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Resolutions bearing on the work of the Commission
adopted by the Economic and Social Council
and the General Assembly

(Item 7B of the Provisional Agenda)

Introduction:

The present document refers to the relevant resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly during the period since the close of the first session of the Commission which call for action by the Commission or otherwise have a bearing on its work.

1. ECWA report to the Economic and Social Council

At its 1919th meeting, on 1 August 1974, the Council took note of the first report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (E/5539) and decided to endorse the programme of work and priorities contained in Chapter IV of the report. (Council decision 38(LVII)).

2. The question of Palestine and sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Arab territories

Taking into consideration the universality of the United Nations prescribed in the Charter, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3237(XXIX) in which it:

1. Invites the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
2. Invites the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
3. Considers that the Palestine Liberation Organization is entitled to participate as an observer in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under the auspices of other organs of the United Nations;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps for the implementation of the present resolution.

Furthermore, recalling its previous resolutions on permanent sovereignty over natural resources, particularly their provisions supporting resolutely the efforts of developing countries and the peoples of the territories under colonial and racial domination and foreign occupation in their struggle to regain effective control over their natural resources, the General Assembly at its 2323rd plenary meeting of 17 December 1974, adopted resolution 3336(XXIX) in which it:

1. Reaffirms the right of the Arab States and peoples whose territories are under Israeli occupation to full and effective permanent sovereignty over all their resources and wealth;
2. Also reaffirms that all measures undertaken by Israel to exploit the human, natural and all other resources and wealth of the occupied Arab territories are illegal, and calls upon Israel immediately to rescind all such measures;
3. Further reaffirms the right of the Arab States, territories and peoples subjected to Israeli aggression and occupation to the restitution of and full compensation for the exploitation, depletion and loss of, and damages to, the natural and all other resources and wealth of those States, territories and peoples;
4. Declares that the above principles apply to all States, territories and peoples under foreign occupation, colonial rule, alien domination and apartheid, or subjected to foreign aggression;
5. Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of relevant specialized agencies and United Nations organs, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to prepare a report on the adverse economic effects on the Arab States and peoples, resulting from repeated Israeli aggression and continued occupation of their territories, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session.

3. Implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order: mid-term Review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy: special session of the General Assembly devoted to development and international economic cooperation

In its resolution 1896(LVII), the Council requested the regional economic commissions to adjust, as appropriate, their respective programmes of work and activities so as to discharge effectively their responsibilities in relation to:

- a) the urgent implementation of the Programme of Action on the establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 3202(S-VI);
- b) the presentation of the regional mid-term reviews of the International Development Strategy;
- c) the preparation, at the regional level, of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to development and international economic cooperation, with a view to ensuring that the special session will contribute fully to the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

The Council further requested the regional economic commissions to report to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-eighth session on the measures adopted in compliance with the above mentioned resolution and to continue to report periodically thereafter.

In its resolution 1911(LVII), the Council requested all organizations, institutions and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations System, to take into account the Declaration and the Programme of Action when conducting the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy at the regional and sectoral levels, and to make their reports available in time to enable the Committee on Review and Appraisal to consider them at its meeting scheduled to be held from 12 May to 6 June 1975.

It is worth noting that the special session of the General Assembly on development and international economic cooperation called for in Assembly resolution 3172(XXVIII) of 17 December 1973, will be devoted to discussing the major themes and problems of the development process, and in this context, would decide on measures designed to bring about the necessary and appropriate changes required in the existing structures and institutions within the United Nations system and would consider appropriate change in the over-all pattern of international economic relations. In its resolution 3343(XXIX), the General Assembly decided to hold the special session from 1 to 12 September 1975.

In this connexion, the General Assembly, recognizing that collective self-reliance and growing cooperation among developing countries will further strengthen their role in the new international economic order, urged the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system to provide continuing support for the promotion of economic cooperation among developing countries. (Resol.3241(XXIX))

Aware of the fact that a redeployment of resources may be needed in order that the activities of the United Nations in the economic and social field take fully into account the Programme of Action, the Council requested the Secretary-General (resolution 1910(LVII)), in preparing his draft programme budget 1976-1977 and the medium-term plan 1976-1979 to review carefully the activities being undertaken under each programme in the economic, social and human rights fields, in order to permit the General Assembly, to redeploy, where appropriate, resources allocated to those areas.

4. The least developed countries

Having considered that the financial assistance to the least developed countries is far below the optimum level necessary to enable them to attain the growth rate contemplated in the International Development Strategy of the Second Development Decade, the General Assembly urged Member States of the U.N. to intensify urgently their efforts in favour of these countries and invited the international financial institutions, in particular the International Development Association and the regional development banks,

to allocate urgently additional resources to the least developed countries (Resol.3214(XXIX)).

5. Science and Technology capacity of developing countries

Recognizing the urgent need to build up an indigenous and autonomous science and technology capacity in the developing countries, the Council in its resolution 1900(LVII), invited the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology (ACAST) to development, in close cooperation with the agencies and organizations of the United Nations System concerned to keep the World Plan of Action and the regional plans under periodic review and appraisal. The Council further invited EACAST to prepare, in the light of new developments, new areas of topics of research and development for incorporation with World Plan of Action and/or the regional plans, bearing in mind the need for integrated economic and social research as an important factor in the setting of priorities in the field of science and technology and to present its conclusions and recommendations to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development.

