

Realizing that the assistance thus far received falls far short of the needs and requirements of the countries in the region,

Recognizing the plight of the refugees and displaced persons and the formidable burden imposed on the limited resources of the Governments of the countries in the region,

1. *Requests* all States to respond generously and expeditiously to the appeal of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to enable him to mobilize the maximum international support in order to alleviate the sufferings of the refugees and displaced persons in the Horn of Africa;

2. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in co-operation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and other specialized agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, to render the maximum possible assistance to the Governments of the countries in the region;

3. *Invites* the High Commissioner to continue to intensify humanitarian assistance to the refugees and displaced persons in the region;

4. *Requests* the High Commissioner to include in his annual report to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1979 information regarding the steps he has taken to implement the present resolution.

*35th plenary meeting
1 August 1978*

1978/40. International Year of the Child

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the progress report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund on the International Year of the Child, 1979,¹²⁴

Convinced of the need for all States to pay increased attention to the welfare, protection and education of children in a spirit of solidarity, equality and respect among all nations,

Noting with satisfaction that to date the Governments of 141 countries have indicated their intention to respond to General Assembly resolution 31/169 of 21 December 1976, by which the Assembly proclaimed the year 1979 International Year of the Child, and that 91 of those countries have already established national commissions for the Year,

Noting with appreciation the equally positive response from the organizations of the United Nations system and the no less positive response from non-governmental organizations,

Bearing in mind Council resolution 1978/18 of 5 May 1978 concerning the question of a convention on the rights of the child,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly which laid the foundations for a new international economic order, as well as other pertinent resolutions and decisions of United Nations organizations,

Taking note of the message sent by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund to the General Assembly at its tenth special session devoted to

¹²⁴ E/1978/101.

disarmament,¹²⁵ which appeals to Governments to ensure that an adequate portion of any savings that may result from a reduction in expenditures on armaments is channelled through national or multinational programmes towards meeting the minimum requirements of children everywhere,

Commending the work of the Interagency Advisory Group for the International Year of the Child and the creation of a single Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Year, which Committee is a member of the Advisory Group,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Children's Fund for the manner in which it has carried out the responsibility of lead agency entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/169;

2. *Reaffirms* that the International Year of the Child is intended to be a Year for action at the national level, supported, where called for, by activities and consultations at the regional and international levels;

3. *Expresses the strong hope* that each country will take this occasion to review the situation of its children in depth, to elaborate plans, including the setting of realistic goals, for the initiation, extension or improvement of services meeting the particular needs of its children, and to put those plans into operation in the course of 1979;

4. *Urges*, in addition, the Governments of Member States to increase their assistance to programmes benefiting children in the developing countries, with a view to helping the Governments of those countries to ensure that all children will be provided with at least the most essential services by the end of the century;

5. *Urges* the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations agencies concerned to give appropriate attention during the International Year of the Child, in their programmes to assist children, to those children who find themselves in special circumstances that might not be adequately covered in paragraphs 3 and 4 above, in particular children living under colonial rule, *apartheid* and foreign occupation, and requests such agencies to consult with their respective recognized representatives and other interested governmental and non-governmental bodies, in order to identify the particular problems and needs of those children and give them the necessary assistance and care;

6. *Commends* those Governments which have made voluntary contributions towards the cost of the secretariat of the International Year of the Child and urges Governments which have not yet taken such action to do so.

*35th plenary meeting
1 August 1978*

1978/41. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, 3243 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974, 3440 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, 31/173 of 21 December 1976 and 32/56 of 8 December 1977, and Council resolution 2102 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977,

Mindful of the need to ensure a sound and enduring financial basis for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in order to facilitate the ac-

¹²⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1978, Supplement No. 14 (E/1978/54)*, para. 13.

tivities of the core programme and the recruitment and retention of qualified staff,

Aware of the importance of promoting disaster preparedness and prevention in disaster-prone developing countries through technical co-operation,

Reaffirming the co-ordinating role of the Office as the focal point for disaster relief matters in the United Nations system,

Noting with satisfaction that the Co-ordinator has concluded co-operation agreements with a number of international organizations,

Recalling the concern already expressed in the General Assembly and the Council that Governments and others involved in relief operations should implement measures to remove obstacles and expedite international relief assistance to the victims of disasters,

Noting with satisfaction the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator¹²⁶ and the statements made by the Co-ordinator at the second regular session of 1978 of the Council,¹²⁷

1. *Commends* the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator for his continued efforts on behalf of the victims of disasters;

2. *Recognizes* the need for the effective promotion of technical co-operation for disaster preparedness and prevention in developing countries through the United Nations system, and in accordance with the national priorities of the countries concerned, making use of United Nations Development Programme country programming and, when appropriate, with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator as an executing agency;

3. *Invites* Governments to ensure for the immediate future the continuation of technical co-operation activities in the field of disaster preparedness and prevention by contributing either to the sub-account for technical assistance created under General Assembly resolution 3440 (XXX) or, through the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator or bilaterally, to projects developed by disaster-prone developing countries individually or in conjunction with that Office;

4. *Requests* the Co-ordinator to continue his efforts to conclude co-operation agreements with other appropriate organizations;

5. *Calls again upon* Governments, intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned with relief operations to consider the adoption of appropriate legislative, administrative or operational measures to remove obstacles and expedite international relief assistance to the victims of disasters;

6. *Transmits* the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

*35th plenary meeting
1 August 1978*

1978/42. Consumer protection

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2111 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977 on consumer protection,

¹²⁶ A/33/82.

¹²⁷ See E/1978/C.3/SR.4 and 6 and E/1978/C.3/SR.1-20/Corrigendum.

Aware of the need for the protection of individual consumers throughout the world, but noting the wide disparities in the scope and degree of consumer protection in different countries and the lack of essential legal and administrative measures in many countries for providing such protection,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Consumer protection: a survey of institutional arrangements and legal measures";¹²⁸

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources, in the light of information already provided and of additional information, and bearing in mind the discussion during the second regular session of 1978 of the Council, a comprehensive report incorporating options for action on consumer protection and taking into account in particular the specific problems and priorities of developing countries and the possible means for technical co-operation and assistance in this field, and to submit that report to the Council at its second regular session of 1979.

*35th plenary meeting
1 August 1978*

1978/43. Application of computer science and technology to development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, which laid the foundations for the establishment of a new international economic order, and recalling in this context Assembly resolution 31/184 of 19 December 1976, by which the Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development during 1979,

Considering that the application of computer science and technology has been considered by the General Assembly¹²⁹ and the Council¹³⁰ continuously since 1968,

Noting that the Council in its resolution 1903 (LVII) of 1 August 1974 requested the Secretary-General to propose activities and studies concerning the application of computer science and technology for the benefit of the developing countries, and to accompany the proposals with a list and order of priority of such activities and studies and ways and means of carrying them out, and that that request resulted in the submission of the report of the Secretary-General on the application of computer science and technology to development,¹³¹ which contains proposals for agreed implementation by all the organizations concerned in the United Nations system with the assistance of the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics,

1. *Reaffirms* the considerable importance of making better use of information, computers and communications for achieving the economic and social objectives of Member States, particularly of developing countries, and the need to encourage the formulation of policies

¹²⁸ E/1978/81.

¹²⁹ See Assembly resolutions 2450 (XXIII), 2458 (XXIII) and 2804 (XXVI).

¹³⁰ See Council resolutions 1566 (L), 1571 (L), 1824 (LV), 1903 (LVII) and 2036 (LXI).

¹³¹ E/C.8/37.