

RESOLUTIONS

adopted by the ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

during its twentieth session from 5 July to 5 August 1955

579 (XX). World economic situation

A

EXPANSION OF WORLD TRADE

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the efforts now under way to contribute to the relaxation of international tension by finding means for the solution of certain problems including the problem of the progressive elimination of barriers to international trade,

Bearing in mind the benefits to be derived by both the more developed and less developed countries from a continuing expansion of world trade,

Taking into account that the continuing expansion of world trade depends on co-operation among countries,

Considering that the further development of economic relations is of great importance for developing the economy of States, increasing employment and production and raising the living standard of the people and that it will promote understanding and mutually beneficial collaboration among nations,

Having considered the study entitled *The Quest for Freer Trade*¹ and the Introduction to the *World Economic Report 1953-1954*,² prepared in response to its resolution 531 C (XVIII),

Noting that limitations of various kinds to the development of international trade still exist,

Noting the progress already made through the efforts of national Governments, business enterprise and existing international institutions, in reducing or removing various obstacles to international trade and promoting its expansion on a multilateral basis,

Considering that intensification of these efforts would undoubtedly lead to a further reduction of such obstacles as still exist and to a further development of trade,

Noting that the regional economic commissions are already doing valuable work in this connexion, especially through their trade promotion efforts,

Recognizing that certain countries depend, in their export trade, on one or a few commodities,

Recognizing that the trade and economic policies of one country may have significant effects on the economies of other countries,

Recognizing that an increased international flow of capital may contribute to the more rapid development of the under-developed countries and thereby to the further expansion of world trade,

Considering that prior to the solution of the problem referred to in the first paragraph above, there are various measures which Governments can usefully undertake directed towards the expansion of international trade,

1. *Requests* Governments to continue their efforts to promote the expansion of world trade, and in particular:

(a) To continue their support of established international institutions which are working successfully for the expansion of world trade;

(b) To reduce or remove international trade restrictions or discriminations with respect to goods and services, maintained for balance-of-payments reasons, as soon as their balance of payments and reserves position permit, having due regard to the special problems arising from the development needs of under-developed countries;

(c) To conduct their international trade relations and trade policies with due regard to their possible harmful effects on the economies of other countries, especially countries which are dependent in their trade on exports of relatively few commodities;

(d) To follow internal economic, monetary and fiscal policies which promote a high level of production, employment and investment, and thereby contribute to the expansion of world trade;

(e) To take such other steps as may seem appropriate to assist the growth of world trade, such as the promotion within their territories of a wider knowledge of the benefits to be derived from standardization of commodity grades and commercial arbitration, expansion of their trade promotion services, and consideration of the encouragement of participation in international trade fairs;

(f) To bear in mind the possibility of technical assistance in fields related to trade;

2. *Expresses* confidence that the regional economic commissions will continue to do valuable work in connexion with world trade within their terms of reference, and *recommends* that Governments continue to avail themselves of the services offered in the field of trade by the United Nations and its three regional economic commissions as well as by the specialized agencies concerned;

¹ E/2737. United Nations publication. Sales No.: 1955.II.C.5.

² E/2729. United Nations publication. Sales No.: 1955.II.C.1.

3. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the useful information contained in the study entitled *The Quest for Freer Trade*,³

4. *Decides* to resume consideration of the problem of the expansion of world trade at its twenty-second session.

*891st plenary meeting,
4 August 1955.*

B

INTER-REGIONAL TRADE CONSULTATIONS

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 535 B (XVIII) on inter-regional co-operation,

Having considered the *World Economic Report 1953-1954*⁴ and the report of the Secretary-General on inter-regional trade co-operation,⁵

Taking note of resolution 4 (X) of the Economic Commission for Europe,⁶ of resolution 14 (XI) of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East⁷ and of resolution 77 (AC.26) of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America,⁸

Considering that inter-regional trade consultations might be useful in strengthening inter-regional trade relations and could contribute to the expansion of world trade,

1. *Authorizes* the regional economic commissions, at the request of interested Governments participating in their work, to decide in each case whether inter-regional trade consultations of the type described in the report of the Secretary-General⁹ should be held in order to facilitate the expansion of international trade;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, if it be decided by at least two of the regional economic commissions that such consultations should be held, to undertake the necessary preparatory work and to convene such consultations among interested Governments participating in the work of the regional economic commissions and interested States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies;

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Council informed of developments with respect to this matter, and, if it seems necessary in accordance with Council resolution 557 B I (XVIII), to submit recommendations regarding the requisite administrative and financial provisions;

4. *Requests* the regional economic commissions, by every means at their disposal and within their respective terms of reference, to continue their efforts to facilitate concerted action to maintain and strengthen the economic

³ E/2737. United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1955.II.C.5.

⁴ E/2729. United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1955.II.C.1.

⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 2, document E/2674.*

⁶ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 3 (E/2706), Part IV.

⁷ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 5 (E/2712), para. 248.

⁸ E/2756, para. 142.

⁹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 2, document E/2674.*

relations of the countries in their respective regions, both among themselves and with other countries of the world.

*891st plenary meeting,
4 August 1955.*

580 (XX). Annual reports of the regional economic commissions

A

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Europe¹⁰ for the period between 26 March 1954 and 30 March 1955 and of the views expressed during the discussion at the tenth session of the Commission.

*878th plenary meeting,
15 July 1955.*

B

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East¹¹ for the period between 19 February 1954 and 7 April 1955, of the recommendations contained in the account of the proceedings at the eleventh session of the Commission and of the programme of work and priorities contained therein.

*878th plenary meeting,
15 July 1955.*

C

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

The Economic and Social Council

1. *Takes note* of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Latin America;¹²

2. *Considers* that the work programme of the Commission as established by the Committee of the Whole at its meeting held in Santiago from 9 to 10 May 1955 is of primary importance for the economic development of Latin America;

3. *Endorses* the order of priorities allocated by the Committee of the Whole to the individual work projects.

*878th plenary meeting,
15 July 1955.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 3 (E/2706).

¹¹ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 5 (E/2712).

¹² E/2756.