The Council further requested the Secretary-General to consult with the organizations of the United Nations system on ways and means of identifying the existing gaps in the institutional scientific infrastructure at the national, regional and global levels and on the measures that would be required to strengthen this infrastructure for the implementation of the research and policy measures contained in the World Plan of Action. It has also invited the international financing organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the regional development banks, as well as developed countries, in close consultation with developing countries and at their specific request, to provide ways and means in support of the efforts of these countries to implement specific infrastructural projects for research and development.

On the question of National Science Policies, the Council urged all governments to give due importance to drafting and implementing national science and technology policies and to the establishment of at least one centre for advisory services in the field of science and technology policy in each region and requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with other international organizations, both inside and outside the United Nations system, to promote effective assistance in this field and in particular to strengthen such activities at the regional level.

6. Population policies and programmes

In its resolution 3344(XXIX), the General Assembly affirmed that the World Population Plan of Action is an instrument of the international community for the promotion of economic development and quality of life, human rights

and fundamental freedom and, accordingly, called upon the Population Commission and the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies and all other United Nations bodies which report to the Economic and Social Council to determine how each can best assist in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action and on adjustments which may be necessary in their work programmes and to report thereon to the Council.

7. Integration of women in development

In order to ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort, especially by emphasizing women's responsibility and important role in economic, social and cultural development at the national, regional and international levels, the General Assembly called upon governments, specialized agencies, regional economic commissions and non-governmental organizations to implement fully the Programme for the International Women's Year as approved by the Economic and Social Council (Resol.3275(XXIX)). It further invited the United Nations system to lend all necessary cooperation for the preparation and conduct of the Conference of the International Women's Year to be held in Mexico City in June 1975 (Resol.3342(XXIX)).

8- Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements

In view of the accelerated process of urbanization throughout the world and in recognition of the urgent need for action by members of the International community to safeguard and improve the quality of life in human settlements, the General Assembly, recalling its resolution 3001(XXVII) of 15 December 1972, to hold a United Nations Conference-Exposition on Human settlements, decided that the Conference will take place in Vancouver, Canada, from 31 May to 11 June 1976. (Resol.3128(XXVIII)).

The General Assembly affirmed that the main purpose of the Conference-Exposition should be to serve as a practical means to exchange information about solutions to problems of human settlements against a broad background of environmental and other concerns which may lead to the formation of policies and actions by Governments and international organizations. It further requested the Secretary-General and the regional economic commissions, to take the necessary steps, as part of the preparations for the Conference-Exposition, to bring to global attention the nature and relative importance of the problems of human settlements.

9- Emergency measures in regard to the supply of fertilizers and pesticides

At its 1918th plenary meeting of 31 July 1974, the Council welcomed resolution 1/63 adopted by the Council of FAO on 19 July 1974, for the immediate establishment of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme and in pursuance to it, adopted resolution 1879(LVII), calling upon all governments to participate fully in the scheme and appealing to governments of industrialized countries and others in a position to do so, to make contributions immediately to the Fertilizer Pool in the form of fertilizers or of cash. In its resolution, the Council also invited the governments of developing countries to keep the Director-General of FAO informed of their current fertilizers and pesticides import requirements and to submit requests for the fertilizers under the Scheme.

10- UNDP country programmes and regional and sub-regional projects

In its resolution 1896(LVII), the Council requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to make the necessary arrangements allowing for the delegation of the appropriate functions of an executing agency to the regional economic commissions for regional, sub-regional and inter-regional projects, financed by the Programme, in cases where such delegation is requested by the countries concerned and recommended by the Administrator of the Programme. The Council further requested the regional economic commissions to extend their cooperation to the United Nations Development Programme by participating in the planning, and, as appropriate, the implementation of relevant regional, sub-regional and inter-regional projects, and by ensuring the coordination with the Programme of their own activities, and, in particular, the activities of the United Nations Development Advisory Teams.

With regard to the decentralization of the activities of the UNDP Programme, the General Assembly, at its 2306th plenary meeting of 4 December 1974, requested the Governing Council of UNDP at its twentieth session to consider this question, in particular the establishment of regional field offices of the UNDP, in liaison with the regional economic commissions, with a view to improving the programming, delivery, implementation and follow-up action of country programmes and regional and sub-regional projects (Resol.3252(XXIX)).

11- Unified Approach to Development

At its 1918th meeting on 31 July 1974, the Council took note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit in the capacity of the regional economic commissions for a unified approach to development and the comments thereon

by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary questions and the Secretary-General (E/5430). The Council requested the regional economic commissions to consider the above-mentioned report at their most appropriate forthcoming sessions and to communicate their views to the Council not later than at its fifty-ninth session (decision 51(LVII)).

12- Rationalization of the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies

Noting with concern the large volume of documentation submitted for its fifty-seventh session, and for recent sessions of its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies, the Council decided to consider no report exceeding 32 pages, with the exception of the World Economic Survey and the Report on the World Social Situation (Resol.1894(LVII)).

At its 1973rd plenary meeting, on 15 January 1975, the Council decided that its above-mentioned resolution would also apply to the reports submitted to its subsidiary bodies (Decision 65(Org-75)). The Council further decided to waive the 32 pages rule regarding the report on the implementation of the Programme of Action and mid-term Reviews of the international development strategy called for in the Council resolutions 1896(LVII) and 1911(LVII).