with more vigorous policies. Moreover, unstable, precarious energy markets made for behaviour characterized by extreme caution of costly speculation on the part of all partners in the world economy.

16. All those difficulties contributed to a bleak outlook for the decade of the 1980s. He had been struck by the fact that the conclusions of a number of recent reports, including the Brandt Commission report, coincided. The latter dramatically underlined the gravity of the situation of the third world and the threat to international political stability if rapid and important changes were not made in the field of international economic co-operation. In a world of growing interdependence, any progress in that field would contribute to the relaxation of the current tension on the political scene.

17. A number of priorities for international action during the decade were proposed in the draft of the international development strategy. The first priority was the acceleration of growth in the developing countries. The situation of extreme poverty affecting hundreds of millions was such that the global and sectoral growth targets to be adopted must be ambitious. This would require a major effort by the developing countries themselves to mobilize their human, natural and financial resources, and to secure the participation of the entire population both in the process and in the results of development. With regard to participation, he stressed the important role of women in the development process, a role which would be the focus of deliberations at the United Nations conference about to be held at Copenhagen. The efforts made by the developing countries, and the co-operation which they were fostering among themselves with a view to increasing their collective self-reliance, must enjoy the support of a much more favourable international environment.

18. The restructuring of international economic relations, in other words the establishment of a new international economic order, should quite rightly be the basic objective of the new strategy. The attainment of that objective would call for reforms which should focus on the machinery regulating the international economy in the trade, financial and monetary sectors and, in some cases, on the functioning of the institutions monitoring that process. The draft of the strategy described the general thrust of those reforms; what was now needed was agreement on

the specific conditions for their implementation. That was the purpose of the global negotiations to be launched by the special session.

19. The negotiations would focus on five major areas of the international economy: raw materials, energy, trade, development, and monetary and financial questions. A number of the subjects covered were of major significance and closely interrelated, in particular the questions of money, finance and energy: they should be given, during a limited period of the negotiations, all the attention they deserved because of their importance to all partners in the world economy. Other questions, concerning raw materials, trade and development, were also highly important: they should be included in the agenda, at least to the extent that the negotiating process could lead to genuine progress towards their solution. In spite of considerable disagreement regarding the inclusion or formulation of certain agenda items, he was convinced that significant compromises could be found.

20. The Secretary-General then drew attention to some conditions for the success of the negotiating process itself. In negotiations, all countries and all groups of countries had something to gain and something to contribute. They would agree to put their assets at stake if there were enough evidence that their partners in negotiations were also prepared to do so and to accept changes in areas where they had certain advantages.

21. The negotiations should therefore be guided by a desire to find mutually advantageous solutions. It was essential, however, not to lose sight of the fact that the standard of living of the richest and most advanced countries, their economic strength and their de jure or de facto control over a number of key points in the system of international economic relations put them in a position to make a greater contribution than the vast majority of the developing countries. As already decided by the General Assembly, such negotiations should proceed in a simultaneous manner in order to ensure a coherent and integrated approach to the issues under negotiation. Throughout the negotiating process, the General Assembly or the organ designated by it would have a central role to play.

22. He had been impressed by the fact that, in the course of the various contacts he had had in recent months with high-level political figures, there had been few who had not stressed the need for action at the international level through consultation and negotiation. On the other hand, doubts, if not scepticism, had often been expressed regarding the capacity of the United Nations to provide an adequate framework for negotiation culminating in action-oriented decisions. There was, however, no reason why the United Nations should be automatically excluded from serving as an effective forum for such a process of negotiation. It depended upon the will of Member States to organize the composition of their delegations accordingly and to be innovative in their methods of work.

23. He understood that there was already a measure of agreement on the time-table for the negotiations: they should begin early in 1981 and produce a first set of results before the General Assembly's thirty-sixth session. The time-frame must not, however, prevent the seeking of immediate answers to certain urgent problems. The situation of many developing countries already gave grounds for great concern and might deteriorate considerably during the next few months; it called for urgent action involving the entire international community. He was therefore suggesting that Member States should consider the possibility of adopting, at the special session, certain decisions for speedy implementation. Those decisions

should be drawn up in such a way as not to affect or prejudge the results of the global negotiations one of whose objects was to seek long-term solutions and promote lasting institutional changes.

24. Even at the present stage he wished to draw the attention of Governments to some of the subjects with which such more urgent decisions might deal.

25. First, in the coming months all the oil-importing developing countries would need external resources to finance their current balance-of-payments deficits. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank might be urged to take measures as soon as possible, to enable those countries to obtain increased assistance. Such assistance should be granted on terms adapted to a process of adjustment over a period of time. It might consist, inter alia, of rapid development of the Bank's programme loans for facilitating structural adjustments, the principle of which had recently been adopted, and of an increase in the resources needed for that purpose. Adjustments should be made in the terms and conditions attached to the use of the Fund's facilities in order to encourage the developing countries to utilize those facilities more intensively and at an earlier stage.

26. Secondly, consideration should be given to a special operation for the benefit of low-income countries with serious external balance problems. A study prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the General Assembly gave an initial estimate of some \$US 5 billion for the volume of additional official assistance which those countries would need in 1981 in order to be able to increase their imports and not be forced to hold up the process of their development. That assistance could be provided by the industrialized countries and by other countries in a position to help and should begin to be available by early 1981. It could be channelled, in part, through various interregional or multilateral agencies, and the United Nations itself would have a role to play.

27. Thirdly, an increase in the volume of investments for the exploration, development and exploitation of conventional and renewable sources of energy in the developing countries must not be delayed. The initiatives already taken, especially through multilateral agencies and the World Bank in particular, should be intensified and their resources should be substantially increased. The industrialized countries, as also petroleum-exporting countries which could do so, might contribute. The problem would no doubt be given in-depth consideration in the course of the global negotiations, but it seemed to him sufficiently urgent to justify initial measures that would have an immediate effect.

28. In view of the difficulties being encountered by the world economy and in the strengthening of international co-operation, there was a strong temptation for each country to adopt an inward-looking attitude and to try to shift to others the burden of adjustment efforts. Such behaviour should be discouraged, because it could bring about a series of economic and political crises. In a world where interdependence and inequality coexisted, co-operation and solidarity were the only appropriate responses. The world must not yield to pessimism or scepticism. It was often in times of crisis that important changes had been possible. It was for the political leaders to seize the opportunity to direct change rather than submit to it.



