

should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and that those regional commissions located in developing countries should be strengthened in the context of the overall objectives of the ongoing restructuring and revitalization process,

Convinced that the Economic Commission for Africa plays a vital catalytic role in the coordination and execution of intercountry programmes and projects aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and integration, especially by fostering the goals of the African Economic Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the continuing validity of the role of the regional commissions as important organs of the United Nations for promoting the socio-economic development of their respective regions;

2. *Appeals* to the Secretary-General to ensure that, in the context of the ongoing restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, due recognition is accorded to the vital role of the regional commissions.

*42nd plenary meeting
31 July 1992*

1992/53. Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1991/64 of 26 July 1991 on the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women,

Recognizing the critical role of rural women as food producers and architects of household food security,

Noting with deep concern the continuing rise in the number of rural women living in poverty,

Reiterating its commitment to contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of rural women,

Welcoming the organization of the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, held at Geneva on 25 and 26 February 1992, with the participation of a large number of First Ladies and high-level delegations,

Expressing its appreciation to the Patron of the Summit, to the core group of First Ladies who launched the initiative to convene the Summit and to the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other institutions that provided support for the Summit,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women;¹¹⁶

2. *Urges* all States to work for the achievement of the goals endorsed in the Geneva Declaration;

3. *Urges* all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the goals of the Geneva Declaration in carrying out their programmes, and invites the relevant governing bodies to consider specific measures, within their competence, to address the special needs of rural women in the light of the Geneva Declaration.

*42nd plenary meeting
31 July 1992*

1992/54. Cooperation in fisheries in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/184 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling also its resolutions 1990/77 of 27 July 1990 and 1991/73 of 26 July 1991,

Aware of the importance of regional and subregional agreements for the development of fishery resources,

Considering the need to encourage these initiatives, which are directed towards attaining food self-sufficiency, improving nutrition, diversifying exports, promoting employment and ensuring the sustainable development of fishery resources,

Welcoming the convening, at Rabat in 1989 and at Dakar in 1991, of the first and second sessions of the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation in fisheries in Africa¹¹⁷ and the oral report by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;¹¹⁸

2. *Welcomes* the progress achieved in implementing the cooperation programmes of the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean;

3. *Invites* the Conference to intensify its activities with a view to ensuring the sustainable development of fishery resources, in particular through the adoption of effective norms in the area of fisheries planning and management, further encouragement for the compilation and dissemination of fishery statistics as well as marine scientific research and for the protection and continued monitoring of the marine resources of the region;

4. *Welcomes* the support shown by the organizations of the United Nations system and by donor countries for the achievement of Conference objectives;

5. *Reiterates its appeal* to the international community, organizations of the United Nations system, donor countries and international and regional financial institutions to contribute generously to the implementation of Conference programmes and projects;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1994, a report by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, working in cooperation with the other relevant organizations and in close consultation with the Acting Chairman of the Conference, on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution and on the outcome of the third session of the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean, to be held in Cape Verde in 1993;

7. *Decides* to include in the agenda of its substantive session of 1994 an item entitled "Cooperation in fisheries in Africa".

*42nd plenary meeting
31 July 1992*