

2. *Decides* to convene the International Conference on Population at Mexico City from 6 to 13 August 1984, composed of a plenary and one main committee;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite:

(a) All States to participate in the Conference;

(b) Representatives of organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under its auspices in the capacity of observers to participate in the Conference in that capacity, in accordance with Assembly resolutions 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974 and 31/152 of 20 December 1976;

(c) Representatives of the national liberation movements recognized in its region by the Organization of African Unity to participate in the Conference in the capacity of observers, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3280 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974;

(d) The United Nations Council for Namibia to participate in the Conference, in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 32/9 E of 4 November 1977;

(e) The specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as other interested organs of the United Nations, to be represented at the Conference;

(f) Interested intergovernmental organizations to be represented by observers at the Conference;

(g) Interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to be represented by observers at the Conference;

(h) Other interested non-governmental organizations that may have a specific contribution to make to the work of the Conference to be represented by observers at the Conference;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the following arrangements, within the approved regular budgetary resources for the Conference and with available extrabudgetary resources:

(a) To convene, on 5 August 1984, pre-conference consultations on organizational matters regarding the Conference;

(b) To provide the necessary conference facilities for two daily plenary meetings and two daily committee meetings, as well as for evening plenary meetings, if necessary, and for the possible extension of the Conference for one day, if required;

5. *Decides* that the Population Commission, when acting as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, should concentrate on the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action¹¹ and the formulation of specific recommendations to the Conference on the further implementation of that Plan of Action;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference, in the light of the need for thorough preparation for the Conference, to circulate the documentation for the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at an early date, particularly the two basic documents concerning the review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action and the recommendations to the Conference on the further implementation of that Plan of Action, as well as the findings of the meetings of the four expert groups;

7. *Recommends* that the General Assembly, at its thirty-eighth session, should approve the regular budgetary resources required for the Conference, as agreed in paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1982/42, and invites the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue his efforts to raise extrabudgetary resources for the Conference.

14th plenary meeting
26 May 1983

1983/7. Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 468 G (XV) of 15 April 1953, 645 G (XXIII) of 26 April 1957, 994 (XXXVI) of 16 December 1963, 1110 (XL) of 7 March 1966, 1488 (XLVIII) of 22 May 1970, 1744 (LIV) of 4 May 1973, 1973 (LIX) and 1974 (LIX) of 30 July 1975, 2050 (LXII) of 5 May 1977, 1979/42 of 11 May 1979 and 1981/3 of 4 May 1981,

Recognizing the importance of the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods for the harmonization of codes and regulations relating to the transport of dangerous goods,

Bearing in mind the need to maintain safety standards at all times and to facilitate trade, as well as the importance of this to the various organizations responsible for modal regulations, while meeting the growing concern for the protection of life and property through the safe transport of dangerous goods,

Noting the increasing volume of dangerous goods being introduced into world-wide commerce and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods,¹²

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and of the recommendations contained in its report with respect to the listing, classification, packaging and labelling of existing and new products, and to other matters that will ensure safety during transport;¹³

2. *Takes note* of the fact that increased importance and reliance is being placed on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods by the specialized agencies and other international organizations and by Member States, which take the recommendations more and more as a guideline for their own recommendations and regulations in order to achieve internationally harmonized laws;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the light of the contents of the report of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods:

(a) To incorporate into a new text all the new and amended recommendations made by the Committee of Experts at its twelfth session, together with any consequential changes to be introduced into existing recommendations;

(b) To publish the resulting revised text of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts in all the official languages of the United Nations as quickly as possi-

¹¹ *Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

¹² E/1983/25.

¹³ *Ibid.*, sect. V.

ble and in the most cost-effective manner, in accordance with the proposal in the report of the Committee;

(c) To circulate the recommendations as soon as possible to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned;

(d) To make available, within existing resources and in order to maintain the standard of work at the requisite level, the improved staffing requested by the Committee¹⁴ for the secretariat unit servicing the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Council in their work on the transport of dangerous goods;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine all the implications of proposals to enlarge the membership of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods by, *inter alia*, converting observers into full members in view of their active participation in its work over a continuous period, and, at the same time, of widening the decision-making base of the Committee through broader geographical representation, and to report thereon to the Council;

5. *Invites* all Governments, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned to transmit to the Secretary-General such comments as they may wish to make on the amended recommendations;

6. *Invites* all Governments and international organizations concerned to take account of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods when developing appropriate codes and regulations.