### General debate

29. All the speakers that participated in the general debate expressed deep concern about the state of the world economy. The difficulties encountered by most countries in 1979, and particularly developing countries, had intensified in the first half of 1980 and prospects were grim. Many representatives observed that, as indicated in the World Economy Survey, 1979-1980, slow growth and accelerating inflation, accompanied by substantial rises in current-account deficits, were undermining the prospects for early recovery. Investment remained depressed and unemployment was on the increase in a large number of countries. Several speakers noted that against such a background the need for the establishment of the new international economic order became even more obvious. Yet, preparations for the new international development strategy for the third development decade were still unfinished and the Committee of the Whole had not been able to reach agreement on an agenda or time-table for global negotiations. The outlook for significant progress at the forthcoming eleventh special session of the General Assembly was clouded, and very considerable political efforts had to be made if the special session was to succeed.

30. Some delegations noted that it was an indisputable fact that the present system of international economic relations had proved incapable of safeguarding the interests of either developing or developed countries. Recognition of that fact in recent international discussions provided an objective basis for negotiations between the North and the South. Establishment of the new international economic order was essential because the present inequitable system resulted in international tensions and confrontation. It was important to recognize that the United Nations was in a position to mobilize the political will of all States to contribute to that common effort. Speakers stressed that the structural changes in international economic relations should be based on new, democratic principles and should give a central position to the problems of developing countries. In that context, many representatives said that the forthcoming eleventh special session of the General Assembly must result in clear political commitments by all States to ensure that the global negotiations and the new international development strategy led to agreements on practical measures.

31. Several representatives expressed their serious concern over the lack of progress in the Committee of the Whole. The General Assembly, at its thirty-fourth session, had, at the initiative of the Group of 77, adopted an important resolution concerning global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development. Such negotiations were to be held in order to arrive at a package solution on raw materials, development, trade, energy and the monetary and financial system. Substantial problems had already been encountered in the preparatory work, for example, regarding the agenda and procedures. The world community should not be faced with the menace of failure of the special session in that regard. It was imperative for decisions to be taken through the exercise of mature political will, which alone could transform the bleak prospects and make the session a success.

32. Several delegations stressed the view that the international development strategy for the third United Nations development decade should be formulated within the framework of the new international economic order. The strategy should contemplate changes, inter alia, in the following areas: the industrial sectors of developed countries should be aligned with those of developing countries to facilitate increased exports of manufactures; there should be a substantial expansion of official development assistance; the international monetary system



should be reformed with a view to putting into effect a series of financial measures to support the external resource requirements of developing countries; protectionist policies of developed countries should be abolished. A number of representatives stressed the importance of social issues and expressed their satisfaction with the fact that such issues had been explicitly considered in the preparatory work for the new international development strategy.

33. Some delegations suggested that, first, the strategy should determine the conditions indispensable for international economic co-operation. Secondly, it should indicate the factors, such as colonialism, neo-colonialist exploitation, foreign aggression and occupation, racism and apartheid, and other forms of foreign domination, that constitute obstacles to development and international economic co-operation. Thirdly, the strategy should identify the conditions necessary for socio-economic development, in particular the right to permanent sovereignty over natural resources and the right to subordinate transnational enterprises and foreign investments to domestic development needs. Fourthly, the strategy should formulate ways of supporting developing countries in their efforts to accelerate economic and social development.

34. A number of representatives observed that the search for solutions to enable the world economy to emerge from the recession, which had clouded the preparatory work on global negotiations, also formed part of the background for preparation of the new international development strategy. Although the strategy was essentially aimed at the accelerated development of the developing countries and the establishment of a new and more just international economic order, efforts to achieve those goals would be more effective if they were made in the context of stable economic expansion. The primary responsibility for their own development lay with the developing countries themselves. Notwithstanding, effective action was needed to create an external environment favourable to their efforts; thus, there was an obvious link between the global negotiations and the strategy.

35. In presenting his progress report to the Council, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy said that, in spite of difficulties, the Committee had come a long way in the last two years. That was reflected in broad agreements in several areas in the sections relating to goals and objectives and to policy measures. However, there were still important issues outstanding. Although a general understanding had emerged in the Committee that the over-all growth target for developing countries should be set at a high level, no definite figure had as yet been agreed upon. In the section on policy measures, the main outstanding issues were in the financial, monetary and energy areas. It was a matter of great concern that on the question of commitments concerning official development assistance, which was at the core of the strategy, the major donor countries had yet to give some specific indication of their intentions regarding the fulfilment of international targets and the time-frames involved. It was essential to move forward on that issue. In spite of the difficult task ahead, however, he felt that the progress so far made justified a guarded optimism. It could be hoped that at the end of the eleventh special session of the General Assembly, there would be agreement on an effective international development strategy which could make a significant contribution to the establishment of the new international economic order.

36. In their analysis of the current economic situation, many representatives stressed the particular difficulties of non-oil-exporting developing countries. Their deficit on current account, which had amounted to \$35 billion in 1978, was

likely to reach nearly \$70 billion in 1980. As indicated in the World Economic Survey 1979-1980, that posed enormous problems for developing countries whose external debt was already considerable. As aid flows were lagging, the low-income countries, which were particularly reliant on such transfers, also faced acute difficulties. Prospects for 1981 were not good either. Recession in the industrialized countries and mounting protectionist pressures would undoubtedly affect their export revenues. Moreover, international inflation was still on the increase, raising the cost of imports, which would further widen their current account deficit in 1981.

37. Several delegations pointed out that international inflation was not a new phenomenon. Inflation in industrial countries started in the second half of the 1960s and began to accelerate in the early 1970s. The rise in oil prices was in most cases a factor that followed rather than caused inflation. In fact, in spite of the stability of oil prices in international markets during the period 1976-1978, inflation in industrial countries remained significant and even started to accelerate in the second half of 1978. In non-oil-exporting developing countries, the oil bill accounted for only one fifth of their total imports, and therefore the increase in oil prices did not have an impact on domestic prices as great as that of other international price increases, particularly those for manufactures. In that context, some representatives pointed out that the international financial and monetary situation was not affecting only the developing countries. The socialist countries were also feeling its negative consequences.

