



Ninth session
Agenda item 66

ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORLD FOOD RESERVE

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. José Antonio ENCINAS (Peru)

1. The General Assembly, at its 478th plenary meeting on 25 September 1954, allocated to the Second Committee the agenda item "Establishment of a world food reserve". The Committee considered the item during six meetings (A/C.2/SR.328, 329, 333 to 335 and 337). Nine delegations, as well as the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization, took part in the general debate.

2. The Committee had before it a letter dated 22 August 1954 (A/2710 and Corrs. 1 and 2) from the Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, requesting the inclusion of the item in the agenda of the session and enclosing an explanatory memorandum; it also received, at its 334th meeting, a joint draft resolution submitted by Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and Uruguay (A/C.2/L.250).

Under the operative part of the draft resolution the General Assembly would

- (a) state that it was desirable that the following questions should be studied:
- (i) the desirability of establishing a world food reserve within the framework of the United Nations; (ii) the possibility of that reserve acting as an institution to relieve emergency situations and as an organ for stabilizing prices in an anti-cyclical direction;
- (b) request the Secretary-General to make that study in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization, bearing in mind the proposals on the subject previously made in various organs; and (c) request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly the results of this study and the conclusions reached for consideration at its tenth regular session.

3. At its 335th meeting, the Committee received a revised text (A/C.2/L.250/Rev.1) of the joint draft resolution, sponsored by Australia, Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, France, Indonesia, Netherlands, Peru, Saudi Arabia and Uruguay.

The revised text read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Being convinced of the need for continued national action and international co-operation:

"(a) To raise the levels of production and standards of consumption of food in many areas of the world where famine or chronic malnutrition is a major problem,

"(b) To seek practicable methods of preventing unduly large short-term fluctuations in agricultural prices and to this end to promote the rational disposal of intermittent agricultural surpluses,

"Considering that in some countries the establishment of a food reserve for various purposes has been operated efficiently,

"Recalling the various resolutions adopted by international institutions upon this subject in the past,

"Considering that no factual and comprehensive study has been made of the following:

"(a) The feasibility of establishing a world food reserve within the framework of the United Nations,

"(b) The feasibility of such a reserve acting as an institution which would contribute to relieve emergency situations and to counteract excessive price fluctuations,

"1. Expresses its appreciation of the valuable work being done in these fields by the Food and Agriculture Organization;

"2. Asks the Secretary-General to request the Food and Agriculture Organization, taking into account the discussions at the ninth session of the General Assembly and the proposals previously made on this subject to prepare a factual and comprehensive report of what has been and is being done in this connexion for submission to the Economic and Social Council,

"3. Requests the Economic and Social Council to report on this matter, with its conclusions, to the General Assembly."

4. At the same meeting verbal amendments were submitted by:
- (i) The Union of South Africa, proposing to replace in sub-paragraph (b) of the first paragraph of the preamble the words "to seek practicable methods of preventing" by the words "to prevent";
 - (ii) Australia, proposing that the second paragraph of the preamble should read "Considering that in some countries a food reserve has been established for various purposes and has operated efficiently".

Both these amendments were accepted by the co-sponsors of the joint draft resolution.

5. Various other verbal amendments were suggested, particularly with regard to the fourth paragraph of the preamble, and it was agreed at the 335th meeting that the Chairman should submit to the Committee, in a further revised text, his proposed modifications in the light of the suggestions made in the course of the discussion. At its 336th meeting, the Committee received the further revised text (A/C.2/L.250/Rev.2). This incorporated the two modifications proposed by the Union of South Africa and Australia and accepted by the sponsors, and also the proposed changes made by the Chairman. The fourth paragraph of the preamble of the new text read as follows:

"Considering that no factual report has been made dealing comprehensively with the following:

"(a) The feasibility of establishing a world food reserve within the framework of the United Nations,

"(b) The feasibility of such a reserve acting as an institution which would contribute to relieve emergency situations and to counteract excessive price fluctuations".

In operative paragraph 2 of the revised text the General Assembly would "request" the Secretary-General to "invite" the Food and Agriculture Organization, taking into account the discussions at the ninth session of the General Assembly and the proposals previously made on this subject, to prepare a factual and comprehensive report of what has been and is being done in this connexion, for submission to the Economic and Social Council. The Committee also received at the same meeting a statement, submitted by the Secretary-General, of the financial implications (A/C.2/L.250/Rev.2/Add.1) of the draft resolution.

6. The revised joint draft resolution (A/C.2/L.250/Rev.2) was voted upon at the 337th meeting as follows, a separate vote being taken, at the request of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on the second and fourth paragraphs of the preamble and operative paragraph 1.

The second paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 38 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The fourth paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 35 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 1 was adopted by 39 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The joint draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 43 votes to none, with one abstention.

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORLD FOOD RESERVE

The General Assembly

Being convinced of the need for continued national action and international co-operation:

(a) To raise the levels of production and standards of consumption of food in many areas of the world where famine or chronic malnutrition is a major problem,

(b) To prevent unduly large short-term fluctuations in agricultural prices and to this end to promote the rational disposal of intermittent agricultural surpluses,

Considering that in some countries a food reserve has been established for various purposes and has operated efficiently,

Recalling the various resolutions adopted by international institutions upon this subject in the past,

Considering that no factual report has been made dealing comprehensively with the following:

(a) The feasibility of establishing a world food reserve within the framework of the United Nations,

(b) The feasibility of such a reserve acting as an institution which would contribute to relieve emergency situations and to counteract excessive price fluctuations,

1. Expresses its appreciation of the valuable work being done in these fields by the Food and Agriculture Organization;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to invite the Food and Agriculture Organization, taking into account the discussions at the ninth session of the General Assembly and the proposals previously made on this subject, to prepare a factual and comprehensive report of what has been and is being done in this connexion, for submission to the Economic and Social Council;
3. Further requests the Economic and Social Council to report upon this matter, with its conclusions, to the General Assembly.
