

14. *Urges* those specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system which have not already done so to include in the agenda of the regular meetings of their governing bodies a separate item on the progress made and action to be taken by those organizations in their implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions of United Nations bodies;

15. *Also urges* the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system to formulate, with the active co-operation of the Organization of African Unity, and to submit, as a matter of priority, to their governing and legislative organs concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant United Nations decisions;

16. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the present resolution and to the discussion on the subject at the second regular session of 1987 of the Economic and Social Council;

17. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to continue consultations on these matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Chairman of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* and to report thereon to the Council;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the present resolution, with particular attention to co-ordination and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities provided by various organizations of the United Nations system aimed at enabling the Namibian people to achieve their independence speedily, and to report thereon to the Council at its second regular session of 1988;

19. *Decides* to keep these questions under continuous review.

*35th plenary meeting
8 July 1987*

1987/79. Cross-organizational review of the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system and programme analysis in the area of science and technology for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the cross-organizational review of the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system and programme analysis in the area of science and technology for development⁴¹ and part one

of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on its twenty-seventh session,⁴²

1. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development to give due consideration at its ninth session to the cross-organizational review of the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system and programme analysis in the area of science and technology for development, as well as to the assessment and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

2. *Urges* the Intergovernmental Committee to exercise the co-ordinating role assigned to it under the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development⁴³ and by the General Assembly in resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979 and to consider co-ordination questions at each of its sessions;

3. *Decides* to strengthen its co-ordinating function in the field of science and technology to assist the organizations and organs of the United Nations system in harmonizing their efforts, taking into account the need to avoid overlap and duplication;

4. *Also decides* that the discharge of its functions with regard to co-ordination in the field of science and technology should be linked to its consideration of the substantive issues in that field;

5. *Requests* the Intergovernmental Committee and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, to focus their activities in the field of science and technology on the need to develop practical forms of co-operation in specific areas, giving special attention to strengthening the scientific and technological capabilities of developing countries and taking note of the discussion at the second regular session of 1987 of the Economic and Social Council.

*36th plenary meeting
8 July 1987*

1987/80. Efforts and measures to promote the eradication of illiteracy

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/118 of 4 December 1986, in which the Assembly invited the Council to consider the question of declaring an international literacy year,

Referring to decision 7.1.2 of 18 June 1987, adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its 126th

⁴¹ E/1987/51.

⁴² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/42/16).*

⁴³ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

session, in which the Board suggested that the General Assembly proclaim 1990 International Literacy Year,

Emphasizing that widespread illiteracy, especially in many developing countries, seriously hinders the process of economic and social development and cultural and spiritual advancement,

Convinced that the process of education can make an indispensable contribution to the achievement of social progress, mutual understanding and co-operation among nations,

Mindful that the eradication of illiteracy calls for world-wide co-operation and joint efforts,

Convinced that the elaboration of a global strategy for the elimination of illiteracy and the organization of a world-wide literacy campaign will promote deeper understanding by the world public of the various aspects of the problem of illiteracy and help to intensify efforts to spread literacy and education,

Reiterating the importance of paragraph 164 of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,⁴⁴ which identifies the need for priority programmes to overcome the special obstacles that have generally led to higher illiteracy rates among women than among men,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the proposals for the observance of an international literacy year prepared by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;⁴⁵

2. *Invites* the General Assembly to proclaim 1990 International Literacy Year;

3. *Appeals* to all Member States to co-operate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the preparation of the International Literacy Year and participate actively in the implementation of the activities to be organized within the framework of the Year.

36th plenary meeting
8 July 1987

1987/81. Development of human resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the crucial role of human resources in the socio-economic development process,

Bearing in mind that the long-term development process of developing countries is one of the main objectives of international co-operation and the development activities of the United Nations system and that human resources development is essential to the attainment of that objective,

⁴⁴ *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

⁴⁵ See E/1987/113.

Recognizing that the training of qualified national personnel is an important and integral part of human resources development,

Recalling the importance attached to the development of human resources in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,⁴⁶

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/213 of 17 December 1985 on the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries and Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/73 of 23 July 1986 on the development of human resources,

Noting decision 87/15 on human resources development, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on 18 June 1987,⁴⁷

Considering that it is for each developing country to decide the possible content of a national programme for the development of human resources,

Taking into account the considerable experience and technical capacity acquired by the organizations of the United Nations system in human resources development in their respective fields of competence, and convinced of the need for greater co-ordination of such activities,

Noting the note by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations system in human resources development and its contribution to meeting the economic and social objectives of the developing countries and the views expressed in the summing-up by the Chairmen of the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination,⁴⁸

Emphasizing its central role in co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system in human resources development,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on human resources development;⁴⁹

2. *Takes note also* of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of qualified national personnel in the social and economic development of developing countries;⁵⁰

3. *Reaffirms* the need for an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to all aspects of the development of human resources in the programme of work of the United Nations and the other organizations of the United Nations system;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, taking into account earlier studies and the discussions held at the twenty-second series of Joint Meetings of the Commit-

⁴⁶ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

⁴⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 12 (E/1987/25)*, annex I.

⁴⁸ E/1987/83, sect. III.

⁴⁹ A/42/335-E/1987/84.

⁵⁰ A/42/275-E/1987/76.