38. Other delegations observed that the shock caused by recent oil price increases was excessive in relation to the actual possibilities of industrial countries to absorb additional inflationary pressures, which were being exacerbated by the fact that in less than 12 months the average price of oil had more than doubled. The use of demand-management policies to offset, at least partly, those pressures was leading to low economic growth in general, depressed international trade, and encouraged protectionism and greater resistance to structural adjustment.

39. The Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund said that inflation was deeply entrenched in the industrialized countries and that it constituted the most serious of all present-day economic problems. The acceleration of inflation in the past year was due, in part, to the greater cost of oil but also to the insufficiently rigorous fiscal and monetary policies applied in the past few years in most of those countries. The effects of those two inflationary factors were aggravated by the rigidity of social and economic structures. High levels of inflation in developed and developing countries were the main obstacle to the solution of other major economic problems, national as well as international.

40. A number of delegations observed that the current outlook was particularly sombre. Inflationary pressures were having to be absorbed in conditions of significant imbalances in current accounts, growing unemployment and depressed investments. Some representatives pointed out that under current conditions, and in spite of the widely-acknowledged fact that the contribution of the developing world to the halting of recessionary trends in the industrial countries had been significant, the measures taken by developed countries to cope with their problems had tended to shift the burden of the crisis onto developing countries. Developing countries had long insisted that existing problems could not be overcome and the dynamic development of the world economy ensured without the establishment of the new international economic order.

41. In that connexion, it was noted that available information indicated that the developed North might have an average yearly economic growth rate of about 3 per cent in the 1980s. The developing countries, however, would have to find ways of reaching rates of 6 to 7 per cent. Although the developed countries could live with low growth rates, having already reached comfortable living standards, for the countries of the South survival itself depended on development. The close links between the economies of the South and those of the North made it imperative for the developing countries to insist that international conditions should be established that would allow them to improve their development prospects. The growing sentiment in the North itself that structural change was mandatory in order to benefit everybody was thus a welcome development.

42. Some speakers noted that the recent Venice Summit had once again pointed to the gravity of the situation facing the world economy. It was stated that the message from the Summit had been clear: the obstacles to economic development and prosperity could only be overcome if, with the interests of all in mind, the industrialized countries of the free world, the oil-producing countries and the non-oil-producing developing countries worked together. Several representatives drew attention to the Brandt report, which highlighted the interdependent character of today's world. Thus, it was essential to continue the international dialogue in the economic and political fields. In that respect, it seemed important, as the Brandt report had stressed, that all countries irrespective of their level of development and political system must become conscious of their mutual interests and shared responsibilities.

43. A number of delegations pointed out the leading role of transnational corporations in perpetuating the economic dependence of developing countries, rather than fostering interdependence. It was indispensable to limit the uncontrolled activities of the imperialist monopolies in the developing countries. The elaboration of a code of conduct for transnational corporations should be speeded up. In the context of financial transfers and aid, it would also be in the interests of developing countries to take due note of the drain on their resources caused by private investments. Some representatives said that transnational corporations would nevertheless continue to play an important role in developing countries. Efforts should therefore be taken at the global and regional levels to increase the flow of information on the activities of those firms as a means of improving the bargaining position of the host countries.

44. Several delegations drew attention to the large shifts in current-account balances occurring in the different groups of countries. The current-account surplus of oil-exporting countries amounting to more than \$100 billion in 1980, which largely represented the counterpart of the deficits of developed countries and non-oil-exporting developing countries, required an adequate outlet as a means of preserving the value of oil-exporting countries' assets. Further, with regard to financial issues, some representatives observed that existing financial mechanisms would apparently not suffice to cope with the massive financial requirements of oil-importing developing countries resulting from the deterioration of the balance of payments in a large number of them. In that context, three factors, had considerable importance: the existing high level of debt, the more cautious attitude of international commercial banks regarding loans and the recent trend of interest rates in international financial markets. A number of representatives noted that OPEC countries had tended to minimize their risks by investing most of their surplus in a limited number of developed countries. It

was time for them to become involved to a greater extent with non-oil-exporting developing countries through international financial institutions, direct investment or direct loans or grants.

45. In the opinion of several speakers the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank could play a special role at the present juncture. Such a role was of particular importance for the countries which were the hardest hit by the rising cost of oil imports, those with high levels of external debt, and those which were not in a position to attract funds on commercial terms. Some delegations welcomed the fact that the International Monetary Fund was prepared to play an increasing part in the recycling of surplus funds, to lend in larger amounts than previously and where appropriate, to go beyond previously established ceilings in relation to quotas, as well as the fact that the World Bank was prepared to make loans for multi-year adjustment programmes and to double its capital by about \$40 billion.

46. A number of representatives, however, stressed that what was needed was a thorough reform of the international monetary system. There was a basic weakness in the present system, which depended on one national currency as the principal source of international reserve and liquidity assets. The International Monetary Fund, supported by Western developed countries, persisted in meting out wrong economic prescriptions to developing countries, so that its considerable liquidity was not being utilized for the development needs of developing countries. Thus, it was essential to democratize the decision-making process in the Fund, to use special drawing rights (SDRs) as the principal source of international liquidity and reserve needs, and to establish a link between SDRs and the development needs of developing countries.

47. As to financial transfers, the need for aid was stressed by many delegations. According to the World Economic Survey, 1979-1980, the current-account deficit of non-oil-exporting developing countries was expected to increase by more than 100 per cent between 1978 and 1981, from \$35 billion to \$80 billion. For a large number of those countries official development assistance (ODA) played a fundamental role in their total external financing. Lately, ODA disbursements had significantly lagged. It represented only a little more than 0.3 per cent of the gross national product of donor countries, which was well below the target of 0.7 per cent set in the international development strategy. Increased aid had to be seen not only in terms of the needs of developing countries. It also had to be borne in mind that more dynamic growth in those countries would offer an enormous potential as markets for developed countries. Some speakers drew attention to the fact that the members of OPEC were important providers of aid to the developing world. Figures published by OECD in 1978 showed that OPEC countries were furnishing about 2 per cent of their GNP to the developing world, as compared with 0.31 per cent for OECD countries.