*14th plenary meeting
26 May 1983*

1983/8. World social situation

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/54 of 3 December 1982, on the world social situation,

Having considered the report of the Commission for Social Development on its twenty-eighth session,¹⁵

1. *Endorses* the conclusions reached by the Commission for Social Development on the 1982 *Report on the World Social Situation*,¹⁶ annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Transmits* those conclusions to the General Assembly for its consideration.

*14th plenary meeting
26 May 1983*

ANNEX

Conclusions of the Commission for Social Development on the 1982 Report on the World Social Situation

1. The Commission for Social Development notes that recent years have seen a worsening of the social situation. Achievements registered in certain regions and countries or in specific areas of social development do not alter this fact. This general deterioration affects in particular the developing countries. Some long-lasting problems have not been solved. Additionally, new problems have appeared, both in developing and in industrial countries, and much remains to be done to achieve the various

objectives adopted by the international community. Some countries appear to remain untouched by this general deterioration.

2. The Commission reaffirms that the ultimate aim of development is the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population on the basis of its full participation in the process of development and a fair distribution of the benefits therefrom.

3. It is necessary to achieve the rapid and complete elimination of the obstacles to the economic and social progress of peoples. Colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, *apartheid*, aggression, occupation and foreign domination and all other forms of inequality and exploitation of peoples constitute major obstacles to the economic and social progress of developing countries and peoples.

4. The existing inequities and imbalances in international economic relations are widening the gap between developed and developing countries, thereby constituting a major obstacle to the development of the developing countries and adversely affecting international relations and the promotion of world peace and security. The arms race and aggravation of international tension continue to contribute to the deterioration of the world social situation. Disarmament would release resources which could be used for the development of developing countries and could contribute to the well-being and prosperity of all.

5. A reduction of social and economic disparities and the adoption of measures to ensure the effective participation of all people in the preparation and execution of national policies for economic and social development are required, based on a full enjoyment of human rights.

6. The adverse social situation reflects the lack of implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development¹⁷ and of the objectives and overall development goals adopted and reaffirmed in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.¹⁸

7. Certain social and economic changes have occurred that have had broad and negative repercussions on the elements constituting the social sphere. There is a need to adapt governmental policies to the new and urgent needs which have arisen.

8. Greater attention needs to be accorded to a unified approach to development. The interdependence that exists between economic development and social development is becoming even more noticeable at the present time. The worsening of the social situation has a serious impact in particular areas and countries, notably on employment and income distribution. Even though additional measures are required for social progress, economic development is an essential prerequisite. It has been stressed that social change and development can have a positive influence for pulling societies out of their economic difficulties. The establishment of the new international economic order has become of great importance for social progress.

9. It is recommended that Governments make a more rational use of various available resources to deal with the worsening social situation, paying greater attention to the most essential and deserving aspects of social development which have experienced the greatest deterioration and have a multiplier effect on such development.

10. The 1982 *Report on the World Social Situation*, as well as the debate on the report in the Commission, clearly indicate that existing approaches to socio-economic development have not always been able to solve the problems of mass poverty and underdevelopment. Alternative development methods, involving in particular more effective people's participation, are needed.

11. The social situation should be monitored on a regular and in-depth basis with special attention to the manner in which the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the International Development Strategy and world plans of action have been implemented.

12. The 1985 report on the world social situation should retain a global overview while giving special attention to regional and other perspectives in social and overall development. The 1985 report should be focused on issues of international concern mentioned above and should be in line with the priorities established in General Assembly resolutions 34/152 of 17 December 1979 and 37/54 of 3 December 1982. It should fully reflect the crucial importance for social and overall development of all countries of such global international issues as the persisting imbalances in the world economy, the international economic crises particularly affecting the developing world, the relation between development and peace and the need for disarmament.

13. The 1985 report should emphasize the relationships among various aspects of national, regional and international trends and policies. It

¹⁴ One junior Professional and one General Service post.

¹⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1983, Supplement No. 4 (E/1983/14).*

¹⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.IV.2 and Corr.1 and 2

¹⁷ General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV).

¹⁸ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.