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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA
OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

AID TO THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN POPULATIONS THREATENED WITH FAMINE

Note verbale dated 19 July 1973 from the Permanent Representatives of
Chad, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and the Upper Volta to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representatives of Chad, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and the Upper Volta to the United Nations present their compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and have the honour to request the inclusion of the following item in the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly:

"Aid to the Sudano-Sahelian Populations Threatened with Famine".

In conformity with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum is attached to this note.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. For more than five years the periodic drought which had habitually struck the Sudano-Sahelian region of Africa has been worsening and in 1972-1973 it has assumed catastrophic proportions in the six following countries: Chad, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and the Upper Volta.
2. A ministerial meeting at the level of the countries concerned was held at Ouagadougou (Upper Volta) on 26-27 March 1973 and it was decided, inter alia, to appeal to friendly countries and to international bodies to assist in the achievement of the objectives set by the six countries.
3. Also, a permanent inter-State committee was set up to co-ordinate the measures to be taken to combat the drought at the subregional level.
4. In response to the appeal of the six countries, various forms of aid - bilateral, from the United Nations and from private sources - were received, but the needs are still enormous.
5. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1759 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, called upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to organize as soon as possible, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations system, "the necessary assistance action in order to respond to the requests of the Governments of this region with regard to their medium-term and long-term needs".
6. The Secretary-General accordingly convened a meeting of representatives of the organizations of the United Nations system at Geneva on 28-29 June 1973, the recommendations of which (E/5374) were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1797 (LV) on 11 July 1973.
7. In that resolution the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to invite all United Nations organizations and programmes concerned to devote as large as possible a part of their financial, technical and other resources, within the framework of their terms of reference and in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to meeting the medium- and long-term requirements for assistance of the Governments of the affected countries in the Sudano-Sahelian region, and to take such action as soon as they received the request.
8. The General Assembly should thus consider this matter as a separate item of its agenda in order to find ways and means of enabling the United Nations to participate fully and to the extent of its possibilities in the efforts already undertaken to meet the needs of the countries affected by the drought.
9. For this reason the Permanent Representatives of the countries concerned have, on instructions from their respective Governments, taken the initiative in requesting the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Aid to the Sudano-Sahelian Populations Threatened with Famine".