48. A number of representatives stressed that greater resources would be available if the arms race were slowed down. At present, industrial countries allocated about \$450 billion to armaments. It was further observed that the arms race had other negative consequences. First, it increased international tension and undermined the atmosphere of trust, without which there could be no effective international economic co-operation. Moreover, it was precisely unproductive and wasteful military expenditure that contributed to domestic price pressures and international inflation, which had become a real impediment to the stabilization of the world economic situation.

49. In the opinion of several delegations, the special situation of the least developed countries and other low-income developing countries deserved special consideration. Those countries had been particularly affected by recent developments and their terms of trade had deteriorated considerably. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa stated that the 20 countries in the region classified as the least developed among the developing countries had been hard hit. Many speakers drew attention to the suggestion of the Secretary-General for launching a special operation to cope with the problems of those countries. A number of them stated that they would study carefully the emergency measures suggested and that they appreciated the efforts of the Secretary-General to propose a specific approach to the problems to be considered at the eleventh special session of the General Assembly. In that context, some representatives stressed what the Secretary-General himself had indicated - namely that such an initiative must not affect or prejudice the outcome of the global negotiations. Any measures that might be contemplated as a result of the initiative should not detract, or distract attention, from the forthcoming global round, nor should they be used as a substitute for the long-term structural changes required in the world economic system.

50. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development reported that a number of major negotiations had recently been brought to a successful conclusion. Earlier in the year, negotiations on the adoption of rules to regulate restrictive business practices had been concluded and consensus had been reached on the adoption of a Convention on International Multi-Modal Transport. In addition, articles of agreement on the Common Fund had recently been adopted. Many speakers welcomed the establishment of the Common Fund, which represented a considerable progress for the implementation of the Integrated Programme for Commodities. Its early implementation could significantly assist the economies of developing countries by improving world commodity trade.

51. Several delegations stressed the negative effects of protectionist measures. Such measures were being directed more and more to the sectors in which developing countries had become competitive. The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific underlined the need for the comparative advantages of the trading partners to be fully reflected in the international trading system. The best use of the abundant human and scarce material resources in the developing countries would continue to be frustrated if artificial barriers to trade did not permit access to markets. One representative observed that the members of OECD had recently renewed their pledge to continue efforts to liberalize trade and combat protectionism. While it was true that developing countries could be adversely affected by protectionism, it was the stagnation in the growth of the industrialized countries, rather than the exports of developing countries, that posed the greater threat to employment in the developed world. In that regard, it was further noted that positive adjustment policies were required. Such policies, by relying on market forces, would avoid barriers to capital and labour movements as well as tariff and non-tariff barriers to freer world trade.

52. Given the fact that energy constituted an essential factor in the economies of all nations, a number of representatives stated that co-operation between oil-importing and oil-exporting countries would be of great value in efforts to facilitate the predictability of energy supply, demand and prices. In the opinion of some speakers, the current problems affecting international oil markets had been partly caused by artificially low oil prices established in the past owing to the power of the developed countries, which had offered no incentives for developing alternative energy resources. Oil was a non-renewable resource which, at the current

rate of exploitation, would be exhausted in a few decades. Huge investments in alternative sources of energy and strong conservation efforts were thus necessary to enable the world economy to adjust gradually to the post-oil era. The importance of further work in the energy field was underlined by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe. A new emphasis was required. The Commission had already developed international multilateral co-operation in energy, but mainly in the areas of primary and secondary energy - coal, gas and electric power. Only recently had the Commission included the general energy field in its work programme.

53. Several representatives pointed out that the development of additional sources of energy would be an essential factor in the adjustment process of all countries. They welcomed the forthcoming United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which would strengthen the activities of the United Nations system in that area. A number of delegations stressed the importance of increasing investment in the energy sector in developing countries. It was important to strengthen petroleum exploration activities in those countries, while exploiting less costly alternative sources. They welcomed the increased emphasis that the World Bank had given to that endeavour.

54. A number of delegations expressed their concern over the increasing dependence of developing countries on food imports, which further aggravated the already precarious balance-of-payments situation of those countries. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa stated that the food and agriculture situation in the region had undergone drastic deterioration. Food production and consumption per person had fallen below nutritional requirements. The early warning system of the Food and Agriculture Organization showed that there had been widespread unfavourable crop conditions in many parts of Africa and many African countries were experiencing severe food shortages. The Director-General of FAO stressed that the problem was affecting countries in several regions. The cereal import requirements of the 59 most vulnerable developing countries was monitored by FAO, which had found that at the present time 30 per cent of their requirements for the 1980 season had not been covered. Many of those countries had secured less than half their needs for the year and, for some of them, localized famine was a real danger. As an additional difficulty, food aid was likely to fall slightly, to 9 million tons of cereals, whereas in 1974 the World Food Conference had set an annual target of at least 10 million tons.

55. As a more permanent solution for food problems, it was noted that long-term strategies to increase food production and improve storage and distribution facilities were essential. Support for such activities at the global, regional and bilateral levels was of primary importance. In that connexion, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia pointed out that the relative regression in the position of agriculture in the region was inducing recognition of the need to develop that sector, and the basis for indispensable joint action at the regional level had already been laid down.

56. The Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization said that the Third General Conference of UNIDO, held at New Delhi earlier in the year, had provided an opportunity to take stock of the movement towards, and the constraints affecting, the industrialization of the third world. The Conference had expressed disappointment at the slowness of that process. The New Delhi Declaration and Plan of Action had not reflected a full consensus. However, the Industrial Development Board, which had subsequently met at Vienna, had been able to resume the dialogue and identify priority areas for action. At that

session, a consensus had been reached on many aspects of the future work of UNIDO. A number of delegations expressed their disappointment with the results of the Third General Conference, which, as a matter of fact, to some extent indicated the lack of political will by developed countries to make progress on the establishment of the new international economic order. It was noted that industrial development was fundamental for changes in the economic structures of developing countries. In that regard, international efforts to increase the transfer of technology and support industrial investment in those countries had to be strengthened. There had been some encouraging progress at the recent United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development in that respect. Thus, speedy implementation of the results of the Conference was necessary.

