

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-ordinator<sup>126</sup> and the statements made by the Co-ordinator at the second regular session of 1978 of the Council,<sup>127</sup>

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,

<sup>126</sup> A/33/82.

<sup>127</sup> 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";<sup>128</sup>

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 Assembly<sup>129</sup> and the Council<sup>130</sup> 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,<sup>131</sup> 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

<sup>128</sup> E/1978/81.

<sup>129</sup> See Assembly resolutions 2450 (XXIII), 2458 (XXIII) and 2804 (XXVI).

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

<sup>131</sup> E/C.8/37.

and programmes in this field at the national, regional and international levels;

2. *Notes with interest* that an Intergovernmental Conference on Strategies and Policies for Informatics sponsored jointly by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics, will take place from 28 August to 6 September 1978 at Torremolinos, Spain;

3. *Invites* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in co-operation with the Director-General of the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics, to report to the Council at its resumed second regular session of 1978 on the results of that Conference.

*35th plenary meeting  
1 August 1978*

#### **1978/44. World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* that the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development has been convened by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for eight working days, beginning on 12 July 1979,<sup>132</sup>

*Conscious* of the distressing economic and social conditions prevailing in the rural areas of many developing countries, where a large proportion of the population lives in extreme poverty,

*Recalling* Council resolutions 1967 (LIX) of 30 July 1975 on rural development and 1978/34 of 5 May 1978 on women in development and international conferences,

*Aware* that the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development complements the world conferences on other important issues relating to development and economic co-operation that have been organized in recent years by the United Nations system, and that it has an important bearing on the socio-economic development of the developing countries and on the establishment of the new international economic order,

1. *Endorses* the view expressed by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development should result in well-defined and action-oriented programmes which would enhance agrarian reform and investment in the rural areas, increase production and raise the economic and social standards of the rural population;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the close co-operation established for the preparation of the World Conference between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations and the other interested organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

3. *Affirms* that the interagency approach to poverty-oriented rural development should result in an important system-wide input for the World Conference;

4. *Welcomes* the action taken by a great number of States to contribute to the World Conference by presenting country review papers analysing their experience and outlining their future programmes in this field;

<sup>132</sup> See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Nineteenth Session, Rome, 12 November-1 December 1977* (C 77/REP), para. 278, resolution 13/77.

5. *Urges* all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to participate in the World Conference, to arrange representation at a high level, taking into account the multidisciplinary character of the subject matter, and to consider the inclusion in their national delegations of representative bodies, for example, organizations of farmers, of rural workers, and related organizations.

*35th plenary meeting  
1 August 1978*

#### **1978/45. World Climate Programme**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Considering* that climatic factors have a direct bearing on many national programmes and activities in the economic and social fields,

*Considering further* that recent events, both in developing and developed countries, have shown the increasing vulnerability of national economies to climate and to climate variability,

*Noting* that the World Meteorological Organization is preparing a plan for a World Climate Programme which will be submitted to the Eighth World Meteorological Congress in 1979 for adoption,<sup>133</sup>

*Noting further* that the plan will provide for a new and comprehensive approach to the study of climate in all its aspects and will have particular reference to the impact of climate on human activities,

*Aware* that the co-operation of other appropriate programmes and organizations within the United Nations system has been sought and is being given in the preparation of the plan.

1. *Commends* the World Meteorological Organization for its initiative in deciding to prepare a plan for a new World Climate Programme;

2. *Endorses* that decision fully;

3. *Requests* the World Meteorological Organization to give particular attention to those aspects of the World Climate Programme which will give prompt and effective assistance to national planners and decision-makers in formulating economic and social programmes and activities in their respective countries;

4. *Invites* all other appropriate programmes and organizations within the United Nations system to continue to co-operate as fully as possible with the World Meteorological Organization in the preparation of the plan for the World Climate Programme and in its subsequent implementation;

5. *Requests* the World Meteorological Organization to report to the Council at its second regular session of 1979 on the details of the World Climate Programme, as adopted, and other developments in this connexion.

*35th plenary meeting  
1 August 1978*

#### **1978/46. Assistance to Zambia**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* previous resolutions adopted by the Security Council concerning the question of assistance to Zambia,<sup>134</sup> in particular resolution 329 (1973) of 10 March 1973,

<sup>133</sup> See World Meteorological Organization, *Annual Report of the World Meteorological Organization, 1977* (WMO-No.502), pp. 28 and 29.