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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee,
Mr. Finn Jønck (Denmark), on the basis of informal consultations
held on draft resolution A/C.2/41/L.42

Fight against locust and grasshopper infestation in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986 on the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, in which it noted the importance of, inter alia, increased food production to meet the needs of Africa, and its resolution 41/29 of 31 October 1986 on the emergency situation in Africa,

Recalling also the disaster in Africa resulting from the drought of 1984 and 1985, and conscious of the ongoing efforts to combat the adverse effects of the resulting famine,

Noting resolution CM/Res.1072 (XLIV) adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its forty-fourth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa, from 21 to 26 July 1986, 1/

Alarmed by the unrelenting destructive effects of the current locust and grasshopper invasion of many African countries and the potential spread of the infestation within Africa and beyond and concerned at the economic and social consequences, including the reduction in agricultural production which could

1/ A/41/654, annex I.

continue for several years, the consequent displacement of affected populations, and, in particular, the effects on longer-term economic and social development,

Recognizing the potential problem of billions of insects capable of devouring as much as 80,000 metric tons of cereal crops daily, per swarm, of migrating great distances from points of origin, and thus of denying agricultural production to millions of producers and ultimately to consumers,

Noting that the resources of Africa are insufficient to control the locust infestation, which will need to be countered by concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels,

Recognizing the efforts of the African countries, national and international organizations and the international donor community in support of the control of locusts and grasshoppers, especially the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and its role in identifying this potential disaster,

1. Expresses its appreciation to donor countries, organizations of the United Nations system and other competent institutions in their efforts to contain the infestation;

2. Urges the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to strengthen its co-ordinating mechanisms and its technical and field operational support for locust and grasshopper control;

3. Endorses and encourages the continued co-operation of local, regional and global organizations and donors in the campaign to control the current threat to agriculture caused by locusts and grasshoppers, including the exchange and dissemination of information on pests and insects;

4. Encourages the donor community to continue to marshal its resources in support of the affected countries to bring locusts and grasshoppers under control;

5. Encourages also the affected countries to continue to ensure that adequate resources are made available to combat these recurrent crises, in particular by strengthening their national plant protection services;

6. Urges all parties concerned to establish and strengthen early warning systems in respect of the affected countries and to co-ordinate their efforts in this regard;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to take catalytic action in raising the consciousness of the world community regarding this potentially disastrous situation;

8. Invites the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to submit an up-to-date report on the locust and grasshopper infestation to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1987.