57. Several representatives emphasized the importance of economic co-operation among developing countries. The policy guide-lines contained in the Arusha Programme for Collective Reliance, adopted by the Group of 77 in February 1979, had been made the basis of certain decisive steps which developing countries were taking to strengthen their mutual co-operation. More recently, at the Havana Non-Aligned Summit in September 1979, a further significant step had been taken through the adoption there of a resolution on policy guide-lines to strengthen collective self-reliance among developing countries. Technical co-operation among developing countries with the support of UNDP had also made significant progress since the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Buenos Aires in 1978. Some delegations stressed that South-South and North-South co-operation should dovetail one another. The strengthening of South economies and their greater autonomy would be of benefit to all. In that connexion, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America pointed to the importance of revitalizing traditional mechanisms of co-operation. Significant efforts were being made by the Caribbean Community and the Andean Pact in that direction. In fact, one of the positive effects of the current crisis was the rediscovery of the enormous co-operation potential of the Latin American region.

58. A number of representatives referred to the importance of social issues. The interrelationships between economic and social aspects of development were now widely recognized and there was also a clear understanding that the objectives of integral development required sometimes profound social, as well as economic, changes. It was noted that a significant part of the task of the Economic and Social Council was to view economic development in close interdependence with social development. However, although much attention had been given in the previous Decade to education and manpower training, to the roles of women and of youth in the development process and to population issues, there was still a long way to go before the two main aspects of development were integrated in the activities and programmes of the various organizations. Thus, new efforts would have to be made to keep the human factor at the centre of the preoccupations of the Council.

59. Many representatives drew the attention of the Council to the refugee problem. The victims of war and social upheaval who had been driven from their homes had increased spectacularly within the past 12 months. The total number of displaced persons was now well over 6 million. That situation posed the problem not only of providing material assistance and in some cases rehabilitation, but also of finding more permanent places for resettlement. It was important that international solutions should be sought to the latter problem. More countries of resettlement must be found and the disproportionate burden borne by first-asylum countries must be eased. Some delegations commended the efforts of international agencies concerned with alleviating the plight of refugees, particularly UNHCR and UNICEF.



Voluntary organizations had also made a major contribution to mitigating human suffering. However, given the magnitude of the present task and the high probability that the problem would continue in the foreseeable future, additional efforts and increased co-ordination of those efforts, preferably under United Nations auspices, were needed.

60. It was observed that while the United Nations system had machinery to provide relief in cases of natural catastrophe, corresponding machinery to deal with man-made disasters was not always adequate. Emergencies were never the same and relief efforts had to be adapted and co-ordinated in different ways depending on whether the task was to assist refugees, combat a famine or meet health needs. On many occasions, relief measures to cope with man-made emergencies were improvised. That often caused a severe strain on organizations when so much of their capacity and resources had to be directed to emergency operations. Thus, it was important to ensure that the United Nations system was able to deal with emergencies in such a way that the regular activities of individual organizations were not unduly affected. In addressing that issue, it was essential to keep in mind the crucial importance of ensuring that the United Nations system would always be ready to respond effectively to emergency situations. That would not require the establishment of new institutions or permanent arrangements, but rather a review of the present allocation of responsibilities.

61. A number of speakers referred to the special problems of the Palestinian people. Palestinians living in the occupied territories of Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank were being affected by actions from occupation forces that tended to destroy the fabric of their society. The occupying authorities were planting settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and depleting their natural resources. That situation and the uprooting of more Palestinians not only constituted a serious threat to the peace of the region, but also jeopardized the efforts of the States of that region to develop national and regional resources harmoniously for the benefit of their peoples. It was essential to ensure lasting peace, security and development in the area. That could not be achieved, however, without the liberation of the occupied territories and the realization of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

62. Some representatives stressed the crucial role of the Council in co-ordination activities. It was important, although not good enough, for the international community to be concerned about the serious economic and social conditions facing the world. What was needed was the political will for action-oriented negotiations. Unified action, under the aegis of the Council, should make it possible to reach effective agreements in the sectors covered by recent major United Nations conferences. It was emphasized that a fundamental task of the Council was the establishment of a new international economic order. Only then could developing countries overcome under-development. It had to be recognized, however, that the latter was more than an abstract concept. It reflected such tangible realities as starvation, malnutrition, under-employment, unemployment, poor health and precarious medical services, bad housing and depleted social amenities. Under such conditions, the very right to exist was placed in jeopardy. International co-operation could play a crucial role in altering those conditions. Thus, it was a prime responsibility of the international community to bring about appropriate changes in favour of the poor and neglected of the world. If that were done, the foundation would be laid on which a world order based on justice, equality and full participation could be built.

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

Humanitarian assistance programmes in  
Djibouti and Somalia

63. At the 38th meeting, on 16 July 1980, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made a statement in response to Council resolutions 1980/9 and 1980/11.

64. At the same meeting, the Council decided to take note of the statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. For the text of the decision, see the annex below, Council decision 1980/153.

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the New International  
Development Strategy

65. At the 39th meeting, on 18 July 1980, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy informed the Council of the progress made in the work of the committee. The Chairman's statement was subsequently circulated under the symbol E/1980/105.

66. Statements were made by the representatives of India (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77), 4/ the United States of America, China, Japan and Australia and by the observer for Luxembourg (on behalf of the States members of the United Nations which are members of the European Economic Community) (see E/1980/SR.39).

67. At the same meeting, the Council decided to take note of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy (A/S-11/2 (Parts I and II)), as well as of the statement by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee. See the annex below, Council decision 1980/154.

International efforts to meet humanitarian needs in  
emergency situations

68. At the 40th meeting, on 21 July 1980, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Australia, Denmark, 4/ Finland, the Netherlands, 4/ Norway 4/, and Sweden introduced a draft resolution entitled "International co-ordination to meet humanitarian needs in emergency situations" (E/1980/L.47), which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Concerned by the increasingly heavy losses of life and property that result from emergency situations arising primarily from non-natural causes,

"Recognizing the important function of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator with respect to natural disasters,

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4/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

"Noting that on many occasions emergency situations arising primarily from non-natural causes have placed great demands on the United Nations system and its components to assist countries, in particular developing countries, in mitigating the human miseries caused by such situations,

"Aware of the implications that such emergency situations have on the development efforts of developing countries,

"Noting that the organs and bodies of the United Nations system have had to meet the humanitarian demands of such situations in addition to the discharge of their regular activities, with inevitable negative effects on those activities,

"Recognizing the important role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross and other non-governmental organizations,

"1. Recognizes the need, without prejudice to any action which may in the meantime be considered by the General Assembly, for a review of the emergency operations of the United Nations system with a view to ensuring that the resources available to the system and the international community are applied in an effective and flexible manner in this area;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General in consultation with organizations and bodies concerned, to prepare a summary report providing factual information on how the United Nations system has carried out over the last decade its role to co-ordinate and implement emergency assistance in cases other than natural disasters, and to submit it as early as possible so that it can be submitted at the latest to the Council at its first regular session of 1981."

69. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Sweden orally revised it by:

(a) Revising the title of the draft resolution to read "International co-operation to meet humanitarian needs in emergency situations";

(b) Inserting a new sixth preambular paragraph, which read:

"Recognizing the essential role played by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme in such emergency situations";

(c) Inserting the word "also" after the word "Recognizing" in the old sixth preambular paragraph;

(d) Inserting the word "humanitarian" before the words "emergency assistance" in operative paragraph 2.

70. Subsequently, Japan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

71. At the same meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics orally proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution whereby the report by the Secretary-General would be submitted, through

the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-first session, to the Council at its second regular session of 1981.

72. At the same meeting, the representative of France orally proposed the deletion of the words "to the system and the international community" from operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution.

73. At the 42nd meeting, on 22 July, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of the same sponsors, introduced a revised draft resolution entitled "International efforts to meet humanitarian needs in emergency situations" (E/1980/L.47/Rev.1). At the same time, he orally revised the revised draft resolution by:

(a) Inserting, in the seventh preambular paragraph, the words "intergovernmental organizations," before the words "the International Committee of the Red Cross";

(b) Inserting the words "within existing financial resources" after the words "to prepare", in operative paragraph 2.

74. At its 43rd meeting, on 23 July, the Council adopted the revised draft resolution, as orally further revised. For the final text, see the annex below, Council resolution 1980/43.

75. Statements were made by the representatives of Brazil and Belgium (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the European Economic Community) (see E/1980/SR.43).

#### Situation of refugees in Somalia

76. At the 42nd meeting, on 22 July 1980, the representative of Jordan, on behalf of Burundi, 4/ Djibouti, 4/ Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, 4/ Lesotho, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia, 4/ the Sudan, 4/ Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution (E/1980/L.48), entitled "Assistance to refugees in Somalia", which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having heard the statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1980, 5/

"Recalling Council resolution 1980/9 of 28 April 1980,

"Taking into account the fact that more than six months have elapsed since the visit of the United Nations interagency mission on the refugee situation in Somalia,

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5/ E/1980/SR.38.

"Noting with concern the dramatic increase in the refugee population in Somalia,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to dispatch as a matter of urgency a review mission to Somalia to assess current developments in the refugee situation as a follow-up to the earlier report of the United Nations interagency mission; 6/

"2. Further requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to submit an updated report on the current refugee situation in Somalia to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session."

77. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Jordan orally revised it by:

(a) Inserting a new second preambular paragraph, which read as follows:

"Expressing its appreciation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the dedicated and efficient manner in which they continue to work in support of refugees in Somalia,";

(b) Adding a new operative paragraph 3, which read as follows:

"Appeals once again to all Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and all voluntary agencies to further increase their assistance to the Government of the Somali Democratic Republic in its effort to provide relief and assistance to refugees in Somalia".

78. At the 43rd meeting, on 23 July, the representative of France orally proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, whereby the words "to dispatch as a matter of urgency" would be replaced by the words "to examine the necessity of dispatching".

79. At the 44th meeting, on 24 July, the representative of Jordan, on behalf of the sponsors, introduced a revised draft resolution under the same title (E/1980/L.48/Rev.1). The changes were as follows:

(a) A new second preambular paragraph was inserted, which read:

"Taking note of the statement made by the observer for Somalia on the situation of refugees in Somalia";

(b) In operative paragraph 1, the words "to dispatch" were revised to read "to consider the necessity of dispatching".

80. At the same meeting, the representative of France orally proposed the deletion, from operative paragraph 1, of the words "as a matter of urgency". That amendment was accepted by the sponsors of the revised draft resolution.

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6/ E/1980/44.

81. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the revised draft resolution, as orally revised. For the final text, see the annex below, Council resolution 1980/53.

82. The observer for Somalia made a statement (see E/1980/SR.44).

Relief and rehabilitation for displaced persons in Ethiopia

83. At the 42nd meeting, on 22 July 1980, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of Algeria, Burundi, 4/ Ethiopia, Kenya, 4/ Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mongolia, 4/ Nepal, the Sudan, 4/ Uganda, 4/ the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam 4/ and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia" (E/1980/L.50), which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its resolution 1978/39 of 1 August 1978, by which it requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in co-operation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and other specialized agencies, as well as non-governmental and voluntary organizations, to render the greatest possible assistance to the Governments of the countries in the Horn of Africa,

"Having considered the report of the interagency mission which visited Ethiopia from 6 to 15 July 1980, 7/ prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/8 of 28 April 1980, by which the Secretary-General was requested, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, inter alia, to mobilize humanitarian assistance from the international community to displaced persons in Ethiopia and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1980 on the progress achieved in the implementation of that resolution,

"Taking note of the statement of the Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation of Ethiopia,

"Deeply concerned about the grave situation facing the large number of displaced and uprooted persons in Ethiopia, and the difficulties encountered by the Government of Ethiopia in providing relief and rehabilitation to those persons,

"Taking note of the report of the interagency mission, 7/ which visited Ethiopia to assess the extent of the problem, as well as the magnitude of assistance required to help the displaced persons in Ethiopia,

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7/ To be issued as document E/1980/104.

"Noting that the humanitarian assistance rendered to the displaced persons in Ethiopia by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has fallen far short of the urgent and minimum requirements,

"Noting with deep concern the extreme difficulties that the Government of Ethiopia is faced with in providing relief and rehabilitation to several millions of its citizens, victims of the devastating drought which is currently widespread in east Africa, as well as in looking after the basic needs and rehabilitation of a large number of displaced persons,

"Recognizing the need for continued humanitarian assistance in order to alleviate the plight of the large number of displaced persons in Ethiopia and to rehabilitate them,

"1. Endorses the report of the interagency mission to Ethiopia and the recommendation contained therein; 7/

"2. Commends the action taken by the Secretary-General in arranging for a comprehensive report on the needs of displaced persons in Ethiopia to be circulated to the international community;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to appeal to the international community and to find ways and means to mobilize urgently humanitarian assistance for displaced persons and returnees in Ethiopia on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the interagency mission;

"4. Appeals to all Member States and the appropriate United Nations organizations and programmes, in particular the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and other specialized agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as voluntary agencies, to assist the Government of Ethiopia in its effort to provide relief and rehabilitation to the displaced persons in Ethiopia;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

"6. Decides to bring the present resolution to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session and to keep the matter under review."

84. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania orally revised it by inserting the words "the World Bank" after the words "the United Nations Development Programme" in operative paragraph 4.



85. At the same meeting, the representative of Iraq orally proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution whereby the word "Endorses" would be replaced by the words "Takes note of".

86. At the 43rd meeting, on 23 July, the representative of France orally proposed amendments to the draft resolution whereby:

(a) In the fourth preambular paragraph, the words "and the difficulties encountered by the Government of Ethiopia in providing relief and rehabilitation to those persons" would be deleted;

(b) The fifth preambular paragraph would replace operative paragraph 1;

(c) The sixth, seventh and eighth preambular paragraphs would be deleted;

(d) In operative paragraph 3, the words "Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" would read "Requests the Secretary-General in consultation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", and the words "on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the interagency mission" would be deleted;

(e) In operative paragraph 4, the words "governmental and non-governmental organizations" would read "intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations";

(f) In operative paragraph 5, the words "and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" would be deleted.

87. At the 44th meeting, on 24 July, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the sponsors, now joined by Liberia, introduced a revised text of the draft resolution (E/1980/L.50/Rev.1), which took into account the various amendments proposed at the 43rd meeting by the representative of France.

88. At the same meeting, the representative of France orally proposed an amendment to the fifth preambular paragraph whereby the words "by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has fallen far short of urgent requirements" would be replaced by the words "through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should be substantially increased to meet urgent requirements", and an amendment to the sixth preambular paragraph whereby the word "of" would be inserted before the word "returnees".

89. At the same meeting, the representative of Iraq orally proposed the deletion of the word "returnees" in both the sixth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 3. He subsequently amended his proposal whereby the word "voluntary" would be inserted before the word "returnees" in both paragraphs.

90. The amendments proposed by the representatives of France and Iraq were accepted by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of the sponsors of the revised draft resolution.

91. At the same meeting, the Council adopted revised draft resolution E/1980/L.50/Rev.1, as orally revised. See the annex below, Council resolution 1980/54.

### Situation of refugees in Africa

92. At the 43rd meeting, on 23 July 1980, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of Burundi, 4/ Djibouti, 4/ Lesotho, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia, 4/ and the Sudan, 4/ Uganda, 4/ the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of refugees in Africa" (E/1980/L.54).

93. At the 44th meeting, on 24 July, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the sponsors, now joined by Australia, Belgium, Denmark, 4/ France, Ghana and Sweden, orally revised operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution by replacing the words "focusing international attention on" by the words "giving special attention to".

94. Zaire subsequently joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

95. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the draft resolution as orally revised. See the annex below, Council resolution 1980/55.

#### Additional documentary material on matters related to the general discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments

96. At its 44th meeting, on 24 July 1980, the Council took note of the following documents which were before the Council in connexion with item 3 of the agenda for the second regular session:

(a) World Economic Survey, 1979-1980; 8/

(b) Summary of the economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1979: recent economic developments, 1978-1979 (E/1980/33);

(c) Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1978-1979 (E/1980/56);

(d) Summary of recent economic developments in the ECE region (E/1980/62);

(e) Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the ECWA region, 1979 (E/1980/66);

(f) Report entitled "Evolution of the Latin American economy in 1979" (E/1980/71);

(g) Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its sixteenth session. 9/

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8/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.II.C.2 and corrigendum.

9/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 2  
(E/1980/3).

97. At the same meeting, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Distribution of income in the nation: rural-urban differentials" (A/35/231) and decided to transmit that report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. See the annex below, Council decision 1980/162.

ANNEX

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council  
under agenda item 2 a/

Resolution 1980/43. International efforts to meet humanitarian  
needs in emergency situations

The Economic and Social Council,

Concerned at the increasingly heavy losses of life and property that result from emergency situations arising primarily from non-natural causes,

Recognizing the important function of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator with respect to natural disasters,

Noting that on many occasions emergency situations arising primarily from non-natural causes have made great demands on the United Nations system and its components for assisting and meeting the requirements of affected countries, in particular developing countries, in mitigating the human misery caused by such situations,

Aware of the implications that such emergency situations have for the development efforts of developing countries,

Noting that the organs and bodies of the United Nations system have had to meet the humanitarian demands presented by such situations, in addition to the discharge of their regular activities, with inevitable negative effects on those activities,

Recognizing the essential role played by specialized agencies, programmes and other entities of the United Nations system in such emergency situations,

Recognizing also the essential role played by intergovernmental organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other non-governmental organizations,

1. Recognizes the need, without prejudice to any action which may in the meantime be considered by the General Assembly, for a review of the emergency operations of the United Nations system, with a view to ensuring that the resources available are applied in an effective and flexible manner in this area;

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a/ A compilation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 1980 will be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement Nos. 1, 1A and 1B (E/1980/80 and Add.1 and 2).

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with the organizations and bodies concerned and within existing financial resources, a summary report providing factual information on the ways and means by which the United Nations system has carried out, over the last decade, its role of co-ordinating and implementing humanitarian emergency assistance in cases other than those caused by natural disasters, and to circulate that report as early as possible, so that a decision can be taken not later than at the first regular session of the Council of 1981 on how best to proceed with the substantive consideration of the report, making use of existing organs, including the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

43rd plenary meeting  
23 July 1980

Resolution 1980/53. Situation of refugees in Somalia

The Economic and Social Council,

Having heard the statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the Council at its second regular session of 1980, b/

Taking note of the statement by the observer for Somalia on the situation of refugees in Somalia, c/

Recalling Council resolution 1980/9 of 28 April 1980,

Expressing its appreciation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the dedicated and efficient manner in which they continue to work in support of refugees in Somalia,

Taking into account the fact that more than six months have elapsed since the visit of the United Nations interagency mission on the refugee situation in Somalia,

Noting with concern the dramatic increase in the refugee population in Somalia,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to consider the necessity of dispatching a review mission to Somalia to assess current developments in the refugee situation, as a follow-up to the earlier report of the United Nations interagency mission; d/

2. Further requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to submit an updated report on the current refugee situation in Somalia to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;

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b/ See E/1980/SR.38.

c/ Ibid.

d/ E/1980/44.

3. Appeals once again to all Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and all voluntary agencies to increase further their assistance to the Government of Somalia in its effort to provide relief and assistance to refugees in Somalia.

44th plenary meeting  
24 July 1980

Resolution 1980/54. Relief and rehabilitation for  
displaced persons in Ethiopia

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1978/39 of 1 August 1978, by which it requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in co-operation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and other specialized agencies, as well as non-governmental and voluntary organizations, to render the greatest possible assistance to the Governments of the countries in the Horn of Africa,

Having considered the report of the interagency mission which visited Ethiopia from 6 to 15 July 1980, e/ prepared pursuant to Council resolution 1980/8 of 28 April 1980, by which the Secretary-General was requested, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, inter alia, to mobilize humanitarian assistance from the international community to displaced persons in Ethiopia and to report to the Council at its second regular session of 1980 on the progress achieved in the implementation of that resolution,

Taking note of the statement of the Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation of Ethiopia, f/

Deeply concerned about the grave situation facing the large number of displaced and uprooted persons in Ethiopia and the difficulties encountered by the Government of Ethiopia in providing relief and rehabilitation to those persons,

Noting that the humanitarian assistance rendered to the displaced persons in Ethiopia through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should be substantially increased to meet urgent requirements,

Noting with deep concern the extreme difficulties that the Government of Ethiopia is faced with in looking after the basic needs and rehabilitation of a large number of displaced persons and voluntary returnees,

Recognizing the need for continued humanitarian assistance to alleviate the plight of the large number of displaced persons in Ethiopia and to rehabilitate them,

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e/ E/1980/104.

f/ See E/1980/SR.42.

1. Takes note of the report of the interagency mission which visited Ethiopia to assess the extent of the problem and the magnitude of the assistance required to help the displaced persons in that country;
2. Commends the action taken by the Secretary-General in arranging for a comprehensive report on the needs of displaced persons in Ethiopia to be circulated to the international community;
3. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to appeal to the international community and to find ways and means of mobilizing urgently humanitarian assistance for displaced persons and voluntary returnees in Ethiopia;
4. Appeals to all Member States and the appropriate United Nations organizations and programmes, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and other specialized agencies, intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and voluntary agencies, to assist the Government of Ethiopia in its effort to provide relief and rehabilitation to the displaced persons in Ethiopia;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;
6. Decides to bring the present resolution to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session and to keep the matter under review.

44th plenary meeting  
24 July 1980

Resolution 1980/55. Situation of refugees in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered resolution CM/Res. 814 (XXXV) adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held at Freetown, Sierra Leone, from 18 to 28 June 1980, by which it expressed its deep concern over the ever-increasing number of refugees in Africa and the alarming deterioration of their living conditions,

Aware that the serious situation arising from the growing number of refugees, currently estimated at five million, places a heavy social and economic burden on the host countries, which provide the refugees with asylum or relief,

Conscious of the need for greater attention to be paid by the international



community to the plight of refugees in Africa and, for that purpose, the need for the intensified dissemination of information on the problem,

Appreciating the assistance given so far by the international community to refugees in Africa,

Noting, however, that the amount of assistance received falls far short of the over-all requirements to meet the needs of the refugees,

1. Takes note of resolution CM/Res.814 (XXXV) adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, in particular paragraph 8 thereof, relating to the need for an international pledging conference for refugees in Africa;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to consult the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on appropriate ways and means of convening such a conference;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to arrange for consultation with the competent United Nations agencies and bodies for the purpose of preparing an adequate publicity programme, giving special attention to the conditions and needs of refugees in Africa;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session on the progress of his consultations;

5. Appeals, meanwhile, to all Member States and appropriate United Nations organizations and programmes to provide the maximum financial and material assistance to refugees in Africa, as well as to the Governments of the countries of asylum, in order that the latter may strengthen their capacity to act as hosts to the refugees and to provide the necessary services for their care, rehabilitation and resettlement.

44th plenary meeting  
24 July 1980

Decision 1980/153. Humanitarian assistance programmes in  
Djibouti and Somalia

At its 38th plenary meeting, on 16 July 1980, the Council took note of the statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, g/ made in response to Council resolutions 1980/9 and 1980/11.

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g/ See E/1980/SR.38.

Decision 1980/154. Report of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy

At its 39th plenary meeting, on 18 July 1980, the Council took note of:

- (a) The report of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy on its fourth and fifth sessions; h/
- (b) The statement made by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee. i/

Decision 1980/162. International economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 24 July 1980, the Council took note of the following documents:

- (a) World Economic Survey, 1979-1980; j/
- (b) Summary of the economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1979: recent economic developments, 1978-1979; k/
- (c) Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1978-1979; l/
- (d) Summary of recent economic developments in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe; m/
- (e) Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, 1979; n/
- (f) Report entitled "Evolution of the Latin American economy in 1979"; o/
- (g) Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its sixteenth session. p/

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h/ A/S-11/2 (parts I and II).

i/ See E/1980/SR.39.

j/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.II.C.2 and corrigendum.

k/ E/1980/33.

l/ E/1980/56.

m/ E/1980/62.

n/ E/1980/66.

o/ E/1980/71.

p/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 2 (E/1980/3).

At the same meeting, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Distribution of income in the nation: rural-urban differentials" q/ and decided to transmit that report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

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q/ A/35/231.